

## HYMN

### BLESSING OF THE PLOUGH(S)

Farmer: The Plough is the sign of all our labour in the countryside. The plough is the foundation of the farmer's work. Before the soil can be broken, or the seed sown, or the green corn grow, or grain be reaped, or the bread baked, or the people fed, we must plough the field.

So, at the beginning of another year, we bring this plough to our Parish Church, that you may give your blessing to it and to us, and all the work and workers on the farms of our Benefice.

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God speed the plough!

The beam and the mouldboard - the foot and the toe - the share and the coulter.

God speed the plough!

In fair weather and foul – in success and disappointment – in rain and wind – in frost or sunshine.

God speed the plough!

**People: God speed the plough!**

## HYMN

### INTERCESSIONS AND LORDS PRAYER

### FINAL HYMN

### CLOSING RESPONSES

Jesus, who walked with farmers and fishermen and sat in village kitchens  
**Walk with us now, as comes times to depart. Stay with us, Lord in work and rest, in mind and soul, in heart.**

### BLESSING

May God the Creator bless your labour. **Amen.**

May God the Son walk with you day by day. **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit inspire and strengthen you as you work with him. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

# Plough Sunday Service



12<sup>th</sup> January 2020

## THE GATHERING

Jesus, who walked with farmers and fishermen  
and sat in village kitchens,  
**be with us now.**

As you came together  
to meet your friends who farmed or fished;  
**Jesus, who walked with farmers and fishermen  
and sat in village kitchens,  
be with us now.**

As we gather here we remember  
you too gave thanks. You too would bless  
all who came near.  
**Jesus, who walked with farmers and fishermen  
and sat in village kitchens,  
be with us now.**

You kindled faith and hope,  
came close to shed your light on all near you.  
So, today as we gather here, we say:  
**Lord Jesus who walked with farmers and fishermen  
and sat in village kitchens,  
be with us now.**

HYMN (*during which the first plough is brought forward*).

## OUR DEPENDENCE ON GOD

**Almighty God, with whom we can do everything, without whom  
we can do nothing; open our eyes that we may see you; open our  
lips that we may praise you; open our hearts that we may know  
you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Priest: The earth is the Lord's  
**People: and all that therein is.**  
Priest: The compass of the world:  
**People: and they that dwell therein.**  
Priest: The Lord looked upon the earth:  
**People: and filled it with his blessings.**  
Priest: While the earth remains, seed time and harvest:  
**People: and summer and winter, the day and the night, shall  
not cease:**  
Priest: He that ploughs:  
**People: should plough in hope.**  
Priest: Our help is in the name of the Lord:  
**People: Who has made heaven and earth.**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Farmer: No one who puts his hand to the plough, and looks back,  
**People: is fit for the Kingdom of God.**  
Farmer: When we are ungrateful for the rain, and the sun, the snow and  
the frost, in their season.  
**People and forget God's gift to us:**  
Farmer: when we are blind to the mystery of germination,  
**People and forget it is God's handiwork:**  
Farmer: When we are careless with the beasts,  
**People and forget they are God's creatures:**  
Farmer: When we are unkind to other people,  
**People and forget they are God's children:**  
Farmer: When we skimp our work,  
**People and forget we are God's workers:**  
Farmer: when we ill-treat the land,  
**People and forget it is the splendour of God: O God forgive us.**

Priest: May the almighty and all-loving Father make you clean from the  
wrong you have done in the past: May our merciful Lord and Saviour Jesus  
Christ make you strong, to sin no more in the future: May the gracious and  
life-giving Holy Spirit make you faithful to God again today; to whom be the  
glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## THANKSGIVING (*All stand*).

Farmer: From God comes every good and perfect gift;  
**People: From God comes every good and perfect gift.**  
Farmer: The rich soil, the smell of the fresh turned soil;  
**People: Comes from God.**  
Farmer: The keenness of a winter frost, men's breath, and horses  
steaming;  
**People: Comes from God.**  
Farmer: The hum of the tractor, the gleam of a cutting edge;  
**People: Comes from God.**  
Farmer: The wheeling of the birds, people's shouts and laughter;  
**People: Comes from God.**  
Farmer: the beauty of the clean-cut furrow, the sweep of the well-  
ploughed field;  
**People: Comes from God.**  
Farmer: Blessed be God in all his gifts;  
**People: And holy in all his works.**

## BIBLE READING(S)

## TALK