

## **Christ Church, Ipswich**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

**Family Worship**

Minister: Revd Neil Coulson

Organist: Mr Stephen Hogger

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

### **Call to worship**

*Based on Psalm 36:5-9*

Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies.  
Your righteousness is like the highest mountains, your justice like the great deep. You, Lord, preserve both people and animals.

How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!  
People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.  
They feast on the abundance of your house;  
you give them drink from your river of delights.  
For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

### **A prayer of approach**

Lord, your abundant love calls us here.  
Your faithfulness to all of creation brings us to our knees.  
Your righteousness is higher than the highest points  
and deeper than the deepest depths.  
To you we come, to you we pray, this and every day. **Amen.**

### **R&S 104 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven**

1 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
to his feet thy tribute bring;  
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
who like me his praise should sing?  
Praise him! praise him!  
Praise him! praise him!  
praise the everlasting King.

2 Praise him for his grace and favour  
to his people, in distress;  
praise him still the same for ever,  
slow to chide, and swift to bless:  
Praise him! praise him!  
Praise him! praise him!  
glorious in his faithfulness.

3 Father-like he tends and spares us;  
well our feeble frame he knows;  
in his hands he gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes:  
Praise him! praise him!  
Praise him! praise him!  
widely as his mercy flows!

4 Frail as summer's flower we flourish,  
blows the wind and it is gone,  
but while mortals rise and perish  
God endures unchanging on.  
Praise him! praise him!  
Praise him! praise him!  
praise the high Eternal One!

5 Angels help us to adore him,  
ye behold him face to face;  
sun and moon, bow down before him,  
dwellers all in time and space:  
Praise him! praise him!  
Praise him! praise him!  
praise with us the God of grace!

H.F. Lyte (1793-1847) altd.  
Based on Psalm 103

**A prayer of adoration**

God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
 we marvel at all you have been through the generations,  
 all you are to us now  
 and all we trust you will be in the future.  
 As your Word unfolds, we find ourselves kneeling before you  
 in body, mind and spirit, in awe of your goodness and majesty.  
 We stand in awe of the way your Spirit transforms and transports us.  
 Lord God Almighty, we adore you. **Amen.**

**A prayer of confession**

We confess to you our moments of doubt, of inaction,  
 of falling short of what we know we can be;  
 moments when we have been unwilling to help others  
 because it was easier not to or we couldn't be bothered.  
 In this moment of silence, we reflect on our failings and  
 seek your forgiveness ...  
 Lord God Almighty, forgive us we pray. **Amen.**

**Assurance of forgiveness**

The Lord hears our prayer, never falters or wavers,  
 but forgives us our sins, our failings, our faults  
 and sends us on our way as forgiven people.  
 Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

**A prayer of thanksgiving**

Creator God, we give you thanks for the world's resources,  
 that feed and nurture, sustain and uphold us.  
 For the fruits of land and sea, for air, rain and sun.  
 For all around that inspires, teaches  
 and brings us to new depths of love and care.  
 We give you thanks for variety in what we see and hear, feel and taste.  
 We give you thanks for those we encounter on the paths of life:  
 for family and friends who guide and teach,  
 please us and annoy us;  
 for strangers who welcome us, care for us,  
 change us and widen our horizons.  
 We give thanks for your Word, your calling  
 and the abundance of who you are.  
 We acknowledge that we do not always repay you  
 with our loyalty, love and obedience.  
 Yet you are still our God and we are your people.  
 Thanks be to you. **Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer****Family Time**

**Hymn Here is love vast as the ocean**

1 Here is love vast as the ocean,  
 loving kindness as the flood,  
 when the Prince of life, our ransom,  
 shed for us His precious blood.  
 Who His love will not remember;  
 who can cease to sing His praise?  
 He can never be forgotten  
 throughout heaven's eternal days.

2 On the mount of crucifixion  
 fountains opened deep and wide;  
 through the floodgates of God's mercy  
 flowed a vast and gracious tide.  
 Grace and love, like mighty rivers  
 poured incessant from above;  
 and heaven's peace and perfect justice  
 kissed a guilty world in love.

*After William Rees*

***The young people go to Junior Church with our love and blessing*****Old Testament Reading****Isaiah 62:1-5****(OT page 629)***The Vindication and Salvation of Zion*

62 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
 and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
 until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
 and her salvation like a burning torch.  
 2 The nations shall see your vindication,  
 and all the kings your glory;  
 and you shall be called by a new name  
 that the mouth of the Lord will give.  
 3 You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of  
 the Lord,  
 and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

4 You shall no more be termed Forsaken,  
 and your land shall no more be termed  
 Desolate;  
 but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,  
 and your land Married;  
 for the Lord delights in you,  
 and your land shall be married.  
 5 For as a young man marries a young woman,  
 so shall your builder marry you,  
 and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,  
 so shall your God rejoice over you.

**Gospel Reading****John 2:1-11****(NT page 86)***The Wedding at Cana*

2 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. <sup>2</sup> Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. <sup>3</sup> When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' <sup>4</sup> And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' <sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' <sup>6</sup> Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. <sup>8</sup> He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. <sup>9</sup> When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom <sup>10</sup> and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' <sup>11</sup> Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

**R&S 511****O love that wilt not let me go**

1 O love that wilt not let me go,  
 I rest my weary soul in thee;  
 I give thee back the life I owe,  
 that in thine ocean depths its flow  
 may richer, fuller be.

2 O light that followest all my way,  
 I yield my flickering torch to thee:  
 my heart restores its borrowed ray,  
 that in thy sunshine's blaze its day  
 may brighter, fairer be.

3 O joy that seekest me through pain,  
 I cannot close my heart to thee;  
 I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
 and feel the promise is not vain,  
 that morn shall tearless be.

4 O Cross that liftest up my head,  
 I dare not ask to fly from thee;  
 I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
 and from the ground there blossoms red  
 life that shall endless be.

*George Matheson (1842-1906)*

## Reflection

### *A moment for personal reflection as Stephen plays*

#### **R&S 95 God is love: let heaven adore him**

1 God is love: let heaven adore him;  
 God is love: let earth rejoice;  
 let creation sing before him,  
 and exalt him with one voice.  
 He who laid the earth's foundation,  
 he who spread the heavens above,  
 he who breathes through all creation,  
 he is love, eternal love.

2 God is love, and is enfolding  
 all the world in one embrace;  
 his unfailing grasp is holding  
 every child of every race;  
 and when human hearts are breaking  
 under sorrow's iron rod,  
 that same sorrow, that same aching  
 wrings with pain the heart of God.

3 God is love: and though with blindness  
 sin afflicts and clouds the will,  
 God's eternal loving-kindness  
 holds us fast and guides us still.  
 Sin and death and hell shall never  
 o'er us final triumph gain;  
 God is love, so Love for ever  
 o'er the universe must reign.

Timothy Rees (1874-1939)\*

#### **Our prayers of intercession**

For the places where you are already at work to bring transformation in people's lives.

For the sharing of many gifts to build up our church communities.

For the surprise of promises fulfilled beyond what we imagined.

For the signs of your glory in the ordinary things of life

**All: Give us thankful hearts and hear our prayers.**

For the amazing beauty of creation and the fantastic abundance of living things.

For recognition of our dependence on nature and for the work needed to protect the delicate balance of ecosystems.

For flowers, fauna and fish; for animals and birds; reptiles and insects and all creatures in all their diversity and uniqueness.

For the signs of your glory in the ordinary things of life

**All: Give us thankful hearts and hear our prayers.**

For restrained and simple living that honours the earth's finite resources and the determination to change our lives.

For all who confront the vested interests of fossil fuel companies and challenge climate science denial.

For the political will to control our emissions and end our ceaseless consumption, and for healthy debate in Parliament on the Climate and Nature Bill.

For the signs of your glory in the ordinary things of life

**All: Give us thankful hearts and hear our prayers.**

For the lost and lonely; for the sick; the disturbed and the despairing; that all will know your light and your life.

For ourselves, that our longing to see the kingdom you promise would lead us to action.

For the bright hope of a world where all find safety, home and security, and for renewed commitment to bring it closer to reality.

For the signs of your glory in the ordinary things of life

**All: Give us thankful hearts and hear our prayers.**

For people who pour out their love or place themselves in danger to make our lives better.  
 For the people we know whose gifts quietly transform lives and serve the need in our communities.  
 For the dreamers, poets, protesters and prophets of our world and their challenge to us to live more  
 faithfully and generously for you.

For the signs of your glory in the ordinary things of life

**All: Give us thankful hearts and hear our prayers.**

For fragile signs of peace in the Middle East amongst old hatreds and years of mistrust.  
 For all delicate negotiations that build bridges between communities and make peace possible; and for the  
 ability to resolve conflict and live in peace where we are.

For the persistence of hope in the midst of devastation and for the renewal of the fire-scorched, war-torn  
 and famine-ravaged areas of our world.

For the signs of your glory in the ordinary things of life

**All: Give us thankful hearts and hear our prayers.**

For moments of beauty that fill us with gratitude and hope, and for the first snowdrop of spring in the midst  
 of frozen earth.

For life that pushes its way into the light in spite of the struggle.

For signs of growth in our communities and for people who encourage us in our day-to-day faith.

For the signs of your glory in the ordinary things of life

**All: Give us thankful hearts and hear our prayers.**

For the feast of love to which all are invited and the taste of your goodness in the here and now.

For the water of life you offer us and the promise that you will satisfy our thirst.

For your love that calls us daily and fills our hands with more gifts than we can hold.

For the signs of your glory in the ordinary things of life

**All: Give us thankful hearts and hear our prayers. Amen.**

### **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**

May Jesus Christ,  
changer of water into wine,  
taker of the ordinary in our lives,  
transform us for his glory,  
and make us extraordinary for his sake.  
Let us go out from here  
with God's miraculous grace brimming up inside us,  
taking with us that abundance of love and power,  
and sharing it with everyone we meet. **Amen.**

**The Blessing**

And may the blessing of God Almighty,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be upon us and those we love,  
this day and always. **Amen.**

**The Grace**

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all evermore. Amen.**