

Christ Church, Ipswich

Sunday 19th November 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

We come to worship God, not because we fear God, but because we love God.

We come to worship God not because God demands it, but because we choose to.

Lift your hearts and minds beyond life's day-to-day to worship our eternal and constant God. Amen.

Opening prayer

Creator God, who has furnished us with all that we have,
we give you praise and thanks.

Remind us of our gifts when we lose sight of them.

Show us where and how to share them.

Give us the courage to offer them freely, as you give to us.

What others may seek to destroy, help us to protect and care,

and give us the conviction to stand fast when we are called to do so.

This we ask of you, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

R&S 712 All people that on earth do dwell

1 All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with mirth his praise forth tell;
come ye before him and rejoice.

3 O enter then his courts with praise,
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.

2 The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make;
we are his folk, he doth us feed;
and for his sheep he doth us take.

4 For why: the Lord our God is good,
his mercy is for ever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.

William Kethe (Publ. 1560-61) altd. Psalm 100

A prayer of adoration and confession

Creator God, we marvel at the wonders of your creation!

You have painted the sky with sun rises and sun sets,

you scattered the universe with stars and planets

so that we can be awestruck by your creative force.

You pay attention to each and every living creature,

no matter it's size or assumed importance, including us.

You call us your children and made us the stewards of your work.

You taught us how to live, and how to move through the world sharing love with others.

We thank you for taking such an interest in our lives,

for carrying us through the difficult days

and walking alongside us through the days of celebration and joy.

We know, God of All Creation,

that we have abused the responsibility of stewardship you have placed on us.

We have treated the world as if it was ours to use and misuse.

We have brought about the destruction of animals and environmental systems,
 we have plundered our oceans, rainforests
 and raided the earth beneath our feet for coal, gas, oil and wood.
 We have exacerbated climate change.
 We have bought into fast-fashion, fast-food, and fast-living,
 all of which prevents us from loving our neighbours
 and hearing the poor, oppressed and marginalised
 as they cry out for justice and freedom.

Forgive us for not being the stewards and people that you call us to be.
 Unchain us so that we can become the Jesus followers
 you have called us to be in the world. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the Good News – God has forgiven our sins through Jesus Christ! Alleluia!
 Let us receive forgiveness, embrace hope, accept grace and respond in faith and love. Amen.

A prayer of praise and thanksgiving

We praise you, majestic God of light.
 We thank you for your light in our lives;
 for the love light in your created people,
 shining in the faces of those we know and love;
 for the light shining in the words and actions of all who know you,
 and use their time and talents to serve well;
 for the joy that pours in, lights up and empowers us
 when we let go and trust you with all we have.
 We praise and thank you, loving majestic God of light. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Family Talk

BPW 583 We are called to be God's people

1 We are called to be God's people
 showing by our lives His grace,
 one in heart and one in spirit,
 sign of hope for every race.
 Let us show how He has changed us,
 and remade us as His own;
 let us share our life together
 as we shall around His throne.

2 We are called to be God's servants,
 working in His world today;
 taking His own task upon us,
 all His sacred words obey.
 Let us rise, then, to His summons,

dedicate to Him our all,
 that we may be faithful servants,
 quick to answer now His call.

3 We are called to be God's prophets,
 speaking for the truth and right;
 standing firm for godly justice,
 bringing evil into light.
 Let us seek the courage needed,
 our high calling to fulfil,
 that we all may know the blessing
 in the doing of His will.

Thomas A. Jackson

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

Epistle Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

5 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ² For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴ But you, beloved, are not in

darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵ for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶ So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷ for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 25:14-30

The Parable of the Talents

¹⁴ 'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵ to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶ The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷ In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸ But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹ After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." ²¹ His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." ²² And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." ²³ His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." ²⁴ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." ²⁶ But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹ For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰ As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

BPW 537 May the mind of Christ my Saviour

1 May the mind of Christ my Saviour
live in me from day to day,
by His love and power controlling
all I do and say.

2 May the word of God dwell richly
in my heart from hour to hour,
so that all may see I triumph
only through His power.

3 May the peace of God my Father
rule my life in everything,
that I may be calm to comfort
sick and sorrowing.

4 May the love of Jesus fill me,
as the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self abasing,
this is victory.

5 May I run the race before me,
strong and brave to face the foe,
looking only unto Jesus,
as I onward go.

6 May his beauty rest upon me
as I seek to make him known,
so that all may look to Jesus,
seeing him alone.

Kate B. Wilkinson (1859-1928)

Reflection

A moment for reflection

R&S 371 Take my life, and let it be

1 Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2 Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet, and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.

3 Take my voice, and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee.

4 Take my silver and my gold,

not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure-store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-79)

Our prayers of intercession

Written by The Rev'd Dr Elizabeth Welch

Gracious and gift-giving God, we give you thanks for the gifts which you freely pour out upon us in many different ways. We pray that you will help us to recognise the gifts you have given each one of us, and one another. Help us to find the time to reflect on our own lives so that we may discover your gifts, and help us to encourage others to find their gifts. May we celebrate the diversity of gifts in people's lives. We pray for the gift of wisdom to discern what it is you give each one of us, and to put these gifts to use for the service of others.

Gracious God, in your love for us: **hear our prayer**

Generous and Creator God, we give you thanks for all the gifts you pour out in this created world. Open our eyes to see all that you have made, that we may celebrate and care for your gifts of creation. We pray for the places where these gifts of creation have been misused and exploited, and for those countries where people's lives are under threat because of this misuse. We pray for Iceland suffering from the possibility of a volcanic eruption, and for Pacific Islands, seeking to protect their people from rising sea levels.

Gracious God, in your love for us: **hear our prayer**

God of peace and of justice, we bring before you the many countries of this world where there is war and violence. We pray for Israel and Gaza, that there may be healing and reconciliation and peace. We remember the hospitals which are being destroyed and the people who are having to move out of their homes. We pray for Ukraine and Russia, that there may be a just resolution of the conflicts between these two nations. We pray for Syria and Afghanistan and the many nations where there is war and conflict. We pray that you will open up a new way of resolving conflict, a way of openness and listening, of reconciliation and justice.

Gracious God, in your love for us: **hear our prayer**

God, the healer of the nations, we pray for this country. We offer to you our government and the opposition parties in the midst of the arguments that continue about the way forward for this nation and the decisions that need to be made. We pray for the Prime Minister and the renewed Cabinet and the decisions being made, that there may be more creative, productive and loving ways forward.

Gracious God, in your love for us: **hear our prayer**

Caring God, we pray for those in particular need – people who are homeless or refugees or racially abused or young people suffering mental health issues or who can't afford a place of their own in which to live; those who work for the NHS, in all its struggles to find the way forward, those who find it difficult get a job. Open our hearts and minds to be filled with your care for all who are in need.

Gracious God, in your love for us: **hear our prayer**

Loving God, we give you thanks for the Body of Christ, the church, on this earth, and for the local church of which we are part. May the Church may grow in knowledge of your love and in the courage to share this love with others. May we in each place encourage the rich diversity of your gifts to be discovered, as we celebrate the lives of each one who is part of the church and build your church to be more widely loving and effective.

Gracious God, in your love for us: **hear our prayer**

Healing God, we pray for those who are unwell in body or mind in spirit. We remember in a moment's silence those on our hearts and minds this morning, praying for your love and healing to fill their lives. And we remember those who have died and give thanks for their example.

Silence

Gracious God, in your love for us: **hear our prayer**

Gracious gift-giving God, Creator, Redeemer and Empowerer, we offer to you our prayers, both spoken and unspoken. In God's name we pray. Amen.

BPW 329 Blessèd assurance, Jesus is mine

1 Blessèd assurance, Jesus is mine:
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God;
born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.*

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blest;
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

Fanny J. Crosby (1820-1915)

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.**

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