

Christ Church, Ipswich

Sunday 9th February 2025

Family Worship

Minister: Revd Neil Coulson

Organist: Mr Stephen Hogger

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

Opening words

God is calling us to come and join the story, to come and play our part.

When God asks: 'Whom shall I send?'

Can we say: 'Here I am, Lord, send me?'

Here we are, Lord,
with our gifts and our gaps,
our successes and our failures,
our enthusiasm and our doubts,
our passion and our unworthiness.
We ask that you will help us to hear your call
and to have the courage to say,
'Here I am, send me.'
In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Psalm 138 (BPW 704)

I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart;
I will sing your praise,
**and will praise your name
for your love and your faithfulness.**

When I called, you answered me;
you made me bold and stout-hearted.
**May all the kings of the earth
praise you, O Lord,
when they hear the words of your mouth.**

May they sing of the ways of the Lord,
for the glory of the Lord is great.

**Though the Lord is on high,
he looks upon the lowly,
but the proud he knows from afar.**

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve my life;
**you stretch out your hand
against the anger of my foes,
with your right hand you save me.**

The Lord will fulfil his purpose for me;
**your love, O Lord, endures forever –
do not abandon the works of your hands.**

R&S 34 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty,

1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty,
early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty,
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
who wast, and art, and ever more shalt be.

3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
 though the sinful human eye thy glory may not see,
 only thou art holy, there is none beside thee,
 perfect in power, in love, and purity.

4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty,
 all thy works shall praise thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea;
 Holy, holy, holy!, merciful and mighty,
 God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Reginald Heber (1783-1826)

A prayer of adoration

Blessings abound when you call us, Lord:
 when we encounter you in expected and unexpected places,
 when you speak to our need,
 are balm to our woes,
 are a guide in our confusion,
 an anchor in our uncertainty,
 a challenge in our complacency
 and love beyond measure.
 How can we not live in awe of all you are,
 have been and will be? **Amen.**

A prayer of confession

Lord, we confess that we fear getting in too deep. When we feel you drawing us to you, calling us to leave the safe confines of life as we know it and plunge into the depths of life with you, we are afraid. What will you ask of us, Lord? For we are ordinary people; we have no tongues to talk in clever parables, we have no miracles to perform. And, the fact is, we're quite content as we are; we're happy to serve you from the wings, we don't want the spotlight. Yet you have drawn us into your story, and you call us to be all that we can be. We confess that we are afraid of our potential; afraid to unleash your power within us. Forgive us, and grant us the courage to overcome our fears and follow you. **Amen.**

Assurance of forgiveness

Our Father in heaven forgives us
 for being less than we might be;
 for following half-heartedly when his son calls,
 afraid of the power of the Spirit
 to transform us, and the world,
 and to bring out the extraordinary within our nature.
 Accept then this full forgiveness, and this call to shine;
 step forward now and follow.
 In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

A prayer of thanksgiving

Father, we praise you for allowing your kingdom to break through into our lives;
 for the things that to you are ordinary,
 but to us are extraordinary;
 and we thank you that you have called us
 to be part of your story,
 ordinary people caught up in the extraordinary tale
 of your plan for salvation,
 the base metal of our tarnished natures
 turned to gold in your gracious and loving hands. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Family Time

R&S 558 Will you come and follow me

1 Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you,
and you in me?

2 Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare,
should your life attract or scare,
will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?

3 Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?

4 Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

Graham Maule & John L. Bell.
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The young people go to Junior Church with our love and blessing

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 6:1-8

(OT page 579)

A Vision of God in the Temple

6 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. **2** Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. **3** And one called to another and said:

'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.'

4 The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. **5** And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!'

6 Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. **7** The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.' **8** Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'

Gospel Reading

Luke 5:1-11

(NT page 58)

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

5 Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, **2** he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. **3** He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. **4** When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' **5** Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.' **6** When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. **7** So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. **8** But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord,

for I am a sinful man!’⁹ For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken;¹⁰ and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, ‘Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.’¹¹ When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

R&S 92 Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)

1 Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

2 As grace that taught my heart to fear
so grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear,
the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
God’s grace that brought me safe thus far,
and he will lead me home.

Reflection

A moment for personal reflection as Stephen plays

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 The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures;

5 and, when this heart and flesh shall fail,
and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil
a life of joy and peace.

John Newton. (1725-1807)

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

Compassionate God we bring to you in our prayers those whose calling sends them to places of danger. We remember those in our emergency services and those around the world who are first at traffic accidents, at plane crashes and crime scenes.

We pray for those responding to the shootings in Orebro in Sweden, for the injured and bereaved.

Lord be with them

We pray for all who search for those missing at sea or on mountains or under rubble, for those who fight fires, for all who witness and deal with catastrophic injuries and loss of life.

Lord be with them

We pray for those whose calling sends them to places of desperation:
 For aid workers and medics working where there is hunger and starvation. Especially we remember the people of Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Gaza and all those living in refugee camps around the world.
 And for journalists and reporters on the front line.

Lord be with them

We pray for those in the armed forces of their nation, for veterans struggling to adapt to civilian life, and for all with PTSD.

Lord be with them

We pray for those whose calling is to remain in their local communities to serve together, worship together and to be people of faith, hope and integrity.

We pray for those exploring a vocation in your Church, for those whose responsibility it is to discern vocations, and for those called to shape the future of your Church.

Lord be with them

We pray for young people who face decisions about careers and study choices.

Lord be with them

We pray for those who feel overwhelmed by the enormity of their calling.

Those whose love of their work is slowly slipping away.

Those whose energy has run out.

Those who feel they have no gifts that can be used.

Lord be with them

We pray for those whose work has sent them to places where they are unhappy, exploited or a long way from family.

Lord be with them

We pray for one another and those we know who are low on confidence and for those who feel they have lost their role in life and their sense of purpose, through age or illness or a change of circumstances.

Lord be with them and us today and everyday

In Jesus' name

Amen

R&S 521 Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go,

1 Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go,
 my daily labour to pursue,
 thee, only thee, resolved to know
 in all I think or speak or do.

2 The task thy wisdom hath assigned
 O let me cheerfully fulfil!
 In all my works thy presence find,
 and prove thy good and perfect will.

3 Thee may I set at my right hand,
 whose eyes my inmost substance see,
 and labour on at thy command,
 and offer all my works to thee.

4 Give me to bear thine easy yoke,
 and every moment watch and pray,
 and still to things eternal look,
 and hasten to thy glorious day;

5 for thee delightfully employ
 whatever thy bounteous grace hath given,
 and run my course with even joy,
 and closely walk with thee to heaven.

Charles Wesley (1707-88) altd.

A sending out prayer

May the Spirit bless, empower and guide us as we travel on in the way of Christ.
May the hope and vision we have shared together sustain us in the days ahead.
May the songs of praise not fall silent as Sunday becomes Monday.
May our prayers and our work as God's people continue.
And may God go with us, each and every one of us, now and for ever. 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.**