

# **Christ Church, Ipswich**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

## **Family Worship**

*Minister: The Revd Neil Coulson*

*Organist: Mr Nicholas Jardine*

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

### **Call to worship**

Come to worship,  
to be comforted and disturbed,  
challenged from our complacency,  
but also offered forgiveness  
and the hope of abundant life.  
Come to Jesus, prophet, priest and king.

You don't call us to sit doing nothing.  
You want us to be on the move:  
taking risks to change our world and save our  
lives.  
Help us, then, to draw close to you,  
to be ready to listen. Then to act. **Amen.**

### **Opening prayers**

Lord, you walked with your disciples from  
village to village.  
And on the way you talked to them about  
many things.  
Some things were not easy to hear or to  
understand.  
We meet you here today, Lord, to hear these  
things too.

Creative God,  
you called us into your kingdom,  
and adopted us as your children.  
Redeeming Saviour,  
you showed us how to be servants,  
denying ourselves to serve others.  
Sustaining Spirit,  
you give us strength to take up our cross  
in the service of the kingdom of God.  
Teach us to serve others,  
and in doing so, to serve you. **Amen.**

### **R&S 261 At the name of Jesus**

1 At the name of Jesus  
every knee shall bow,  
every tongue confess him  
King of glory now.  
'Tis the Father's pleasure  
we should call him Lord,  
who from the beginning  
was the mighty Word.

2 Humbled for a season,  
to receive a Name  
from the lips of sinners  
unto whom he came,  
he became a witness,  
faithful to the last,  
and returned victorious,  
when from death he passed.

3 In your hearts enthrone him;  
there let him make new  
all that is not holy,  
all that is not true.  
He is God the saviour  
He is Christ the Lord,  
ever to be worshipped,  
trusted and adored.

4 When this same Lord Jesus  
shall appear again  
in his Father's glory,  
there with him to reign,  
then may we adore him,  
all before him bow,  
as our hearts confess him  
King of glory now.

Caroline Maria Noel (1817-77)

### **A prayer of adoration**

Most merciful and gracious God,  
 we offer you our heartfelt love and praise  
 because your Son, Jesus Christ,  
 was willing to risk everything for the whole world.  
 Even for us.  
 We come to worship you,  
 earnestly seeking your will for us –  
 however risky that might be, as you are worthy of our all. **Amen.**

### **A prayer of confession and assurance of forgiveness**

Forgiving God,  
 You have asked us to bear fruit in our lives  
 and to share our faith with others.  
 Yet so many times we have failed you in doing this.  
 We have let you down and let ourselves down.  
 Our thoughts and words have failed you;  
 we have missed opportunities to speak up for our trust in you,  
 choosing to remain silent instead of witnessing for you.  
 Our discipleship has been weak and often non-existent.  
 We are conscious of our weaknesses and our faults.  
 Our faith has been shallow, and we have failed you in many ways.

In your forgiving mercy and grace  
 cleanse our hearts and minds that we may better serve you  
 and so that we can feel strengthened  
 to follow you more faithfully each day.

We thank you, gracious God, for your love and grace which flows over our lives  
 and leaves us renewed and ready to serve you wholeheartedly. **Amen.**

### **A prayer of praise and thanksgiving**

O God, may our lips proclaim your praise  
 and testify to the good news you bring.  
 You are our great and awesome God,  
 whose word does great and awesome things –  
 we are privileged to be part of your story,  
 to be recipients of your love and grace.  
 We praise you, God of heaven and earth,  
 we give you all the glory. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Family Talk**

**R&S 509 O Jesus, I have promised**

1 O Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end;  
be thou for ever near me,  
my Master and my Friend;  
I shall not fear the battle  
if thou art by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway  
if thou wilt be my guide.

2 O let me feel thee near me;  
the world is ever near,  
I see the sights that dazzle,  
the tempting sounds I hear;  
my foes are ever near me,  
around me and within;  
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer,  
and shield my soul from sin.

3 O let me hear thee speaking  
in accents clear and still,  
above the storms of passion,  
the murmurs of self-will.  
O speak to reassure me,  
to hasten or control;  
O speak, and make me listen,  
thou guardian of my soul.

4 O Jesus, thou hast promised,  
to all who follow thee,  
that where thou art in glory  
there shall thy servant be;  
O guide me, call me, draw me,  
uphold me to the end;  
O give me grace to follow,  
my Saviour and my Friend.

John Ernest Bode (1816-74)\*

***The children and Young People go to Café Church with our love and blessing*****Epistle Reading****James 3:1-12****(NT Page 213)***Taming the Tongue*

3 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. <sup>2</sup>For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. <sup>3</sup>If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. <sup>4</sup>Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. <sup>5</sup>So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! <sup>6</sup>And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. <sup>7</sup>For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, <sup>8</sup>but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup>With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup>From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup>Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? <sup>12</sup>Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

**Gospel Reading****Mark 8:27-38****(NT Page 40)***Peter's Declaration about Jesus*

<sup>27</sup>Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' <sup>28</sup>And they answered him, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' <sup>29</sup>He asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.' <sup>30</sup>And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

*Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection*

<sup>31</sup>Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

**R&S 38 Thou whose almighty word**

1 Thou whose almighty word  
chaos and darkness heard,  
and took their flight;  
hear us, we humbly pray,  
and where the gospel-day  
sheds not its glorious ray,  
let there be light!

2 Thou who didst come to bring  
on thy redeeming wing  
healing and sight,  
health to the sick in mind,  
sight to the inly blind,  
now to all humankind  
let there be light!

3 Spirit of truth and love,  
life-giving, holy dove,  
speed forth thy flight;  
move on the waters' face,  
bearing the lamp of grace,  
and in earth's darkest place  
let there be light!

4 Holy and blessed Three,  
glorious Trinity,  
Wisdom, Love, Might,  
boundless as ocean's tide  
rolling in fullest pride,  
through the world far and wide,  
let there be light!

John Marriott (1780-1825)

**A talk based on today's readings*****A moment for personal reflection as Nicholas plays the organ*****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**

Loving Lord sometimes, as we hear the news of conflicts and wars, we feel helpless. The actions of national leaders which cause so much pain and suffering are beyond our understanding. We long for peace but don't know what we can do. Help us to see that the way we live makes a difference in our world and show us how we can live in peace with all people.

May our actions and words,

**Bring life changing grace.**

Loving Lord, the challenge of climate change seems so great. We read of nations and businesses polluting our world and damaging the planet. We hope that the earth may be saved but the magnitude of the task seems more than we can even face, let alone accomplish. Show us that how we live and what we do plays a part in conserving our world for future generations.

May our actions and words,

**Bring life changing grace.**

Loving Lord as more and more people join the queues at food banks; as patients wait on trolleys for hospital beds to become available; as people fear the cost of fuel to keep their homes warm as winter approaches; we feel helpless and look on in dismay. We fear for the future of our country and the plight of those living in poverty. Teach us that if our lives are shaped by kingdom values our country will become a better place

May our actions and words,

**Bring life changing grace.**

Loving Lord at times we look on and weep as we hear of those suffering from pain and disease, disability and discomfort. We pray for those who watch and wait as their loved ones suffer. We hope to offer comfort but the words won't come; we want to show we care but we don't know what to say. Help us to know when to be silent and when to speak. Give us the words that will help and reassure and show that however alone and unloved they feel, God is with them and his love will embrace them.

May our actions and words,

**Bring life changing grace.**

We remember all those who grieve. We commend to you those who lost loved ones in the Grenfell Tower fire. Sometimes we just don't know what action we should take or what we should say to them. Help us to live out the truth of Jesus's promise that those who mourn will be comforted.

May our actions and words,

**Bring life changing grace.**

Loving God, teach us, guide us, show us that our actions and speech have power to bring life-changing harm or grace. We pray in the name of Jesus who changed and changes our world. **Amen**

### **GG 30 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...*

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...*

Melody Green  
Copyright © 1982 Birdwing Music/BMGSongs/  
EMI Christian Music Publishing/Adm. by CopyCare.

### **The Blessing**

May the blessing of Almighty God,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you, and those whom you 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.**