

Christ Church, Ipswich

Sunday 11th August 2024

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

When we journey with God, anything is possible:

we are challenged to push our limits.

When we walk closely with Jesus, anything is possible:

we are reminded that everyone has their own story to tell.

When we welcome the Holy Spirit, anything is possible:

we are invited to share in the bread of heaven that always satisfies.

A gathering prayer

Lord God, you have the bread of life for the hungry
and living water for the thirsty.
We come hungry and thirsty for your word,
with a desire to know your will
and to love with your unconditional love.
Help us to be fed and to learn from you. **Amen.**

A prayer of approach

Bread of life,
complete sustainer,
provider of all that we need,
we come before you –
seeking you, believing and trusting –
so that we may never hunger and thirst again.
Amen.

R&S 292 When morning gilds the skies

1 When morning gilds the skies,
my heart awaking cries

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Alike at work and prayer
to him I would repair:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

2 When sleep her balm denies,
my silent spirit sighs:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

When evil thoughts molest,
with this I shield my breast

May Jesus Christ be praised!

3 Does sadness fill my mind?

A solace here I find:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Or fades my earthly bliss?

My comfort still is this:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

4 Let earth's wide circle round
in joyful notes resound:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Let air and sea and sky

from depth to height reply:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

5 Be this, while life is mine,
my canticle divine:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this the eternal song
through all the ages long:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Anon. German hymn, early 19th cent.
tr. Edward Caswell (1814-78) altd.

A prayer of adoration

Limitless God,
 thank you that we cannot contain you,
 that you are unfathomable and always up to something!
 We worship and adore you.
 Just when we think we have worked it all out, you surprise us!
 Gracious God, we are truly blessed by you.
 Thank you, that as we bow down humbly at your throne,
 we know that only you can satisfy our needs.
 Praise you, Lord God. **Amen.**

A prayer of confession

When we make wrong assumptions about others and judge the way they live:
forgive us, Lord, for limiting people and possibilities.

When we don't allow others to speak out and be the people you have called them to be:
forgive us, Lord, for limiting people and possibilities.

When we cast judgements on particular communities or neighbourhoods that are different from ours:
forgive us, Lord, for limiting people and possibilities.

Let us journey together towards wholeness and healing,
 knowing that only God can sustain us and set us free. **Amen.**

Assurance of forgiveness

Giver and sustainer of life,
 through the power of the cross
 we are a forgiven people,
 a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
 chosen by you
 who has called us out of darkness into your marvellous light. **Amen.**

A prayer of praise and thanksgiving

Thank you, Lord, that we can trust you in all things.
 Even when we don't understand,
 when we feel lost and alone,
 we can trust you.
 When we wander in the wilderness,
 thank you that you are there by our side,
 that you reach out and touch us
 with outstretched, open arms.
 Thank you, Lord, that we are safe with you.
 For you provide all we need,
 that which is 'on earth' and that which is eternal. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Family Time

R&S 558 Will you come and follow me

1 Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you,
and you in me?

2 Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare,
should your life attract or scare,
will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?

3 Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?

4 Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

Graham Maule & John L. Bell.
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Epistle Reading Ephesians 4:25-5:2

²⁵ So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbours, for we are members of one another. ²⁶ Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and do not make room for the devil. ²⁸ Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labour and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. ²⁹ Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹ Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, ³² and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. **5** ¹ Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ² and live in love, as Christ loved us^[c] and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Gospel Reading John 6:35, 41-51

³⁵ 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.'

⁴¹ Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.'⁴² They were saying, 'Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, "I have come down from heaven"?'⁴³ Jesus answered them, 'Do not complain among yourselves. ⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the prophets, "And they shall all be taught by God." Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. ⁴⁶ Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷ Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰ This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'

R&S 302 O Breathe of life, come sweeping through us

1 O Breathe of life, come sweeping through us,
revive your church with life and power;
O Breath of life, come, cleanse, renew us,
And fit your church to meet this hour.

2 O Wind of God, come, bend us, break us,
till humbly we confess our need;
then in your tenderness remake us,
revive, restore; for this we plead.

3 O Breath of love, come, breathe within us,
renewing thought and will and heart:
come, love of Christ, afresh to win us,
revive your church in every part.

Elizabeth Porter Head. (1850-1936)

Reflection based on today's readings***A moment for personal reflection as Stephen plays the organ*****R&S 512 Seek ye first the kingdom of God**

1 **Seek ye first the kingdom of God,**
and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you;
allelu, alleluia:

Alleluia
alleluia, alleluia,
allelu, alleluia!

2 Ask, and it shall be given unto you,
seek, and ye shall find;
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you;
allelu, alleluia:

3 We shall not live by bread alone,
but by ev'ry word
that proceeds from the mouth of God
allelu, alleluia:

Based on Mat 6:33, 7:7 and Deut 8:3
Karen Lafferty (1948-) alt.
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Our prayers of intercession

Heavenly Father, as tensions have continued to erupt into violence on the streets of many cities, we pray for peace and a healing of divisions within our nation and the world. May there be restoration of calm, common sense and common decency. Let respect and regard for the rights of all be restored.

Lord, shine your light upon our darkness.

Father of us all, please be with those in need of your comfort and care this day. We pray for the grieving; for the sick in body and mind; and for all whose human needs are not being met. We remember the community of Southport, and the three families grieving their children there, and all those affected; a community bewildered by what has happened among them, and by what has happened as a result.

Lord, shine your light upon our darkness.

Almighty God, the changes that have swept our world in recent decades are double-edged swords. Many use the internet and social media to pursue conflict and to disseminate lies and misinformation. We pray for the owners of these platforms to take greater responsibility, and we ask for a spirit of discernment so that all may use these services wisely.

Lord, shine your light upon our darkness.

God of the world, as the Olympics draw to a close, we think of the values that inspired the Olympic movement, particularly those of respect and friendship between competitors and nations. May those who have met in Paris, athletes and spectators from different cultures and walks of life, carry the Olympic spirit home with them and endeavour to uphold its ideals.

Lord, shine your light upon our darkness.

Lord of love, in these testing times, we pray for your Church and for ourselves as Christians. Help us to uphold the ideals of our faith. Aid us in following the way of Christ and help us to examine ourselves – to root out any wrong thinking, any lurking hatreds and prejudices in our hearts. May we be the calm centre of our communities, the reassurance of your love, the sharers of your light and of the life of the risen Christ.
Lord, shine your light upon our darkness.

Amen.

GG 49 I, the Lord of sea and sky

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky,
 I have heard my people cry.
 All who dwell in dark or sin
 My hand will save.
 I, who made the stars of night,
 I will make their darkness bright.
 Who will bear my light to them?
 Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
 I have heard you calling in the night.
 I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
 I will hold your people in my heart.*

2 I, the Lord of snow and rain,
 I have borne my people's pain.
 I have wept for love of them.
 They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone,
 give them hearts for love alone.
 I will speak my word to them.
 Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord.

3 I, the Lord of wind and flame,
 I will send the poor and lame.
 I will set a feast for them.
 My hand will save.
 Finest bread I will provide
 till their hearts be satisfied.
 I will give my life to them.
 Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord.

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A sending out prayer

Thank you, Lord, for believing in us,
 for seeing beyond our outside
 and knowing who we really are inside.
 Thank you for giving us all we need to do your work,
 even when others may tell us we are 'only'.
 Thank you, Lord, for calling us to be adverts for you,
 so that others can see that you also believe in them. **Amen.**

The Blessing

And may the blessing of Almighty God,
 Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
 be upon you and those whom you love,
 this day and for evermore. 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.**