

Christ Church, Ipswich
Sunday 5th November 2023
Family Worship with Holy Communion
Minister: The Revd Neil Coulson
Organist: Mr Stephen Hogger

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

Call to worship

Based on Psalm 107

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

God's steadfast love endures forever!

From the East and West, from the North and the South, we come.

And the Lord has saved us.

In our times of need, we have cried to the Lord.

And God has led us out of our distress.

Wonderful are the Lord's works to humankind.

Let us tell of God's deeds with songs of joy.

Let us call on the name of the Lord, our God:

Who was, who is, and who is to come.

A prayer of approach

Loving God, in an ever-changing world, we come to you for stability.

In a world of so many choices, we come to you for guidance.

In a world so full of knowledge, we come to you for wisdom.

In a world awash with rights, we come to you to discern our responsibilities.

In a world of countless opinions, we come to you to discover what you think,

that we may be faithful in our promises and wholehearted in our discipleship – in Jesus' name. Amen.

R&S 289 To God be the glory, great things he has done!

1 To God be the glory, great things he has done!

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,

who yielded his life in atonement for sin,

and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son;

and give him the glory - great things he has done!

2 O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,

to every believer the promise of God!

And every offender who truly believes,

that moment from Jesus a pardon receives:

3 Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,

and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;

but purer and higher and greater will be

the wonder, the beauty, when Jesus we see:

Fanny Crosby (1820-1915) altd.

A prayer of adoration

All-powerful, all-seeing God, you are our role model in life.
 Father, you beckon us into your kingdom glory,
 where there is no room for self as all hearts overflow with your love.
 Lord Jesus, our Saviour, you are the light that shines without blemish.
 Holy Spirit, full of wisdom, your kingdom integrity is our guide.
 Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we worship and adore you. **Amen.**

A prayer of confession

Loving God, we love you, yet often fail to live as you would have us do.
 For the times we've put ourselves before others, before you;
 or we've sought admiration and praise;
 or we have been puffed up with our own importance.
Forgive us and humble us.

We are sorry for times when our speech or conduct has not been
 in line with our faith, when we've got things out of perspective,
 or toed the line of least resistance for fear of repercussions;
 when we've asked something of others to avoid doing it ourselves.
Forgive us and humble us.

We are sorry for times we've lorded it over those younger in the faith,
 or dismissed their views, and when we've thought our ways better,
 or not listened to other ideas.
 Sometimes we can be blind to our faults,
 but a gentle nudge from you can highlight our need to change.
Forgive us and humble us.

Loving Lord, reveal our blind spots and help us to be good role models in everything that we do. **Amen.**

Assurance of forgiveness

Father God, your love is all encompassing.
 No matter what our failings are, your love is unconditional.
 You forgive our sins, keeping no record of them. We are forgiven. **Amen.**

A prayer of thanksgiving

We thank you, Lord Jesus, that you are our teacher and our friend. Encourage us when we are low, and challenge us when we are complacent; lift us up when we fall, and check our stride when we lack humility; that together we might live with honesty, serve with humility, and pray with confidence and with thankful hearts.

And so...

For the encouragement of your Word:

we praise and thank you, Lord.

For our fellow Christians:

we praise and thank you, Lord.

For the blessing of being your children:

we praise and thank you, Lord.

For the promise that the humble will be exalted:

we praise and thank you, Lord.

For Jesus, your Son, our Saviour:

we praise and thank you, Lord. Amen.

Old Testament Reading**Micah 3:5-12**

⁵ Thus says the Lord concerning the prophets
 who lead my people astray,
 who cry 'Peace'
 when they have something to eat,
 but declare war against those
 who put nothing into their mouths.
⁶ Therefore it shall be night to you, without vision,
 and darkness to you, without revelation.
 The sun shall go down upon the prophets,
 and the day shall be black over them;
⁷ the seers shall be disgraced,
 and the diviners put to shame;
 they shall all cover their lips,
 for there is no answer from God.
⁸ But as for me, I am filled with power,
 with the spirit of the Lord,
 and with justice and might,
 to declare to Jacob his transgression
 and to Israel his sin.

⁹ Hear this, you rulers of the house of Jacob
 and chiefs of the house of Israel,
 who abhor justice
 and pervert all equity,
¹⁰ who build Zion with blood
 and Jerusalem with wrong!
¹¹ Its rulers give judgement for a bribe,
 its priests teach for a price,
 its prophets give oracles for money;
 yet they lean upon the Lord and say,
 'Surely the Lord is with us!
 No harm shall come upon us.'
¹² Therefore because of you
 Zion shall be ploughed as a field;
 Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins,
 and the mountain of the house a wooded
 height.

Epistle Reading**1 Thessalonians 2:9-13**

⁹ You remember our labour and toil, brothers and sisters; we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. ¹⁰ You are witnesses, and God also, how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was towards you believers. ¹¹ As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children, ¹² urging and encouraging you and pleading that you should lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

¹³ We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God's word, which is also at work in you believers.

R&S 293**Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim**

1 Ye servants,
 your Master proclaim,
 and publish abroad
 his wonderful name;
 the name all-victorious
 of Jesus extol;
 his kingdom is glorious
 and rules over all.

2 God ruleth on high,
 almighty to save;
 and still he is nigh,
 his presence we have;
 the great congregation
 his triumph shall sing,
 ascribing salvation
 to Jesus our King.

3 Salvation to God,
 who sits on the throne!
 let all cry aloud,
 and honour the Son;
 the praises of Jesus
 the angels proclaim,
 fall down on their faces,
 and worship the Lamb.

4 Then let us adore,
 and give him his right,
 all glory and power,
 all wisdom and might,
 all honour and blessing,
 with angels above,
 and thanks never ceasing,
 and infinite love.

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

Gospel Reading**Matthew 23:1-12**

23 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, ²‘The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat; ³therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practise what they teach. ⁴They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. ⁵They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. ⁶They love to have the place of honour at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, ⁷and to be greeted with respect in the market-places, and to have people call them rabbi. ⁸But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. ⁹And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. ¹⁰Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. ¹¹The greatest among you will be your servant. ¹²All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

A Talk will be offered reflecting on today’s readings

A moment for personal reflection as Stephen plays the organ

Our prayers of intercession

Lord God Almighty, creator of the world, we bring your world before you. A world in turmoil. A world battling against itself. A world in which we see evil rampaging.

We pray for your hand on Israel and Gaza and all nations involved in conflict. We pray safety for hostages and comfort for their families. We pray for children left orphaned, for all those suddenly bereaved, and for all who are displaced and have no safe refuge.

Almighty Lord, November 5th in this country sees fireworks colouring the sky, the smell of bonfire smoke and toffee apples mingling in the air. But we pray for all those today living amid the real fear of air strikes, of enemy explosives lighting the sky and bringing devastation. We pray for those caught up amid the destruction, choking in the dust-filled air. We pray for all people experiencing heartbreak and hunger. Almighty Lord, bring peace, hope and reconciliation. May all look to you and the safe comfort of your arms.

Lord God Almighty, creator of the world, we pray for the unrest in this country fuelled by the war in the Middle East. We pray for the targeted. We pray for your Holy Spirit to speak into the hearts of the perpetrators.

Almighty Lord, change hearts. Give wisdom to the government to dilute and deal with the growing situation. Move hearts, Lord. Bring calm to our streets.

Lord God Almighty, creator of the world, we bring before you all people who work in the mission field. We pray for all the saints who have gone before, spreading your word of truth, bringing your love in practical ways. Be with all those you call today to walk your path.

Almighty Lord, we pray safety around all those who walk in dark places. Make hostile eyes blind to the activities of those who carry out your work. Keep from harm all who go into danger zones to offer practical aid in your name and bring salvation.

Lord God Almighty, creator of the world, we bring before you the church. We pray for all called to the ministry of sharing your word, of leading your flock in the light of your love.

May those chosen to lead be upright and true, humble, authentic and compassionate.

Almighty Lord, grow your Church. We pray truth and justice on all in authority. We pray for those leading your Church, members of parliament and those in local government. May their intentions be honourable;

looking to serve you and your people not power and prestige. Bring a stability to our nation. Lead us, Lord by your light and truth.

Lord God Almighty, creator of the world, we bring before you all who work and reach out to the less fortunate. We pray for those people whose homes and businesses were flooded during the recent storm and who live with the dread of further rainfall. We bring our local communities to you.

Almighty Lord, be with the lost, the lonely, the vulnerable, the suffering. Help us to be good neighbours, to shine your light in dark places and be authentic witnesses to those you place in our lives.

Lord Jesus, hear us we pray. **Amen.**

Hymn Longing for light, we wait in darkness

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
Light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light...

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
Shared until all are fed.

Christ, be our light...

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
Walls made of living stone.

Christ, be our light...

Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Making your kingdom come.
Christ, be our light...

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Our children and young people will return from Café Church and join us for Holy Communion

Holy Communion

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

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-30

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.

We pray together:

**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.**

The 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.

The Breaking of Bread

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

Sharing the Bread

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

The Lifting of the Cup

In the same way,
he 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.' 1 Corinthians 11:25

Sharing the Wine

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.**

**Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen**

Our Prayers for those in need

Having encountered the risen Christ at this table, we now remember those close to us who are in particular need of his loving touch at this time:

We pray for all who mourn. We keep Andy Midgley's family in our thoughts with the service of thanksgiving for his Stepfather, Ian, being on Tuesday afternoon. We pray for his Mum, Pat, for Andy and all the family at this difficult time. Loving Lord, surround all who mourn with your comfort and your love. We pray for all who are unwell, those receiving treatment, those waiting for appointments and surgery, those who are really struggling with their health at the moment. May they know your peace and loving, healing presence. We pray blessings on all those in residential care and those unable to be us in person on Sundays.
A moment of quiet for your own prayers. Here these our prayers, we ask, in Jesus name. Amen.

A prayer of Dedication for all our giving

God, whose giving knows no ending,
 we offer up the treasure that you have entrusted to us;
 we offer up the skills and time that you have graciously given to us;
 we offer up ourselves in service and praise.
 Receive these gifts by your grace.
 Multiply and use them through the power of the Holy Spirit
 to accomplish Christ's work of love in the world. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (with music)

R&S 489 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
 naught be all else to me, save that thou art—
 thou my best thought in the day and the night,
 waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
 thou ever with me and I with thee, Lord;
 thou my great Father, thy child let me be,
 thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

3 Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
 be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
 thou my soul's shelter, and thou my strong tower;
 raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my
 power.

4 Riches I heed not, nor earth's empty praise,
 thou mine inheritance, now and always;
 thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
 High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

5 High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright sun,
 grant me its joys after vict'ry is won;
 heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
 still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Ancient Irish poem
 tr. Mary E. Byrne (1880-1931)
 and Eleanor H. Hull (1860-1935) altd.

The Blessing

Go into the world with Jesus as your inspiration, guide and friend. Be generous, without always counting the cost. Give of your time, without always seeking a reward. Share your love with a needy world. Make peace and strive for justice. And do it all in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of Almighty God,
 Father, Son and Holy Spirit
 be upon you and those you love,
 this day and for evermore. Amen.

The Grace is shared with one another

**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.**

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