

# **Christ Church, Ipswich**

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2020**

## **Sunday Worship with Holy Communion**

With Revd David Thompson

Hello to you all at Christ Church. With the further easing of "The Rules" it may be possible for some to join together in fellowship today. I'm missing seeing you all in your places in Tacket Street but I can "see" so many of you in my mind's eye, which is good.

Our New Testament passage for today is Matthew 14, verses 13 to 21, the feeding of the 5000 men (plus ladies and children). As with Neil a month ago, there's the opportunity to share Holy Communion together today. If you would like to take part, all you need to do is to have some bread and wine, or something equivalent, ready. "Bread" and "wine" were the everyday food of Jesus' day, so a red juice of any kind will be fine.

### **Opening Scriptures and call to worship**

Jesus said, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile". *Mark 6:31*

[Jesus says] "Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest". *Matthew 11: 28*

God, our Father, King of Heaven:

**all honour and glory and power are Yours by right**

Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, ascended Lord

**all honour and glory and power are Yours by right.**

Spirit of God, lighting upon us, filling our lives with love, spurring us to greater deeds:

**all honour and glory and power are Yours by right**

Our glorious and holy God, we praise You for all that makes the unseen heaven a reality to us while we live on earth: for word and sacrament, for faithful Christians past and present, for fellowship in the Church, and for times of deep awareness that Jesus is with us always.

**One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:**

**all honour and glory and power are Yours by right**

### **Psalms 145, verses 8-9 and 14-21**

The LORD is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

The LORD is good to all,  
and his compassion is over all that he has made.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

The LORD is faithful in all his words,  
and gracious in all his deeds.

The LORD upholds all who are falling,  
and raises up all who are bowed down.

The eyes of all look to you,  
and you give them their food in due season.

You open your hand,  
satisfying the desire of every living thing.

The LORD is just in all his ways,  
and kind in all his doings.

The LORD is near to all who call on him,  
to all who call on him in truth.

He fulfills the desire of all who fear him;  
he also hears their cry, and saves them.

The LORD watches over all who love him,  
but all the wicked he will destroy. My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,  
and all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever

## Hymn: Tell out, my soul

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
Tender to me the promise of His word;  
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name!  
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;  
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
His holy name—the Lord, the mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of His word!  
Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure:  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
To children's children and forever more!

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## Prayers of praise, worship and thanksgiving

Great and mighty is our Lord God,  
his wisdom cannot be measured.

He takes pleasure in those who honour him,  
in those who trust in his constant love.

Lord God, our loving Father in heaven, creator of this magnificent world — all your works praise you in all places  
of your dominion.

Lord, you are great and mighty:

**your wisdom cannot be measured.**

We rejoice this day in your goodness, we are amazed at every indication of your interest in us. You are the Lord of  
the universe, the King of kings, yet you care for all your creatures. You are the Lord of lords and yet you reach  
down in loving compassion and tender mercy even to the most contemptible of human sinners.

Lord, you are great and mighty:

**your wisdom cannot be measured.**

You have inexhaustible desires to bless your people; yours is a mercy that knows no bounds, a love which  
penetrates all barriers, a forgiveness which reaches to all our guiltiness.

Lord, you are great and mighty:

**your wisdom cannot be measured.**

We gladly and fervently offer you our worship and praise. We join the whole creation in heaven and on earth to  
acknowledge your sovereignty, and we rest wholly in your salvation revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Prayer of confession

*From Psalm 130*

Out of the depths, O Lord, we cry to you.

O Lord, hear our voice:

**listen to our cry for mercy.**

If you kept a record of our sins, who could stand before you?

O Lord, hear our voice:

**listen to our cry for mercy.**

But you offer forgiveness, and therefore we fear you.

O Lord, hear our voice:

**listen to our cry for mercy.**

We wait for you, O Lord, and in your promise we put our hope.

O Lord, hear our voice:

**listen to our cry for mercy.**

We long for you, O Lord, more than the sleepless long for the morning.

O Lord, hear our voice:

**listen to our cry for mercy.**

O God, we put our trust in you, because with you there is unfailing love and full redemption from all our sins through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## **Assurance of pardon**

Lord God, we thank you for the promise given to us by your servant John, that if we confess our sins, He who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 john 1:9*

## **Bible reading: Matthew 14, verses 8 and 9, and 14 to 21**

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

## **Reflection**

This story about Jesus on a hillside on the east shore of the Sea of Galilee is unique among miracles, because it's the only one that appears in all four gospels. It comes at a difficult time for Jesus; John the Baptist, a cousin and most probably a childhood playmate, had been murdered because he had exposed sin in high places and Jesus hadn't been able to follow Jewish custom by attending the burial or the mourning period afterwards. He, in His humanity, has human emotions, and would have needed to grieve, so He does as many of us would have done and heads to get away from it all with the disciples.

But the crowds who had been following Jesus around Galilee worked out where he was going and beat Him to it, so when He arrived He found a huge reception committee eager for Him to get to work with healing their sick. It would have been well within Jesus' power to have said a single prayer, and all would have been healed; but He didn't. I imagine him listening to each situation and giving appropriate comfort as well as performing the desired miracle. Listening to people pouring out their hearts is tiring work and can take much time, but, we can infer, Jesus, having taken pity on the crowds, just does it.

Do you find that when you're totally immersed in something you tend to forget about meals? As now, so then, and suddenly it's time to eat. The disciples, sensibly, suggest that as the crowd came voluntarily, they should sort out their own food, but Jesus issues a challenge; "They need not go away; you give them something to eat."

Other gospel writers include a bit more detail; that a young boy had brought his picnic – enough for one child, which the disciples mention not as a possible solution to the problem, but as a pointer to it's scale. We all know the outcome – everyone was full up with bread and fish, with plenty of broken pieces left over, Jesus dismisses the crowd, sets the disciples off back to the other side of the lake, and, at last, is able to find some peace to pray.

It's easy to concentrate on the feeding miracle and how it demonstrates Jesus power, and miss other lessons for ourselves, so I'm going to ignore the miracle and trust that you'll remember the lessons of other preachers!.

For a start, it wasn't the only miracle of the day – Jesus had been performing miracles of healing, probably for hours. But He'd taken pity on the people in their needs, out of which the healings became a natural consequence – He'd taken time with people. Herein lies our first lesson from the story. To follow Jesus means listening properly to people in need, rather than "How are you?" being a polite question, expecting a polite response. This is tiring and can draw us into spending time (and maybe even money) to help. And, thankfully, that's what's happened a lot in recent months – people doing what they can to help those needing help.

There's also something in the story about prayer that we can take away and apply to our own lives. Disciples now can also fall into the same trap as Jesus' followers did when they talked about food for the many – they asked Jesus for help, and he bounced it back for them to see how they were part of the answer to their own request. We need to consider the possibility that when we make a specific prayer request the answer to our prayers might be within ourselves.

As we imagine the scene – the crowd, the boy’s picnic, the no-longer-hungry crowd and the litter left behind, may we resolve to be a listener like Jesus, and offer comfort when and where it’s needed, and may we look to ourselves as potential answers to our prayers for others.

## **Holy Communion**

*If you are sharing this service with others, offer the bread and wine to each other, saying the words to each person as they receive the elements.*

### **Gospel Words**

Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. *John 6.35*

Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. *Revelation 3.20*

God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. *Romans 5.8*

### **Invitation to the Table**

Come to this table, not because you must but because you may,  
not because you are strong, but because you are weak.

Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you a right to come,  
but because you need mercy and help.

Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love him more.

Come, because he loved you and gave himself for you.

Come and meet the risen Christ, for we are his Body.

### **Prayer**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name;

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Institution**

The apostle Paul tells us of the institution of the Lord’s Supper:

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, ‘This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’

In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

*1 Corinthians 11.23–26*

### **Thanksgiving**

Loving God, we praise and thank you for your love shown to us in Jesus Christ.

We thank you for his life and ministry, announcing the good news of your kingdom and demonstrating its power in the lifting of the downtrodden, and the healing of the sick, and the loving of the loveless.

We thank you for his sacrificial death upon the cross for the redemption of the world, and for your raising him to life again, as a foretaste of the glory we shall share.

We give you thanks for this bread and wine, symbols of our world and signs of your transforming love.

Send your Holy Spirit, we pray, that we may be renewed into the likeness of Jesus Christ and formed into his Body.

This we pray in his name and for his sake. Amen.

### **Sharing the Bread**

*As you share the bread:*

Jesus said, ‘This is my body which is for you; do this in memory of me’.

Take this in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

## Sharing the Wine

*As you share the wine:*

In the same way, Jesus took the cup after supper, and said: 'This cup is the new covenant sealed by my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this in memory of me.'

Drink this and remember that Christ's blood was shed for you and be thankful.

## Words of Acclamation and Prayer

Your death, O Lord, we commemorate.

Your resurrection we confess.

Your final coming we await.

Glory be to you, O Christ.

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

Hallelujah!

## Prayers of intercession

Holy God, though this world depends on your grace, it is governed and tended by mortals.

So we pray for those who walk the corridors of power in the parliaments of this and other lands, whose judgements we value or fear.

*Mention the names of anyone for whom you wish to pray specifically.*

May they always consider those they represent, make decisions with courage and integrity, and resist any temptation to abuse the trust placed in them.

Lord hear us,

**Lord graciously hear us.**

We pray for those who hold the key positions in the worlds of finance, business and industry, whose decisions may profit some or impoverish many.

*Mention the names of anyone for whom you wish to pray specifically.*

May they always value people higher than profit; may they never impose burdens on the poor which they would not carry themselves; and may they never divorce money from morality or ownership from stewardship.

Lord hear us,

**Lord graciously hear us.**

We pray for those in the caring professions, who look after and listen to kind, cruel and cantankerous folk, and for those who make decisions regarding the nation's health and welfare.

*Mention the names of anyone for whom you wish to pray specifically.*

May they always sense the sanctity of life and every person's uniqueness; may they help and heal by their interest as well as their skill; and may they be saved from tiredness and an excess of demands.

Lord hear us,

**Lord graciously hear us.**

And let us remember those for whom we are responsible and to whom we are accountable in what we do today.

*Mention the names of anyone for whom you wish to pray specifically.*

May we show to them the thoughtfulness, tolerance and kindness of Jesus.

Lord hear us,

**Lord graciously hear us.**

And finally we pray for those in our church fellowship who are in any kind of need. May they be supplied with their needs and comforted in their situations.

Lord hear us,

**Lord graciously hear us.**

Lord hear our prayers, and if today we might be the means by which you answer the prayers of others, then may you find us neither deaf nor defiant, but keen to fulfil your purpose, for Jesus' sake., Amen

## The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

## Hymn: There is a redeemer

There is a Redeemer,  
Jesus, God's own Son,  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
Holy One.

*Thank You, O my Father,  
For giving us Your Son,  
And leaving Your Spirit—  
Till the work on earth is done.*

Jesus my Redeemer,  
Name above all names,  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
O for sinners slain.

*Thank You, O my Father,  
For giving us Your Son,  
And leaving Your Spirit—  
Till the work on earth is done.*

When I stand in glory  
I will see His face,  
And there I'll serve my King forever  
In that holy place.

*Thank You, O my Father,  
For giving us Your Son,  
And leaving Your Spirit—  
Till the work on earth is done.*

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## Closing prayers

### Words of Commissioning and Blessing

And so we go into God's world with joy and peace and love and hope in our hearts.  
May the blessing of almighty God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer touch us, rest on us and through us reach out to others. Amen

### The Grace

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with us all. Amen.

Resources taken and adapted from *Prayers for the People* and *Gathering for Worship*. Christ Church CCLI 181784

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