

Christ Church, Ipswich

Sunday 17th November 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

Through the abundance of your steadfast love,
we will enter your house, O Lord.
We will bow down in the fear of you.
Lead us, Lord, in your righteousness
and make your way straight and clear before us.

A gathering prayer

We come to you, indestructible God,
to pray for our world,
to praise you with one voice,
to hear your words of wisdom,
to entrust our nation to your love,
to encourage one another to grow in faith.
In Jesus we come and pray and rejoice,
to your glory. **Amen.**

A prayer of approach

Surrounded by memories, near and far,
we come before you, O Lord, our God.
In the middle of turmoil, you offer us peace.
In the middle of conflict, you offer us resolution.
We come before you now to worship.
We know that our future is in your hands,
and that your promises are true. **Amen.**

R&S 658 For all the saints who from their labours rest

1 For all the saints who from their labours rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, Lord Jesus, be for ever blessed:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

2 Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress and their
Might,
thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight,
in deepest darkness thou their one true light:

3 O may thy servants, faithful, true, and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win with them the victors' crown of gold:

4 O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in thee, for all are thine:

5 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest
coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless
host,
and sings to Father, Son and Holy Ghost:

W. W. How (1823-97)*

A prayer of adoration

God of the prophets and priests,
God of the disciples and apostles,
God of witnesses through the generations,
you are a God of patience and perseverance,
a God of love and hope,
a God of healing and resolve,
a God we can trust and rely on,
a God who is all for all people,
a God who never lets us down.
God of all, we adore you,
you are our purpose and our motivation. **Amen.**

A prayer of confession

Merciful God,
 we confess that we think we know what is best.
 We go our own way instead of yours.
 We fill our needs before the needs of others.
 We speak to suit our mind instead of your will.
 We take without question and use without thought.

Forgive us for relying on our own wisdom instead of yours.
 Forgive us for the times we have ignored the injustices
 our greed and desire for dominance have created.
 Forgive us for when our words cut and hurt and harm
 instead of lift up and heal and renew.
 Forgive us for the ways in which we place ourselves at the centre of your creation
 instead of part of it.

Amend what we are,
 direct what we shall be,
 so that we may delight in your wisdom
 and walk in your ways,
 to the glory of your holy name.
 Through Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

Assurance of forgiveness

Gracious God, your image is present in each one of us.
 When we confess our sins,
 you are always there to forgive us.
 We stand now, humbly in your presence, completely forgiven.
 And we thank you and praise your holy name. **Amen.**

A prayer of thanksgiving

We praise you, Lord Jesus,
 that in turmoil and in trouble, we can trust you.
 For you are the peace beyond war,
 the hope beyond despair,
 the light beyond darkness,
 the stability amid chaos.
 Your love is indestructible and eternal;
 it surrounds us, day by day.
 Thank you for being our strength and our Saviour. **Amen.**

Family Talk

Action Song Our God is a great big God

*Our God is a great big God,
 our God is a great big God,
 our God is a great big God,
 and He holds us in His hands. x2*

He's higher than a skyscraper.
 He's deeper than a submarine.
 He's wider than the universe
 and beyond my wildest dreams.
 He's known me and He's loved me
 since before the world began.
 How wonderful to be a part
 of God's amazing plan.

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The children go to Junior Church with our love and blessing

OT Reading: Daniel 12:1-3 (OT page 762)*The Resurrection of the Dead*

12 'At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. ² Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³ Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

Psalm Reading Psalm 16 (OT page 458)*Song of Trust and Security in God**A Miktam of David*

¹ Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

² I say to the Lord, 'You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you.'

³ As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble,
in whom is all my delight.

⁴ Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;
their drink-offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names upon my lips.

⁵ The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.

⁶ The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;

I have a goodly heritage.

⁷ I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.

⁸ I keep the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.

¹⁰ For you do not give me up to Sheol,
or let your faithful one see the Pit.

¹¹ You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

Gospel Reading Mark 13:1-8 (NT page 46)*The Destruction of the Temple Foretold*

13 As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, 'Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!' ² Then Jesus asked him, 'Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.'

³ When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴ 'Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?' ⁵ Then Jesus began to say to them, 'Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁶ Many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and they will lead many astray. ⁷ When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. ⁸ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

Choir Anthem How shall I sing that majesty (R&S 661)

How shall I sing that majesty
which angels do admire?
Let dust in dust and silence lie;
sing, sing, ye heavenly choir.
Thousands of thousands stand around
thy throne, O God most high;
ten thousand times ten thousand sound
thy praise; but who am I?

Thy brightness unto them appears,
while I thy footsteps trace;
a sound of God comes to my ears;
but they behold thy face:
I shall, I fear, be dark and cold,
with all my fire and light;
yet when thou dost accept their gold,
Lord, treasure up my mite.

Enlighten with faith's light my heart,
in flame it with love's fire,
then shall I sing and take my part
with that celestial choir.
They sing, because thou art their Sun;
Lord, send a beam on me;
for where heaven is but once begun,
there alleluias be.

How great a being, Lord, is thine,
which doth all beings keep!
Thy knowledge is the only line
to sound so vast a deep:
thou art a sea without a shore,
a sun without a sphere;
thy time is now and evermore,
thy place is everywhere.

John Mason (1646-94)*

A reflection on today's readings

A moment for personal reflection as Stephen plays the organ

Hymn Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

1 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.

2 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...

3 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...

4 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...

5 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 prayers of intercession

Loving God,
we lay before you the challenges that confront us
at home, at work, in our communities and churches.
May your Son, the Good Shepherd,
guide and shape the life of your Church
that all may find a welcome, secure in your presence.

Jesus, Lord of the Church, **in your mercy, hear us.**

Renew your Church in the love of truth and in passion for justice.
Take from us all hypocrisy and deceit,
and teach us to serve with humility and honesty those whose lives are broken.

Jesus, Lord of the Church, **in your mercy, hear us.**

Help us to cherish children and all in our community who are vulnerable,
to protect them, and keep them safe.
May this place rejoice to be a place
where your love is celebrated with integrity.

Jesus, Lord of the Church, **in your mercy, hear us.**

Bring into your healing presence
all who have been damaged and diminished by abuse,
or whose lives continue to be overshadowed by guilt or fear,
May sorrows be shared and memories be healed.

Jesus, Lord of the Church, **in your mercy, hear us.**

May those who have been damaged by abuse
not simply survive, but flourish.
May young and old discover your life-giving love,
and delight in your gift of life,
so that fun, laughter and joy overflow to your glory.

Jesus, Lord of the Church, **in your mercy, hear us.**

Merciful Creator,
accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ who taught us to pray saying... Our Father...

The Lord's Prayer

R&S 531 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy

1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy,
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and
the lathe,
be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the
day.

3 Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is
balm,
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

'Jan Struther' (1901-53)
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A sending out prayer

Shine like a star in heaven.
Guide others in the true path.
Be wise and understanding.
Support one another,
and stand firm, in the midst of turmoil.
In the name and strength of Jesus. **Amen.**

The Blessing

And may the blessing of God almighty, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
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 evermore. Amen.**