

Christ Church, Ipswich

Sunday 22nd October 2023

Family Worship

Minister: The Revd Neil Coulson

Organist: Mr Stephen Hogger

Hello, I hope you are well. Let us worship God together:

Call to worship

I am the Lord, and there is no other (Isaiah 45:5).
Come, let us worship the creator God
who made each one of us and calls us by name.

Opening prayer

God our Creator, Source of all being,
we celebrate this Life you have made,
in all its wonder and interdependence, and we praise you.

Guide of all hope, we celebrate the Way you show us,
in Jesus - our Saviour and Exemplar, and we praise you.

Spirit of all inspiration, we celebrate the goodness you grow
and nurture in our lives and world, and we praise you. **Amen.**

GG 21 Name of all Majesty

1 Name of all majesty,
fathomless mystery,
king of the ages
by angels adored;
power and authority,
splendour and dignity,
bow to his mastery,
Jesus is Lord

3 Saviour of Calvary,
costliest victory,
darkness defeated
and Eden restored;
born as a Man to die,
nailed to a cross on high,
cold in the grave to lie,
Jesus is Lord!

2 Child of our destiny,
God from eternity,
love of the Father
on sinners outpoured;
see now what God has done
sending His only son,
Christ the beloved one,
Jesus is Lord!

4 Source of all sovereignty,
light, immortality,
life everlasting
and heaven assured;
so with the ransomed, we
praise him eternally,
Christ in his majesty –
Jesus is Lord!

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A prayer of approach

God of integrity,
may your word sink deep into our hearts today and move us.
May it leave its mark on our minds and inspire us.
May it imprint your desires into our actions and guide us.
May it instil in us a sense of belonging to that which is true and beautiful,
so that we draw others closer to you and they too feel a sense of belonging.
In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

A prayer of adoration

Living God,
 you are the one we look to,
 you are the one we would follow,
 you are the one we adore.
 Help us, we pray, to become more like your Son,
 to display more clearly the marks of your love,
 to give more generously wherever we can,
 and to imprint on our world the message of your salvation. **Amen.**

A prayer of confession

After each petition:

Cleanse us from the mark of sin.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Faithful God,
 forgive us when we mar your image and others don't see your compassion mirrored in our lives.
 Forgive us when the mark we leave on the lives of those we encounter is a negative one.
 Forgive us when we seek only to identify with the powerful and not the vulnerable.
 Forgive us when we give our allegiance to that which is not healthy.
 Forgive us when we are reluctant to identify as your disciples.
 In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of forgiveness

Dear God,
 we thank you for your gift of forgiveness, and that you remain loyal to us, even when our loyalties drift elsewhere; that, in spite of our mistakes, your grace ensures your imprint on our lives isn't fully erased; that, because of your love we can be confident in belonging, and begin again with your blessing.
 In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

A prayer of praise and thanksgiving

Creator God,
 for the living word of your love, we praise you.
 For the cross where Christ took on our sin, we praise you.
 For the empty tomb where he rose and overcame death, we praise you.
 For your holy spirit that emboldened your first disciples, we praise you.
 And for giving us the privilege of bearing your mark of belonging, we praise you
 – today, tomorrow and always. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Family Talk

BPW 444 Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us

1 Lord Jesus Christ,
 you have come to us,
 you are one with us,
 Mary's Son.
 cleansing our souls from all their sin,
 pouring your love and goodness in,
 Jesus, our love for you we sing,
 living Lord.

2 Lord Jesus Christ,
 now and every day
 teach us how to pray,
 Son of God.
 You have commanded us to do
 this in remembrance, Lord, of you;
 into our lives your power breaks through,
 living Lord.

3 Lord Jesus Christ,
 you have come to us
 born as one with us,
 Mary's Son.
 led out to die on Calvary,
 risen from death to set us free,
 living Lord Jesus help us see
 you are Lord.

4 Lord Jesus Christ,
 I would come to you,
 live my life for you,
 Son of God;
 all your commands I know are true;
 your many gifts will make me new;
 into my life your power breaks through,
 Living Lord.

Patrick Appleford © Josef Weinberger Ltd

A prayer of blessing with our children as they go to Junior Church

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 33:12-23

Moses' Intercession

¹² Moses said to the Lord, 'See, you have said to me, "Bring up this people"; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, "I know you by name, and you have also found favour in my sight." ¹³ Now if I have found favour in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favour in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.' ¹⁴ He said, 'My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.' ¹⁵ And he said to him, 'If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. ¹⁶ For how shall it be known that I have found favour in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth.' ¹⁷ The Lord said to Moses, 'I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favour in my sight, and I know you by name.' ¹⁸ Moses said, 'Show me your glory, I pray.' ¹⁹ And he said, 'I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, "The Lord"; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. ²⁰ But', he said, 'you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.' ²¹ And the Lord continued, 'See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; ²² and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; ²³ then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.'

Gospel Reading

Matthew 22:15-22

The Question about Paying Taxes

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?' ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' ²¹ They answered, 'The emperor's.' Then he said to them, 'Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.' ²² When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

R&S 365 Rock of ages, cleft for me

1 Rock of ages, cleft for me,
 let me hide myself in thee;
 let the water and the blood,
 from thy riven side which flowed,
 be of sin the double cure,
 cleanse me from its guilt and power.

2 Not the labour of my hands
 can fulfil thy law's demands;
 could my zeal no respite know,
 could my tears forever flow,
 all for sin could not atone:
 thou must save, and thou alone.

3 Nothing in my hand I bring,
 simply to thy cross I cling;
 naked, come to thee for dress;
 helpless, look to thee for grace;
 foul, I to the fountain fly:
 wash me, Saviour, or I die.

4 While I draw this fleeting breath,
 when mine eyes shall close in death,
 when I soar to tracts unknown,
 see thee on thy judgement-throne;
 Rock of ages, cleft for me,
 let me hide myself in thee.

Augustus Montague Toplady (1740-78)

Reflection

A moment for reflection

R&S 601 Christ is the world's true light

1 Christ is the world's true light,
 its captain of salvation,
 the daystar clear and bright
 and joy of every nation;
 new life, new hope awakes,
 where'er we own his sway:
 freedom her bondage breaks,
 and night is turned to day.

2 In Christ all races meet,
 their ancient feuds forgetting,
 the whole round world complete,
 from sunrise to its setting:
 when Christ is throned as Lord,
 all shall forsake their fear,
 to ploughshare beat the sword,
 to pruning-hook the spear.

3 One Lord, in one great name
 unite us all who own thee;
 cast out our pride and shame
 that hinder to enthrone thee;
 the world has waited long,
 has travailed long in pain;
 to heal its ancient wrong,
 come, Prince of Peace, and reign.

G. W. Briggs (1875-1959) altd.*
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 from *Enlarged Songs of Praise*

Our prayers of intercession

We bring to you those who are sick
 at home and in hospital;
 those who wait for test results;
 those who offer comfort and healing
 and those who watch and pray.
 All are your children:
we offer your own to you.

We bring you Israeli and Palestinian;
 policy maker and citizen;
 soldier and civilian.
 All are your children:
we offer your own to you.

We bring to you all who worship you;
 those in church and chapel;
 those in temple and mosque;
 those in synagogue and meeting house.
 All are your children:
we offer your own to you.

We bring to you Labour and Conservative;
 Liberal Democrat and Nationalist;
 Independent and Party Member.
 All are your children:
we offer your own to you.

We bring to you all who grieve;
 Those whose loss is recent and those for whom it is a time of anniversary.
 We bring those who face the unenviable choice of food or fuel.
 We bring to you those who weep because they do not know what to do,
 and those who weep because they know exactly what the right way forward is.
 All are your children:
we offer your own to you.

We bring ourselves to you;
 joyful and tearful;
 anxious and confident;
 willing and reluctant.
 All are your children:
We offer your own to you.

Loving God we bring you your children whatever their age;
 whatever their background; whatever their gender.
 We come in the knowledge that you love and care for each one;
 that you are aware of our needs and opportunities;
 that you will offer comfort and challenge;
 that you will hear our prayer and respond.
 Thank you that we are yours.
 We offer our prayers, spoken, thought and felt,
 in the name of Jesus and the power of the Spirit. **Amen.**

R&S 574 Go forth and tell! O Church of God, awake!

1 Go forth and tell! O Church of God, awake!
 God's saving news to all the nations take:
 proclaim Christ Jesus, Saviour, Lord and King,
 that all the world His glorious praise may sing.

2 Go forth and tell! God's love embraces all;
 he will in grace respond to all who call:
 how shall they call if they have never heard
 the gracious invitation of His word?

4 Go forth and tell! The doors are open wide:
 share God's good gifts – let no one be denied;
 live out your life as Christ your Lord shall choose,
 your ransomed powers for his sole glory use.

5 Go forth and tell! O church of God, arise!
 3 Go in the strength which Christ your Lord supplies;
 go till all nations His great name adore
 and serve him, Lord and King forever more.

James E. Seddon. (1915-83)
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Sending out prayer

Lord, this day and every day,
 may we touch many lives for you by our living,
 by allowing your love to flow in and through us,
 reaching all among whom we live, and work, and play.
 May we be generous with our time and resources,
 and may you be glorified in all we do.
 In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

The Blessing

And may the blessing of God,
 Creator, Christ and Comforter,
 be upon us, and those we love, this day and always. Amen.

The Grace

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 the love of God,
 and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
 be with us all evermore. Amen.**