

# **Christ Church, Ipswich**

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

**Family Worship – Epiphany 6C**

*Minister: Revd Neil Coulson*

*Organist: Mr Stephen Hogger*

Hello, I hope you are well.

Today, for this the sixth Sunday after Epiphany our readings will be Psalm 1, which we will hear as we begin our worship, and then Jeremiah 17:1-5 and Luke 6:17-26, which is Luke's account of the Beatitudes.

Let us worship God together:

## **Call to worship**

We are blessed to be here today.

We are blessed to be together today.

We are blessed to be a family.

We are blessed that God is with us.

Let us enjoy his blessing as we worship today.

## **A gathering prayer**

Lord, thank you that we are blessed.

Help us to recognise all that you have given to us.

We pray that not only will we reflect on your blessings

we will also seek to be a blessing to others,

with your help and in your name. **Amen.**

## **Psalm 1**

*The Two Ways*

<sup>1</sup>Happy are those

who do not follow the advice of the wicked,  
or take the path that sinners tread,

or sit in the seat of scoffers;

<sup>2</sup>but their delight is in the law of the Lord,

and on his law they meditate day and night.

<sup>3</sup>They are like trees

planted by streams of water,  
which yield their fruit in its season,  
and their leaves do not wither.

In all that they do, they prosper.

<sup>4</sup>The wicked are not so,

but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgement,  
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

<sup>6</sup>for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.

**R&S 712 All people that on earth do dwell**

1 All people that on earth do dwell,  
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;  
him serve with mirth his praise forth tell;  
come ye before him and rejoice.

2 The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;  
without our aid he did us make;  
we are his folk, he doth us feed;  
and for his sheep he doth us take.

3 O enter then his courts with praise,  
approach with joy his courts unto;  
praise, laud and bless his name always,  
for it is seemly so to do.

4 For why: the Lord our God is good,  
his mercy is for ever sure;  
his truth at all times firmly stood,  
and shall from age to age endure.

William Kethe (Publ. 1560-61) altd. Psalm 100

**A prayer of adoration**

Father, we worship and adore you  
for the light you bring to this dreary time of year,  
when we long for spring.  
Thank you for the blessing of every shoot and bud,  
the reminders of your presence  
and your ever-circling, ever-giving love. **Amen.**

**A prayer of confession**

Lord, we confess that curses come to our lips more readily than blessings. Our thoughts are critical rather than looking for the good. We condemn others and turn away before we think what we might do to turn things around and draw blessings from a situation.

So, Lord, we ask for your forgiveness, and we turn to you for a blessing of light upon the dark confines of our thinking. Bless us with your way of seeing, so that our lives might be a blessing to others. **Amen.**

**Assurance of forgiveness**

Sometimes our mindset has been so misguided, and for so long, we fail to see how you can forgive us. Mired in dark thoughts that hastily curse and rarely bless, we are ashamed when a ray of holy light reveals the dust and ashes of our lives.  
Yet with you, Lord, there is always forgiveness and redemption, the chance to turn our thoughts around, and bless with the blessings that come from you. We thank you and praise you, Lord. **Amen.**

**A prayer of praise and thanksgiving**

Lord, we thank and praise you  
for all the many blessings in our lives.  
For food and shelter, for family and friends,  
for the measure of health we have,  
and the many comforts we take for granted.  
Thank you also for your plain speaking;  
these blessings are not merited by anything we have done,  
just as the problems of many – of those who hunger,  
and are homeless, and sick – are also undeserved.  
So, Lord, in giving our heartfelt thanks,  
we ask that we might be a blessing to those  
whom the worldly-wise often curse. **Amen.**

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

**BPW 40 Fill your hearts with joy and gladness**

1 Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,  
sing and praise your God and mine!  
Great the Lord in love and wisdom,  
might and majesty divine!  
He who framed the starry heavens  
knows and names them as they shine.

2 Praise the Lord, his people, praise Him!  
wounded souls his comfort know;  
those who fear him find His mercies,  
peace for pain and joy for woe;  
humble hearts are high exalted,  
human pride and power laid low.

3 Praise the Lord for times and seasons,  
cloud and sunshine, wind and rain;  
spring to melt the snows of winter  
till the waters flow again;  
grass upon the mountain pastures,  
golden valleys thick with grain.

4 Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,  
peace and plenty crown your days;  
love his laws, declare his judgements,  
walk in all His words and ways;  
He the Lord and we his children –  
praise the Lord, all people, praise!

From Psalm 147 © Timothy Dudley-Smith

***Our children go to Junior Church with our love and blessing*****Old Testament Reading****Jeremiah 17:5-10**

<sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord:  
Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals  
and make mere flesh their strength,  
whose hearts turn away from the Lord.  
<sup>6</sup> They shall be like a shrub in the desert,  
and shall not see when relief comes.  
They shall live in the parched places of the  
wilderness,  
in an uninhabited salt land.  
<sup>7</sup> Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,  
whose trust is the Lord.

<sup>8</sup> They shall be like a tree planted by water,  
sending out its roots by the stream.  
It shall not fear when heat comes,  
and its leaves shall stay green;  
in the year of drought it is not anxious,  
and it does not cease to bear fruit.  
<sup>9</sup> The heart is devious above all else;  
it is perverse—  
who can understand it?  
<sup>10</sup> I the Lord test the mind  
and search the heart,  
to give to all according to their ways,  
according to the fruit of their doings.

**Gospel Reading****Luke 6:17-26***Jesus Teaches and Heals*

<sup>17</sup> He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>18</sup> They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. <sup>19</sup> And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

*Blessings and Woes*

<sup>20</sup> Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

‘Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the kingdom of God.

<sup>21</sup> ‘Blessed are you who are hungry now,  
for you will be filled.

‘Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh.

<sup>22</sup> ‘Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup> Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

<sup>24</sup> 'But woe to you who are rich,  
for you have received your consolation.

<sup>25</sup> 'Woe to you who are full now,  
for you will be hungry.

'Woe to you who are laughing now,  
for you will mourn and weep.

<sup>26</sup> 'Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

### **BPW 206 O changeless Christ, for ever new**

1 O changeless Christ, for ever new,  
who walked our earthly ways,  
still draw our hearts as once you drew  
the hearts of other days.

2 As once you spoke by plain and hill  
or taught by shore and sea,  
so be today our teacher still,  
O Christ of Galilee.

3 As wind and storm their Master heard  
and his command fulfilled,  
may troubled hearts receive your word,  
the tempest-tossed be stilled.

4 And as of old to all who prayed  
your healing hand was shown,  
so be your touch upon us laid,  
unseen but not unknown.

5 In broken bread, in wine outpoured,  
your new and living way  
proclaim to us, O risen Lord,  
O Christ of this our day.

6 O changeless Christ, till life is past  
your blessing still be given;  
then bring us home, to taste at last  
the timeless joys of heaven.

Timothy Dudley-Smith  
Words © 1984 Hope Publishing Company

### **Reflection**

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

### **BPW 197 How blest the poor who love the Lord**

1 How blest the poor who love the Lord  
and hold his kingdom in their hearts;  
for they perceive with inner sight  
the wealth that only God imparts!

2 How blest are those who hunger now  
they shall not go unsatisfied;  
because they seek for righteousness,  
their needs will always be supplied.

3 How blest are those who weep and mourn,  
for in their sorrow Christ appears  
to share their grief and bring them hope  
till joy shall drive away their tears.

4 How blest are those who, for his sake,  
know pain and insult, hate and scorn;  
for he will turn the darkest night  
to great reward in heaven's dawn.

5 How blest are those who have refused  
to live for selfish gain alone;  
though now they feel distress and pain  
they soon shall reap as they have sown.

6 How blest are those who seek and find  
the precious pearl of countless price,  
and in God's kingdom taste the fruit  
of Jesus' perfect sacrifice!

Mollie Knight (1917 - 1993)

### **Our prayers of intercession**

Creator God, with so many of our rivers and streams polluted,  
we pray for our world and for your living water  
to refresh, heal and revive all that is dying.

For the deep roots of commitment, investment and positivity  
to shape our future and nurture growth.

#### **Living Lord, hear our prayer**

We pray for the political leaders of the world that their decision making  
would be rooted in wisdom, justice and collaboration.

We pray for the people of Israel and Palestine,  
at this crucial and nerve-wracking time.

We pray for the people of America and for President Trump  
as he signs edicts and meets with world leaders.

We pray for the people of Russia and Ukraine  
and remember Alexei Navalny on the first anniversary of his death.

We pray for all imprisoned for their beliefs  
and for those who are killed because of them.

#### **Living Lord, hear our prayer**

We pray for all who are suffering from hunger and deprivation  
that our response would be rooted in empathy, generosity and action.

We pray for those places in the news and those areas where the cameras rarely go.

We remember the people of Southern Africa where drought has never been worse.

#### **Living Lord, hear our prayer**

We pray for our Church, for our leaders and our congregations  
that our response to the challenges of our times  
might be rooted in faith, courage and honesty.

We pray for all whose faith is fragile and all whose ministry is especially difficult;  
for all who have given up on the Church and all who have been hurt by it.

#### **Living Lord, hear our prayer**

We pray for all who are struggling with illness and all who have been bereaved,  
that they would be surrounded by support rooted in compassion, respect and love.

We remember especially those grieving the loss of a child to knife crime,  
those who have been bereaved suddenly  
and those who have watched over a loved one for many years.

#### **Living Lord, hear our prayer**

And we pray with all our hearts that the leaves of evil in the world would wither and fall  
and that the trees of peace, justice and joy would grow deep roots,  
stand firm and bear the fruit of your kingdom in our lives  
and in the lives of all we love and have prayed for.

**Living Lord, hear our prayer. Amen**

### BPW 573 There's a wideness in God's mercy

1 There's a wideness in God's mercy  
like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in his justice  
which is more than liberty.

2 There is no place where earth's sorrows  
are more felt than up in heaven;  
there is no place where earth's failings  
have such kindly judgement given.

3 For the love of God is broader  
than the measures of our mind;  
and the heart of the Eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.

4 But we make his love too narrow  
by false limits of our own;  
and we magnify his strictness  
with a zeal he will not own.

5 There is plentiful redemption  
in the blood that has been shed;  
there is joy for all the members  
in the sorrows of the Head.

6 If our love were but more simple  
we should take him at his word;  
and our lives be filled with gladness,  
from the presence of the Lord.

F. W. Faber (1814-63) altd.\*

### A sending out prayer

Lord, as we step into this week,  
help us to cultivate our relationship with you.  
We want to be rooted in you.  
Show us our barriers to receiving your blessing.  
Help us not only to recognise how blessed we are,  
but also show us ways that your blessing  
can overflow to others through us. **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.**