

**Christ Church, Ipswich**  
**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2024**  
**Family Worship with Holy Communion**  
 Minister: Revd Neil Coulson  
 Organist: Mr Stephen Hogger

**A gathering prayer**

Praise be to God  
 for the words written in Scripture throughout the  
 ages.

**God is good and we are one.**

Praise be to God  
 for the good news written to tell us about Jesus.

**God is good and we are one.**

Praise be to God  
 for all words written in our hearts to inspire and  
 guide us.

**God is good and we are one.**

**We are from love, of love, for love.**

**Amen.**

**A prayer of approach**

God of love,  
 you call us to come before with love in our hearts.  
 We all have our own ideas and experiences of  
 what love is.

From the human to the divine.

From the smallest flicker to the greatest flame.

We offer ourselves to you now, seeking to learn  
 more

about the depth and breadth of your amazing  
 love.

We need to know how to put that love into  
 action,

share that great warmth with our neighbour,  
 every day of our lives.

Still us before you now and enable us to receive.

**Amen.**

**R&S 280 Join all the glorious names**

1 Join all the glorious names  
 of wisdom, love and power,  
 that ever mortals knew,  
 that angels ever bore.  
 All are too mean to speak his worth,  
 too mean to set my *Saviour* forth.

2 Great *Prophet* of my God,  
 my tongue would bless thy name;  
 by thee the joyful news  
 of our salvation came:  
 the joyful news of sins forgiven,  
 of hell subdued and peace with heaven.

3 Jesus, my great *High-Priest*,  
 offered his blood and died:  
 my guilty conscience seeks  
 no sacrifice beside;  
 his powerful blood did once atone,  
 and now it pleads before the throne.

4 My dear almighty *Lord*,  
 my *Conqueror* and my *King*,  
 thy sceptre and thy sword,  
 thy reigning grace I sing.  
 Thine is the power: behold I sit  
 in willing bonds before thy feet.

5 Now let my soul arise  
 and tread the tempter down;  
 my *Captain* leads me forth  
 to conquest and a crown.  
 A feeble saint shall win the day,  
 though death and hell obstruct the way.

6 Should all the hosts of death  
 and powers of hell unknown  
 put their most dreadful forms  
 of rage and mischief on,  
 I shall be safe, for *Christ* displays  
 superior power, and guardian-grace.  
 Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

**A prayers of approach**

God of love, you are so much more than anything we could ever imagine. Abundant love flows from your very being. We know your love is the greatest of all. We bask now in that love, making our small offering in return. We love you with all our heart, all our understanding, and all our strength – and always will. **Amen.**

### A prayer of confession

<sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, 'The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one;" <sup>30</sup> you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength."<sup>31</sup> The second is this, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.'

Lord God, we confess that we struggle to love others.  
Sometimes we don't even recognise who our neighbour is,  
never mind knowing how to love them.

**Encourage us in your ways, O Lord.**

We confess that we don't always realise  
that to show love to others,  
first we have to learn to love ourselves.  
Sometimes we haven't a clue how to do that.  
We may have an ideal in our head of what love is,  
then get cross with ourselves when we fall short.

**Encourage us in your ways, O Lord.**

We confess that we have the idea that love is  
this great dramatic gesture or action,  
when sometimes it can be as small as a touch of a fingertip.

**Encourage us in your ways, O Lord. Amen.**

### An assurance of forgiveness

The God of all heaven and earth looks upon us now with love. He wraps us tightly in his arms.  
His love pardons us, enfolds us, emboldens us to accept that our sins are forgiven, and we can go into the world to reveal his love. Praise be to God. **Amen.**

### A prayer of praise and thanksgiving

God of all time and all people,  
we thank you for your words that have been passed down through the ages  
– by Moses, by Jesus and by your disciples  
– words of wisdom, words of life, words of blessing.  
May we live out those words in lives of integrity, compassion and faithfulness,  
to your glory. **Amen.**

### A prayer of dedication for all our giving

**Old Testament Reading Deuteronomy 6:1-9**

**(OT page 153)**

#### *The Great Commandment*

**6** Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the ordinances—that the Lord your God charged me to teach you to observe in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy, <sup>2</sup> so that you and your children and your children's children may fear the Lord your God all the days of your life, and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am commanding you, so that your days may be long. <sup>3</sup> Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe them diligently, so that it may go well with you, and so that you may multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has promised you.

<sup>4</sup> Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. <sup>5</sup> You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. <sup>6</sup> Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. <sup>7</sup> Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. <sup>8</sup> Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, <sup>9</sup> and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

*The First Commandment*

<sup>28</sup> One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, 'Which commandment is the first of all?' <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, 'The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; <sup>30</sup> you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." <sup>31</sup> The second is this, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.' <sup>32</sup> Then the scribe said to him, 'You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that "he is one, and besides him there is no other"; <sup>33</sup> and "to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength", and "to love one's neighbour as oneself",—this is much more important than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices.' <sup>34</sup> When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' After that no one dared to ask him any question.

**R&S 492****Dear Lord and Father of mankind,**

1 Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
forgive our foolish ways!  
Reclothe us in our rightful mind;  
in purer lives thy service find,  
in deeper reverence, praise.

2 In simple trust like theirs who heard  
beside the Syrian sea  
the gracious calling of the Lord,  
let us, like them, without a word,  
rise up and follow thee.

3 O Sabbath rest by Galilee!  
O calm of hills above,  
where Jesus knelt to share with thee  
the silence of eternity  
interpreted by love!

4 With that deep hush subduing all  
our words and works that drown  
the tender whisper of thy call,  
as noiseless let thy blessing fall  
as fell thy manna down.

5 Drop thy still dews of quietness,  
till all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of thy peace.

6 Breathe through the heats of our desire  
thy coolness and thy balm;  
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,  
O still, small voice of calm!

J.G. Whittier (1807-92)

**Reflection based on today's readings*****A moment for personal reflection as Stephen plays for us*****Prayers of Intercession**

Lord, help us to know what 'love' actually means in practice. Help it not to be just a theory or an emotion but a way in which we demonstrate who you are to those around us. As we recognise the need to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, help us to be prepared to be willing to love. Help us to work at loving others. Help us to get our hands dirty and our hearts broken because we are willing to serve you wherever, and in whatever way, you lead us.

Help us to actually, wholeheartedly, deeply love:

**With all our heart, soul, mind and strength.**

Lord, as we look at the world around us, we see so much pain. We see so much sorrow. We see places torn apart by war because we have forgotten how to love our neighbours as ourselves. We pray for Ukraine and all other nations in the world torn apart by aggression, hatred and fear. We pray for an end to all hostilities. Lord, we lift the continuing crisis in the Middle East to you. We cry out to you for the hostages, that they might be freed. We weep for those whose lives have been shattered by destruction of their homes and for all those who mourn those who have died as a result of the conflict. Lord, be

especially close to them, we pray. Show us what we can do to relieve some of the suffering. We continue to pray for peace and love to transform the hearts of all who seek violence. We pray that aid will still be able to reach the people of Gaza who so desperately need the basic essentials. Speak peace into the hearts of the leaders of the nations that they may see that your way of truth and love is the only true way forward. Lord, as we weep for the nations of the world:

Help us to actually, wholeheartedly, deeply love:

**With all our heart, soul, mind and strength.**

Lord, as the US election approaches this week, we pray for Donald Trump and Kamala Harris. Lord, may they stand up for truth, justice and a willingness to serve. We pray for a clear result that leaves no room for uncertainty among the population. May the result unite the country rather than dividing it, we pray. Lord, whoever wins, may they turn to you for their support and strength. We pray for an outpouring of your love across the USA during polling day and beyond.

Help us to actually, wholeheartedly, deeply love:

**With all our heart, soul, mind and strength.**

Lord, we pray for refugees and all who have to flee their homeland because of violence, famine, injustice or other pain. Lord, help your world to become a place of welcome and compassion where everyone is treated with respect and justice. We pray for all who seek to exploit the poor and oppressed, asking that you would convict them of the wrong they are doing. We pray for those who, even now, are stepping onto cramped, dangerous, inflatable boats seeking solace in another country. Keep them safe. May they be met with kindness and compassion when they land on another shore. Lord, when we meet with those who are different from us, may we be welcoming and servant-hearted, always seeking to treat them as we would like to be treated ourselves.

Help us to actually, wholeheartedly, deeply love:

**With all our heart, soul, mind and strength.**

Lord, you have called us to love with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. This is a hard calling, so we need your help. We pause for a moment to think of those we find it hard to love... give us grace, Lord, to see them through your eyes. And forgive us, Lord, for the times when we make ourselves unlovable... perhaps in the way we react to criticism, when we want our own way, when we are selfish or argumentative. Lord, forgive us and help us to forgive others too.

Help us to actually, wholeheartedly, deeply love:

**With all our heart, soul, mind and strength.**

And, Lord, we bring to you those who we love very dearly. We pause to picture them now. Thank you for people in our lives who love us and who we can love in return. Give us grace this week to show them how much we love them and rejoice that they are in our lives.

And, Lord, we pray for those we know who are sick. Help us to be your caring hands and to speak your calming words to all those we know who are suffering. We lift before you those who are sad at the death of a loved one. Bring them your comfort and peace and show us how to weep with them or sit with them in their pain.

Help us to actually, wholeheartedly, deeply love:

**With all our heart, soul, mind and strength.**

We consider, now, those who we meet on a day-to-day basis: our colleagues, our school friends and classmates and teachers, those who run our local shops and businesses, our bus drivers, delivery drivers, those who walk the dog past our house... Lord, show us ways that we can treat them with kindness and respect this week. Go before us into every situation so that the fragrance of your love invades our every space. Help us to bring your peace into every moment of conflict, your love into every moment of friendship, your wisdom into every moment of confusion and your joy into every moment of fun and laughter.

Help us to actually, wholeheartedly, deeply love:

**With all our heart, soul, mind and strength.**

**As we seek to serve you and others with the love with which you served us.**

**Amen.**

*The children and Young People return ready for Holy Communion*

**R&S 447 I come with joy to meet my Lord**

1 I come with joy to meet my Lord,  
forgiven, loved, and free,  
in awe and wonder to recall  
his life laid down for me.

2 I come with Christians far and near  
to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love  
in Christ's communion bread.

3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share  
each proud division ends.  
The love that made us, makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends.

4 And thus with joy we meet our Lord,  
his presence, always near,  
is in such friendship better known:  
we see, and praise him here.

5 Together met, together bound,  
we'll go our different ways,  
and as his people in the world  
we'll live and speak his praise.

Brian Wren (1936- )  
© Oxford University Press.

**Holy Communion**

***Words of Invitation***

Look, here is the Lord's Table spread as for a feast.  
Bread for breaking, wine poured for drinking:  
signs of his love and hospitality,  
symbols of his life broken, his blood poured out.

He is not dead!  
He is risen and present among us,  
evidence of God's covenant grace and promise.

So we come in faith to the table, you and I,  
companions on the journey.  
Some of us fresh and eager,  
others weary, in need of nourishment.  
All of us conscious of our failings.

***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.***

Come now, don't hesitate,  
the feast is ready  
and the Lord himself invites you.

### ***We Remember***

It was the night of the Passover, and Jesus and his friends were sharing supper together. While they were eating, he told them that one of them would betray him. They were appalled and protested saying 'Not I Lord, I would never betray you.' Jesus took some bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them saying 'Take this and eat. This is my body.' He took the cup of wine and after giving thanks passed it among them saying as they drank 'this is my blood of the covenant. It is poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. I will not drink again until the day comes when I drink with you in my father's Kingdom.'

### ***Prayer of Thanksgiving***

Creating and redeeming God,  
 we give you thanks and praise  
 for your covenant of grace:  
 a covenant expressed in sinful people  
 who know forgiveness,  
 the weary who are refreshed,  
 the hungry who are nourished,  
 the captives who are set free  
 and the oppressed who experience liberation.  
 Thank you that you chose to make us a part of your story.  
 Thank you for Jesus Christ who revealed your love in his death and resurrection  
 and who continues to share his life with us through bread and wine.  
 Thank you for sending the Holy Spirit  
 who sustains us in our walk together,  
 helping us to watch over each other,  
 to pray for one another,  
 and to work together for justice and truth.  
 As we eat this bread  
 and drink from the cup,  
 (signs of hospitality and grace),  
 may we be empowered to serve boldly  
 wherever you may call.  
 Accept these prayers  
 and our heartfelt thanksgiving  
 in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### ***We Share***

#### ***The bread***

One people, one loaf, a sign of our common faith  
 and testimony to the generosity of our lord Jesus Christ.

Take this bread, food for faith,  
 and feed on it with thanksgiving.

#### ***The wine***

One people, one cup, a sign of the new covenant  
 poured out for you and for many.

It is a covenant sealed by his blood.  
 When we drink we must be thankful  
 and agree together never to forget.

## ***We Journey***

**Holy God,  
we have been nourished and had our thirst quenched,  
through bread broken and wine poured  
in thanksgiving for your son Jesus Christ.  
Send us out to be as generous to those we meet this week,  
that we might show through word and deed  
that he is not dead, but risen and present among us.  
Hallelujah! Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer, which will be sung today**

### **R&S 574 Go forth and tell!**

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?

3 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.

4 Go forth and tell! O church of God, arise!  
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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## **The Blessing**

Go in the peace of Christ,  
with the words of God in your mind,  
with the love of your neighbour in your heart,  
and with the blessing of God on your life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of almighty God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and all those 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,  
for evermore. Amen.**

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