

Christ Church, Ipswich

Sunday 26th January 2025

Family Worship

Minister: Revd Neil Coulson

Organist: Mr Stephen Hogger

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

A prayer of approach

May the words that we use in our worship be formed by God,
focused on Jesus and filled with the Spirit.

God the Father,
we stand in awe of you, the one who spoke and brought the world into being,
who shaped our bodies and breathed into us the gift of life.
Majestic, awesome and wonderful,
yet at the same time, tender, loving and kind,

God the Son, we stand in awe of you,
who became incarnate
to live on this planet alongside us.
You showed us how life should be lived,
and paid the price in full on the cross.

God the Spirit, we stand in awe of you,
the one alongside the Father at creation;
you inspired and strengthened his Son on earth,
and came in your fullness to be our companion,
to lead and inspire your people today.

Creative God, by your word comes life.
Forgiving Son, by your word comes love.
Empowering Spirit, by your word comes liberation.
Speak your word to us now and our lives shall proclaim your glory. Amen.

R&S 285 O for a thousand tongues to sing

1 O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace.

2 Jesus, the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace.

3 He breaks the power of cancelled sin,
he sets the prisoner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean,
his blood availed for me.

4 He speaks, and listening to his voice
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.

5 Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,
your loosened tongues employ;
ye blind, behold your Saviour come;
and leap, ye lame, for joy!

6 My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honours of thy name.

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

A prayer of adoration

Almighty God, we are a mixed bunch of people,
but all unique and special and with a common purpose
– to worship you.

You are the bringer of good news,
and the example of what true love is, giving yourself for our sakes.
You are the meaning and motivation for how we choose to live.
You are light in the darkness that draws us on.
You are the whisper in the wind and the shout in the thunder.
You are the Spirit that warms our hearts.
We worship and adore you. **Amen.**

A prayer of confession

God, you gave us the power to speak.

Words enable us to tell each other what is happening,
how we are feeling, why we are behaving in the way we are.

Sometimes someone cannot speak the words,
or cannot communicate because the language is strange,
or is afraid to say what needs to be said.

There are times when I did not speak;
I was distracted, I was silenced.
I was afraid of the consequences
or even said words that meant nothing.

Forgive us when we did not speak as we ought.

Assurance of forgiveness

And in the knowledge that you are indeed a forgiving God
let your word come alive in our words.
Let our words become Good News.
Let the Gospel be welcomed by all.
We pray in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

A prayer of thanksgiving

We give thanks, O God, for the magnificence of your creation,
its vibrant diversity, its provision for us.
We give thanks for the rich cultures of the world
and all they add to the mix of life.
We give thanks for each other,
with all our differences and quirky ways.
We give thanks for your recorded Word through the ages.
We give thanks for the life of Jesus, supreme example to us
of the outworking of your love.
We give thanks for the outpouring of your Holy Spirit
to comfort, warm and guide us.
We give thanks for all this good news,
in the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Family Time

R&S 573 God is working his purpose out

1 God is working his purpose out,
as year succeeds to year;
God is working his purpose out,
and the time is drawing near;
nearer and nearer draws the time,
the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled
with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.

2 From utmost east to utmost west,
where human feet have trod,
by the voice of many messengers
goes forth the voice of God:
'Give ear to me, you continents,
you islands give ear to me,
that the earth may be filled
with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea'.

3 What can we do to work God's work,
to prosper and increase
love and justice throughout the world,
the reign of the Prince of Peace?
What can we do to hasten the time,
the time that shall surely be,

when the earth shall be filled
with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea?

4 Let us go out in the strength of God,
with the banner of Christ unfurled,
that the light of the glorious gospel of truth
may shine throughout the world:
sin and sorrow let us fight
to set their captives free,
that the earth may be filled
with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.

5 All that we do can have no worth
unless God blesses the deed;
vainly we hope for the harvest-tide
till God awakens the seed;
yet nearer and nearer draws the time,
the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled
with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.

Arthur C. Ainger. (1841-1919)

The young people go to Junior Church with our love and blessing**Epistle Reading****1 Corinthians 12:12-31a****(NT page 161)*****One Body with Many Members***

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot were to say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' ²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But strive for the greater gifts.

Gospel Reading**Luke 4:14-21****(NT page 57)***The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry*

¹⁴Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth

¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,

¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

R&S 295**Breathe on me, breath of God**

1. Breathe on me, breath of God,
fill me with love anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.

2. Breathe on me, breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will
to do and to endure.

3. Breathe on me, breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.

4. Breathe on me, breath of God;
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.

Edwin Hatch (1835-89) altd.

Reflection***A moment for personal reflection as Stephen plays*****R&S 566 The Church's one foundation**

1 The Church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the word:
from heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

2 Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation
one Lord, one faith, one birth:
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses
with every grace endued.

3 'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace for evermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great Church victorious
shall be the Church at rest.

4 Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.

Samuel J. Stone (1839-1900)

Our prayers of intercession

Let us pray to the Lord,
 asking for the help we need to live the good news in a broken world.
 Even though answering the call to justice and to peace asks for all we have;
 even though life and its demands consume much of our energy;
 even though we are anxious about the future:
 the joy of the Lord is our strength.
 So, with confidence we pray:

All: send us, lead us, and fill us with your Spirit.

Even though living for you at home, at school and at work is often challenging;
 even though standing up for what we believe in a sceptical world is tough;
 even though we fall short of what you ask of us and we let people down:
 the joy of the Lord is our strength.
 So, with confidence we pray:

All: send us, lead us, and fill us with your Spirit.

Even though the world is troubled and building the kingdom relies on our small offering of faith;
 even though peace is so fragile and hope is hard to come by - remembering especially the ceasefire
 between Israel and Hamas and the West Bank where fresh violence has broken out;
 even though we often lose our way and fail to listen, we can begin again:
 the joy of the Lord is our strength.
 So, with confidence we pray:

All: send us, lead us, and fill us with your Spirit.

Even though the pendulum of popular opinion is swinging, politics seems volatile and wise and empathetic
 leadership seems in short supply;
 even when society's problems are deep-seated and complex, taking all available reserves of courage and
 commitment to resolve;
 even though the failure to provide answers to social and economic woes hurts people and places some of
 the burden of need on our church communities;
 the joy of the Lord is our strength.
 So, with confidence we pray:

All: send us, lead us, and fill us with your Spirit.

Even though the world is so often full of suffering;
 even though our hearts are troubled by our own pain and by the suffering of others - remembering today
 those we know who are going through illness, redundancy or life changing events;
 even though in our distress we do not see the signs of God's presence with us:
 the joy of the Lord is our strength.
 So, with confidence we pray:

All: send us, lead us, and fill us with your Spirit.

Even though in the UK the threats of extremism and radicalisation are rising and the surge of online
 violence seems unstoppable;
 even though we are far from the inclusive and equal society
 that enables everyone to flourish;
 even though good news for the poor and freedom and healing for all will require our time, love, persistence
 and practical compassion:
 the joy of the Lord is our strength.
 So, with confidence we pray:

All: send us, lead us, and fill us with your Spirit.

Even though, as Trump begins his presidency, we are alarmed by the flurry of hardline policies including
 deportation threats against immigrants; withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement and from the World
 Health Organisation;

even though there is much more to do to make our church communities places of welcome and safety;
 even though we often feel powerless against choices that shape all our lives:
 the joy of the Lord is our strength.
 So, with confidence we pray:
All: send us, lead us, and fill us with your Spirit.

Even though we feel small and insignificant, the good news is for us to share;
 even though the need around us is great; our hands are empty and our courage fails;
 even though the gifts we offer seem inadequate:
 the joy of the Lord is our strength.
 So, with confidence we pray:
All: send us, lead us, and fill us with your Spirit.

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)

A sending out prayer

Lord Jesus, you were anointed to bring new sight,
 freedom and good news to all people.
 Help us to share this good news of your love and care
 with everyone we meet in the week ahead.
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.**

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