

# **Christ Church, Ipswich**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

**Family Worship**

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

## **Call to worship**

The time is now, the Lord is here!  
He calls us in this moment.  
Rejoice in the fullness of his love.

## **A gathering prayer**

We gather in the power of your Spirit, O Lord.  
Give us the wisdom to live in the Spirit,  
and to show the fruit of the Spirit in who we are.  
Make us people of love, joy and peace;  
make us generous and kind;  
and help us to shape our lives with gentleness,  
faithfulness and self-control. **Amen.**

## **R&S 339 Great God, your love has called us here**

1 Great God, your love has called us here  
as we, by love, for love were made.  
Your living likeness still we bear,  
though marred, dishonoured, disobeyed.  
We come, with all our heart and mind  
your call to hear, your love to find.

2 We come with self-inflicted pains  
of broken trust and chosen wrong,  
half-free, half-bound by inner chains,  
by social forces swept along,  
by powers and systems close confined  
yet seeking hope for humankind.

3 Great God, in Christ you call our name  
and then receive us as your own  
not through some merit, right or claim  
but by your gracious love alone.  
We strain to glimpse your mercy-seat  
and find you kneeling at our feet.

4 Then take the towel, and break the bread,  
and humble us, and call us friends.  
Suffer and serve till all are fed,  
and show how grandly love intends  
to work till all creation sings,  
to fill all worlds, to crown all things.

5 Great God, in Christ you set us free  
your life to live, your joy to share.  
Give us your Spirit's liberty  
to turn from guilt and dull despair  
and offer all that faith can do  
while love is making all things new.

Brian Wren (1936- )  
© Oxford University Press.

## **A prayer of adoration**

Loving Father, keen to save,  
who sent your Son to show the way.  
**We worship you.**

Jesus, you love us and suffered for us,  
and showed us heaven on earth.  
**We worship you.**

Holy Spirit, source of new life,  
rich in fruitfulness.  
**We worship you.**

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
love calling for action.  
**We worship you. Amen.**

### **A prayer of confession**

Following you, Jesus, does not guarantee an easy life. There are challenges and obstacles as the sinful life constantly fights with our Spirit-filled life. We are sorry when our human condition takes over and we fight using our own efforts. We're sorry for the times we retaliate when others are hurtful to us. We're sorry for relying on our own ideas and neglecting the wisdom of the Spirit's guidance. We're sorry for all the excuses we offer to get out of things you ask us to do. We're sorry for letting you down, for our complacency. We know some things can't wait. And that you call for action.

**Forgive us, Lord.**

**Help us to centre our life on you,**

**heeding the urgency of your call.**

**Amen.**

### **An assurance of forgiveness**

Jesus took action when it was needed.

He suffered on the cross where our sins were nailed with him.

We are forgiven.

He paid the price for all our wrongdoing and set us free from the power of sin.

Let us live in that freedom. **Amen.**

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

Some things can't wait. Such as the need of people in this world to acknowledge and follow you, Lord. For who knows when you will return? We give abundant thanks for everyone to whom you give the cloak of evangelism and leadership.

Our hearts overflow with thanks and praise: for our own salvation; for all who played their part in leading us to faith and nurturing us on our walk in freedom; and that we are no longer drifting in hopelessness, but secure in you.

Your Holy Spirit leads us with incomparable power, strength and wisdom. And our heart's desire to follow where you lead, with the fruit of the Spirit ripening within us. You have the power, Lord, to change our attitudes and our priorities. Our hearts are full of thanks and praise for the joy we know in you and the inheritance that can never be taken from us.

**Lord, we pray for others to know the same. 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**

#### **R&S 509 O Jesus, I have promised**

1 O Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end;  
be thou for ever near me,  
my Master and my Friend;  
I shall not fear the battle  
if thou art by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway  
if thou wilt be my guide.

2 O let me feel thee near me;  
the world is ever near,  
I see the sights that dazzle,  
the tempting sounds I hear;  
my foes are ever near me,  
around me and within;  
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer,  
and shield my soul from sin.

3 O let me hear thee speaking  
in accents clear and still,  
above the storms of passion,  
the murmurs of self-will.  
O speak to reassure me,  
to hasten or control;  
O speak, and make me listen,  
thou guardian of my soul.

4 O Jesus, thou hast promised,  
to all who follow thee,  
that where thou art in glory  
there shall thy servant be;  
O guide me, call me, draw me,  
uphold me to the end;  
O give me grace to follow,  
my Saviour and my Friend.

John Ernest Bode (1816-74)\*

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

**Epistle Reading**

**Galatians 5:1, 13-25**

**NT page 176**

5 <sup>1</sup> For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

<sup>13</sup> For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. <sup>14</sup> For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' <sup>15</sup> If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

***The Works of the Flesh***

<sup>16</sup> Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. <sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

***The Fruit of the Spirit***

<sup>22</sup> By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

**Gospel Reading**

**Luke 9:51-62**

**NT Page 64**

***A Samaritan Village Refuses to Receive Jesus***

<sup>51</sup> When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. <sup>52</sup> And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; <sup>53</sup> but they did not receive him, because his face was set towards Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup> When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, 'Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?' <sup>55</sup> But he turned and rebuked them. <sup>56</sup> Then they went on to another village.

***Would-Be Followers of Jesus***

<sup>57</sup> As they were going along the road, someone said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' <sup>58</sup> And Jesus said to him, 'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.' <sup>59</sup> To another he said, 'Follow me.' But he said, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.' <sup>60</sup> But Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.' <sup>61</sup> Another said, 'I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.' <sup>62</sup> Jesus said to him, 'No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'

**R&S 355 Jesus calls us! O'er the tumult**

1 Jesus calls us! O'er the tumult  
of our life's wild, restless sea,  
day by day his voice is sounding,  
saying, 'Christian, follow me':

2 as, of old, apostles heard it  
by the Galilean lake,  
turned from home, and toil, and kindred,  
leaving all for his dear sake.

3 Jesus calls us from the worship  
of the vain world's golden store,  
from each idol that would keep us,  
saying, 'Christian, love me more'.

4 In our joys and in our sorrows,  
days of toil and hours of ease,  
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,  
'Christian, love me more than these.'

5 Jesus calls us! By your mercies,  
Saviour, make us hear your call,  
give our hearts to your obedience,  
serve and love you best of all.

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-95) altd.\*

**Reflection*****A moment for reflection*****R&S 601 Christ is the world's true light**

1 Christ is the world's true light,  
its captain of salvation,  
the daystar clear and bright  
and joy of every nation;  
new life, new hope awakes,  
where'er we own his sway:  
freedom her bondage breaks,  
and night is turned to day.

2 In Christ all races meet,  
their ancient feuds forgetting,  
the whole round world complete,  
from sunrise to its setting:  
when Christ is throned as Lord,  
all shall forsake their fear,  
to ploughshare beat the sword,  
to pruning-hook the spear.

3 One Lord, in one great name  
unite us all who own thee;  
cast out our pride and shame  
that hinder to enthrone thee;  
the world has waited long,  
has travailed long in pain;  
to heal its ancient wrong,  
come, Prince of Peace, and reign.

G. W. Briggs (1875-1959) altd.\*

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**Our prayers of intercession**

Heavenly Father, we pray for those around us as we sit here this morning; for our sisters and brothers in Christ, gathered here in this Church. If there is any way we can show love and kindness, please make it known to us. We pray for any among us who especially need kindness at this time; for any who have recently lost a loved one; for those who struggle with health issues; for anybody who is finding life difficult just now, and who needs a kind word and maybe a helping hand. May your Holy Spirit aid us in our efforts to live as Jesus lived, loving our neighbours as ourselves.

Lord, we think of the community that surrounds us outside these walls, and we pray for all the people we know, and also those we don't, who live and work around us. In the coming week, in all our interactions with the neighbours in our streets, with those who work in local businesses or contribute to our community in any way, may we be worthy of Christ in the way we treat them. We pray that your Holy Spirit will help us to bear witness to you in acts of kindness and respect which reflect our life in Christ.

We widen our circle of prayer to take in our nation and the world. These are difficult days for all, Lord, as news of warfare fills our television screens, and we struggle along with other nations to contain climate change. Help us not to be overwhelmed by bad news, Father. Prayer is powerful. In situations where we feel helpless, to pray in the power of the Spirit is enough; to hold the world in love, and pray for peace, healing and harmony, for the balm of your love in the midst of humanity's brokenness.

Help us to be free from despair; let us not be ensnared by fears and imaginings and become inward-looking and cynical. Christ has set us free. Therefore help us to allow the light of kindness to shine in our own small corners, to banish the darkness and let love in. In Jesus' name, **Amen**.

### **R&S 663 Love divine, all loves excelling**

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven to earth come down!  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.

2 Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy grace receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,

serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

3 Finish then thy new creation,  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee!  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place;  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love and praise.

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

### **A sending out prayer**

May God grant us the wisdom to know what is important.  
May God guide us to act, to do what is urgent.  
May God help us to know the one we follow better each day.  
May God help us to be people who don't always look back.  
May God help us always to be faithful and true. **Amen**.

### **The Blessing**

And may the love and blessing of God,  
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer  
be with upon 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.**

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