

Christ Church, Ipswich

Sunday 13th July 2025

Family Worship

Led by Neil

Guest Organist: Nicholas Jardine

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

Call to worship

Let us join together to worship God,
the source of all love, compassion, and justice,
as we seek to become fit to do
God's will in the world.

A gathering prayer

Lord,
awaken us this morning to the needs of your world,
the pains and tensions in our communities,
the dangers and hardships in the most vulnerable areas
of this warming planet.
Show us the importance of love
in all the difficult choices and decisions
we are called upon to make, big or small. **Amen**

R&S 292 When morning gilds the skies

1 When morning gilds the skies,
my heart awaking cries
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer
to him I would repair:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

2 When sleep her balm denies,
my silent spirit sighs:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
When evil thoughts molest,
with this I shield my breast
May Jesus Christ be praised!

3 Does sadness fill my mind?
A solace here I find:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Or fades my earthly bliss?
My comfort still is this:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

4 Let earth's wide circle round
in joyful notes resound:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Let air and sea and sky
from depth to height reply:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

5 Be this, while life is mine,
my canticle divine:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this the eternal song
through all the ages long:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Anon. German hymn, early 19th cent.
tr. Edward Caswell (1814-78) altd.

A prayer of adoration

O Lord, you are our God,
the God of Abraham, Isaac and Joseph;
the God of Moses, the Prophets and Psalmists;
the God of Priests, Levites and Samaritans;
the God of Disciples and Apostles;
the God of Jews and Gentiles;
the God of the good, the bad and the ugly.
Oh Lord, you are our God, you are my God,
and your promises to us are immense –
beyond our imagining, beyond what we deserve.
You are our God, and we adore you for all you are
and for all your ways and for all your love,
this and every day. **Amen.**

A prayer of confession

For times when we have tried to trap you,
God, forgive us.
 For times when we have seen a need but walked
 on by,
God, forgive us.
 For times when we felt too important to get
 involved,
God, forgive us.
 For times when we have been in too much of a
 rush,
God, forgive us.
 For times when we have simply ignored a need,
God, forgive us.

For times when we have not done what is right,
God, forgive us.
 For times when we have acted cruelly or unjustly,
God, forgive us. God, forgive us. Amen.

An assurance of forgiveness

Lift from us, Lord, the burdens of guilt,
 of sorrow for deeds undone,
 of pain for harm and hurt caused.
 Blessed be you, Lord God,
 who takes away the sins of the world,
 who has lightened our load,
 cleansed us and forgiven us. **Amen**

A prayer of praise and thanksgiving

Almighty God, in a world of so many choices,
 with so many options,
 so many routes to take and roads to follow,
 we give you thanks that in all the mix of life you are there,
 you are here with us and always will be.
 We give you thanks that you have inspired so many people
 to live their lives with love and support and generosity.
 We give you thanks that you have set hearts on fire
 with passion and commitment to serve you and our neighbours
 in the way you would have us do.
 We give thanks that we can read and share your word,
 know your truth, feel your peace
 and have the freedom to choose right from wrong.
 For all this and so much more, we give you thanks and praise. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Family Time

R&S 629 Make me a channel of your peace

1 Make me a channel of your peace.
 Where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
 where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;
 and where there's doubt, true faith in you:

*O, Master, grant that I may never seek
 so much to be consoled as to console;
 to be understood as to understand;
 to be loved as to love with all my soul.*

2 Make me a channel of your peace.
 Where there's despair in life let me bring hope;
 where there is darkness, let me bring your light;
 and where there's sadness, bring your joy:

3 Make me a channel of your peace;
 for when we give we will ourselves receive.
 It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
 and in dying that we gain eternal life.

From a prayer sometimes attributed to St Francis (1182-1226)
 arr. Sebastian Temple. (1928 - 1997)*
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The children go to Junior Church with our love and blessing

Epistle Reading**Colossians 1:1-14****NT page 185***Salutation*

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

2 To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

Paul Thanks God for the Colossians

3 In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **4** for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, **5** because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel **6** that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. **7** This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow-servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, **8** and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

9 For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, **10** so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. **11** May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully **12** giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. **13** He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, **14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Gospel Reading**Luke 10:25-37****NT Page 66***The Parable of the Good Samaritan*

25 Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' **26** He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you read there?' **27** He answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.' **28** And he said to him, 'You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.'

29 But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' **30** Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. **31** Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. **32** So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. **33** But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. **34** He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. **35** The next day he took out two denarii¹ gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." **36** Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' **37** He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'

R&S 267 Immortal love for ever full

1 Immortal love for ever full,
for ever flowing free,
for ever shared, for ever whole,
a never-ebbing sea!

2 Our outward lips confess the name,
all other names above;
love only knoweth whence it came
and comprehendeth love.

3 We may not climb the heavenly steep
to bring the Lord Christ down;
in vain we search the lowest deeps,
for him no depths can drown.

4 But warm, sweet, tender, even yet
a present help is he;
and faith has still its Olivet,
and love its Galilee.

5 The healing of his seamless dress
is by our beds of pain;
we touch him in life's throng and press,
and we are whole again.

6 O Lord and Master of us all,
whate'er our name or sign,
we own thy sway, we hear thy call,
we test our lives by thine.

J. G. Whittier (1807-92)

Reflection

A moment for reflection while Nicholas plays the organ

R&S 648 *Jesu, Jesu*

*Jesu, Jesu,
fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbours we have from you.*

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them:

2. Neighbours are rich, and are poor,
neighbours are black, and are white,
neighbours are near and far away:

3. These are the ones we should serve
these are the ones we should love
All these are neighbours to us and you:

4. Kneel at the feet of our friends,
silently washing their feet,
this is the way we should live with you

Jesu may be pronounced 'Yay-soo', as in many other languages
Tom Colvin (1925-) altd.
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Our prayers of intercession

God of all:

we pray for places where neighbouring peoples and countries are at war,
asking that a just peace will overcome deep-seated fear and hatreds.

May we be faithful in prayer

for the Middle East where neighbours

are driven by historic mistrust and deepening violence;

for decisions that improve lives across all the nations of the United Kingdom;

for dialogue leading to lasting peace between Russia and Ukraine;

for co-operation between nations on the biggest challenges facing us all in our world,
including climate change, asylum and migration.

We turn to you, O Lord.

Fill our hands with gifts to share.

All: Send us out to share your love.

God of all:

we pray for our relationships with our friends, our families and our colleagues at work
that we would show your love in daily acts of kindness.

May we be generous in our opinions of others.

May we break down barriers and see beyond narrow expectations of other people

and may we be prepared to go beyond the limits of our own patience and care,
trusting in the resources of your Holy Spirit.

We turn to you, O Lord.

Fill our hands with gifts to share.

All: Send us out to share your love.

God of all:

we pray for all on the edges of our communities: local and national;

for people whose voices are sometimes not heard

and whose opinions are overlooked.

May we hear the voice of people of all ages and from every background

and may we remember that Jesus placed a child in the midst

showing us the upside-down values of your kingdom

where the smallest is greatest and the outsider belongs at your table.

We turn to you, O Lord.
Fill our hands with gifts to share.

All: Send us out to share your love.

God of all:

we pray that our mission would always be rooted in the basics of caring for others
and may our plans, budgets and actions put the needs of others before our own.

May we be renewed for more generous living
and equipped for more open-hearted attention to those in need.

We pray for wisdom for all in local and national government
as they make decisions that affect people who are in need,
especially decisions relating to child poverty
and provision for special educational needs in schools.

We turn to you, O Lord.
Fill our hands with gifts to share.

All: Send us out to share your love.

God of all:

we pray for people who are suffering from sickness or distress of any kind;
for bereaved people, remembering especially the flood disaster in Texas;
for all people fleeing war and conflict
and for all victims of bullying, racial hatred, violence and injustice.

May we have the holy imagination to see the pain in our world
and be prepared to respond to it with whatever resources we have.

We pray today for people who work at the frontline of caring:
medical staff; first responders; social workers, teachers, parents;
and people whose life ministry is about binding up the wounds that life inflicts;
and we place into your hands the people we know
who are in need of your healing today.

We turn to you, O Lord.
Fill our hands with gifts to share.

All: Send us out to share your love.

God of all:

we pray for your peace and grace to guide our actions
and for your love to shape us as we walk day by day with you.

May we be strong, patient and joyful in serving you
and faithful in loving our neighbour.

We turn to you, O Lord.
Fill our hands with gifts to share.

All: Send us out to share your love.

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)

A sending out prayer

Lord, help us to look for the good in our neighbours.
Help us to recognise that neighbourliness goes two ways.
Make us gracious as well as generous,
receptive to the ideas and perspectives,
as well as the needs, of others,
remembering that as we meet them, we meet you. **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.**

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