

**Christ Church, Ipswich**  
**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2025**  
**Worship for the Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Hello. I hope all is well. Let us worship God together:

**Call to worship**

God is of all time and all people.  
 He will be gracious to us and bless us.  
 His face will shine upon us.  
 His saving power will be known among all nations.  
 Come, to praise him and sing his song of grace. **Amen.**

**Psalm 67**

*The Nations Called to Praise God*

1 May God be gracious to us and bless us  
 and make his face to shine upon us,  
 2 that your way may be known upon earth,  
 your saving power among all nations.

**3 Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
 let all the peoples praise you.**

4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
 for you judge the peoples with equity  
 and guide the nations upon earth.

**5 Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
 let all the peoples praise you.**

6 The earth has yielded its increase;  
 God, our God, has blessed us.

**7 May God continue to bless us;  
 let all the ends of the earth revere him.**

**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**

All-encompassing God, we bow in adoration.  
 There is no need of sun or moon in the radiance  
 of your majesty.  
 We bow in adoration, basking in the light of your love,  
**and exalting your name.**

Son of God, we bow in adoration.  
 Lamb of God, you light up our world with your glory.  
 We bow in adoration, basking in the warmth  
 of your saving grace,  
**and exalting your name.**

Holy Spirit, we bow in adoration.  
 Blessing of God's goodness, you cause our hearts to leap for joy.  
 We bow in adoration, basking in the power of the river of life,  
**and exalting your name.**

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
 we bow in adoration, basking in the eternal light,  
**and exalting in the powerful glory of your radiance. Amen.**

### **A prayer of confession**

We have not yet learned to love as you love	We are enmeshed in fear
We have spoken praise in our mouths	Creation needs you
When our hearts were far from you	Our families need you
The gifts you gave for our peace	Our streets need you
We have weaponized	Our towns need you
Yet, even in our failings	The soil needs you
Your love has never failed us	Our souls need you
Even when we turned you away	Heal us
You still choose to make your home among us	Forgive us
Our hearts are troubled	Make us whole again. Amen

### **An assurance of forgiveness**

Beloved of God, hear the good news.  
 God's faithfulness is sure  
 God's love will not fail us.  
 In accordance with God's lovingkindness,  
 you are forgiven  
 you are welcome  
 you are home.  
 All glory and praise be to God for his unending love. **Amen.**

### **A prayer of praise and thanksgiving**

Thank you for the hope and healing you bring about in our life, our world.  
 Thank you for guiding and using us to bring your light to others.  
 One day there will be no more darkness, no more pain or disappointment.  
 All people and nations will be healed and renewed.  
 We thank you, Lord, for your promise that all will be well. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done;  
 on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,  
 as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.  
 For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Family Time

### BPW 5 Be still, for the presence of the Lord

1 Be still, for the presence of the Lord,  
the holy one, is here;  
come bow before him now  
with reverence and fear:  
in him no sin is found -  
we stand on holy ground.  
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,  
the holy one, is here.

2 Be still, for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around;  
he burns with holy fire,  
with splendour he is crowned:

how awesome is the sight -  
our radiant king of light!  
Be still, for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around.

3 Be still, for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place:  
he comes to cleanse and heal,  
to minister his grace -  
no work too hard for him,  
in faith receive from him.  
Be still, for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place.

David Evans (1956-) © Thank You Music Ltd.

*The children go to Junior Church with our love and blessing*

### Gospel Reading

John 14:23-29

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23 Jesus answered him, 'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. 24 Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

25 'I have said these things to you while I am still with you. 26 But the Advocate,[a] the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. 28 You heard me say to you, "I am going away, and I am coming to you." If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. 29 And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

### New Testament Reading

Revelation 21:10-14, 21:22-22:5

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#### *Vision of the New Jerusalem*

<sup>10</sup> And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. <sup>11</sup> It has the glory of God and a radiance like a very rare jewel, like jasper, clear as crystal. <sup>12</sup> It has a great, high wall with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates are inscribed the names of the twelve tribes of the Israelites; <sup>13</sup> on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. <sup>14</sup> And the wall of the city has twelve foundations, and on them are the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

<sup>22</sup> I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. <sup>23</sup> And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. <sup>24</sup> The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. <sup>25</sup> Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup> People will bring into it the glory and the honour of the nations. <sup>27</sup> But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practises abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

*The River of Life*

**22** Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup>through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup> Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; <sup>4</sup> they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

**R&S 492 Dear Lord and Father of mankind**

1 Dear Lord and Father of mankind  
forgive our foolish ways!  
Reclothe us in our rightful mind;  
in purer lives thy service find,  
in deeper reverence, praise.

2 In simple trust like theirs who heard  
beside the Syrian sea  
the gracious calling of the Lord,  
let us, like them, without a word,  
rise up and follow thee.

3 O Sabbath rest by Galilee!  
O calm of hills above,  
where Jesus knelt to share with thee  
the silence of eternity  
interpreted by love!

4 With that deep hush subduing all  
our words and works that drown  
the tender whisper of thy call,  
as noiseless let thy blessing fall  
as fell thy manna down.

5 Drop thy still dews of quietness,  
till all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of thy peace.

6 Breathe through the heats of our desire  
thy coolness and thy balm;  
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,  
O still, small voice of calm!

J.G. Whittier (1807-92)

**Reflection**

*A moment for reflection*

**R&S 620 For the healing of the nations**

1 For the healing of the nations,  
Lord, we pray with one accord;  
for a just and equal sharing  
of the things that earth affords.  
To a life of love in action  
help us rise and pledge our word.

2 Lead us, Father, into freedom;  
from despair your world release,  
that, redeemed from war and hatred,  
all may come and go in peace  
Show us how through care and goodness  
fear will die and hope increase.

3 All that kills abundant living,  
let it from the earth be banned:  
pride of status, race or schooling,  
dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice  
may we hallow life's brief span.

4 You, Creator-God, have written  
your great name on humankind;  
for our growing in your likeness  
bring the life of Christ to mind;  
that by our response and service  
earth its destiny may find.

Fred Kaan (1929-2009)

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

Lord Jesus Christ, you walked the paths we walk 2000 years ago. You walked amongst your people, seeing need and reaching out, bringing healing and wholeness, comfort and release.

We bring our prayers for those we encounter as we walk hopefully and in your steps. For those who we meet face to face, those who we had planned to meet and those we encounter unexpectedly. For those we hear of near and far, and those for whom life is not plain sailing, comfortable or care free. We bring our prayers for those whose situations and needs challenge and change us and move us to places we hadn't thought possible, and for those who stir us out of our comfort zone as we step out in faith.

Lord Jesus Christ,

**walk with us and with all for whom we pray**

We pray for those whose economic, religious and social backgrounds force them into poverty, hunger, homelessness and need. We pray for those whose lives are in danger because of their ethnicity and the place and the culture and the religion they were born into. We pray for those who face isolation and segregation through no fault of their own.

Lord Jesus Christ,

**walk with us and with all for whom we pray**

We pray for those ordinary folk who seek to live in peace and harmony but whose political leaders seek to stir up trouble and fear and hate with neighbours. We pray for those dragged into fighting for their survival, livelihood and future.

We pray for those dragged into the Russian-Ukrainian war, for the suffering, death, grief, fear and deprivation that they all have to endure, and for the lives, families, histories, and nations changed forever.

We pray for those in Gaza and Israel and those across the Middle East who struggle with hopes and fears trying to find ways forward to bring peace, comfort, fairness and hope.

Lord Jesus Christ,

**walk with us and with all for whom we pray**

We pray for those in our own countries, towns, cities and villages who struggle with the present economic and social challenges. Those who once felt comfortably off who now face a far bleaker future, and for those who need a helping hand from those of us who can offer one. We pray for those who once found life plain sailing but who now find themselves in the midst of a storm, with waves of fear and pain, need and anguish.

Lord Jesus Christ,

**walk with us and with all for whom we pray**

We pray that we, as your followers, have faith enough to step out in your name to reach out to those around us who challenge our presumptions and plans. Give us an acceptance of the leading of your Spirit.

May we offer, where we can, words of faith, hope and love, and tables of fellowship and hospitality.

Lord Jesus Christ,

**walk with us and with all for whom we pray**

We pray for these and all those whose names and needs rest heavily on our lives this day, we remember them now ...

Lord Jesus Christ,

**walk with us and with all for whom we pray**

walk with us we pray Lord Jesus, this and every day.

**Amen**

## R&S 489 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art—  
thou my best thought in the day and the night,  
waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,  
thou ever with me and I with thee, Lord;  
thou my great Father, thy child let me be,  
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

3 Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;  
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,  
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my strong tower;  
raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my  
power.

4 Riches I heed not, nor earth's empty praise,  
thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,  
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

5 High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright sun,  
grant me its joys after vict'ry is won;  
heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Ancient Irish poem tr. Mary E. Byrne (1880-1931) and Eleanor H. Hull (1860-1935) altd

## A sending out prayer

Glorious God, you shine your light  
into the dark places of our lives and of our world.  
Gentle God, you touch us with your healing love and make us whole.  
We ask you to be with us and shine through us this week,  
and use us to bring hope and healing to others. **Amen.**

## The Blessing

May the mind of the Father inspire and renew us.  
May the Word of Life invigorate us with new faith and hope.  
May the Spirit breathe fresh vision into expectant hearts.

And, may the grace and the mercy, the peace and the love  
of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with and within us,  
and those we love,  
this day and evermore. **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.**

Resources taken and adapted from *ROOTS for Churches Limited*, *URC Worship Notes* and *BUGB Gathering for Worship*.  
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