

Christ Church, Ipswich

Sunday 27th 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

Come, let us worship the Lord.
let us wonder at God's mercy and grace.
Let us worship Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

A gathering prayer

Almighty God, as we gather,
let us be quiet and find your presence.
We rejoice in the mystery of your loving justice.
Help us to understand what your love means,
and how we can share that love with others.
In Jesus' name. Amen

R&S 96 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father

1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided,
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

2 Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Thomas O. Chisholm (1866–1960)

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A prayer of adoration

You, God, are the centre of our being,
the plumb line by which we measure our lives.
For you are God of all,
and all are your children.
You are the promise of what is right
and the measure of what is wrong.
You are the teacher of love, respect and understanding.
In you we find sufficiency and more.
It is you, O God, we worship.
It is you and your ways we adore.
It is you and your giving that shows us how to live our lives. **Amen.**

A prayer of confession

Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
our prayers we have offered –
words spoken, erudite or muddled,
thoughts turned, feelings felt.
But all of this is nought
if we do not live out the yearnings of our praying.
All of this is nought,
if we do not turn our prayers to action.
In penitence and sorrow,
we offer now our lives to you,
seeking to know your forgiveness
and desiring to live by your ways. **Amen**

An assurance of forgiveness

Our words, dear God,
are so often hollow and empty,
your word is full and forever,
your word promises to forgive us,
it assures us of our freedom from past sins,
failings and falterings.
Let us hear now your word
and be set free to live our lives for you. **Amen**

A prayer of praise and thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is in our hearts as we worship our God.
 For freedom to pray: **thanks be to God.**
 For lessons taught: **thanks be to God.**
 For gifts given: **thanks be to God.**
 For care offered: **thanks be to God.**
 For love flowing: **thanks be to God.**
 For life in its fullness: **thanks be to God.**
 For the Word made flesh, dwelling among us:
thanks be to God.
 For the Holy Spirit, inspiring and moving us:
thanks be to God.

For the promises of God lived out between us:
thanks be to God.
 For sustenance for body, mind and soul:
thanks be to God.
 For bread for the day:
thanks be to God.
 For the promise of God's kingdom:
thanks be to God.
 For life everlasting: **thanks be to God.**
 Thanksgiving is in our hearts,
 as we worship our God
 and live out our lives, day by day.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Family Time

R&S 512 Seek ye first the kingdom of God

1 Seek ye first the kingdom of God,
 and his righteousness,
 and all these things shall be added unto you;
 allelu, alleluia:

Alleluia
alleluia, alleluia,
allelu, alleluia!

2 Ask, and it shall be given unto you,
 seek, and ye shall find;
 knock, and the door shall be opened unto you;
 allelu, alleluia:

3 We shall not live by bread alone,
 but by ev'ry word
 that proceeds from the mouth of God
 allelu, alleluia:

Based on Mat 6:33, 7:7 and Deut 8:3
 Karen Lafferty (1948-) alt.
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The children go to Junior Church with our love and blessing

Psalm Reading

Psalm 85

OT page 500

Prayer for the Restoration of God's Favour
To the leader. Of the Korahites. A Psalm.

¹ Lord, you were favourable to your land;
 you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
² You forgave the iniquity of your people;
 you pardoned all their sin. Selah
³ You withdrew all your wrath;
 you turned from your hot anger.
⁴ Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
 and put away your indignation towards us.
⁵ Will you be angry with us for ever?
 Will you prolong your anger to all generations?
⁶ Will you not revive us again,
 so that your people may rejoice in you?
⁷ Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,
 and grant us your salvation.

⁸ Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
 for he will speak peace to his people,
 to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their
 hearts.
⁹ Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear
 him,
 that his glory may dwell in our land.
¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
 righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
¹¹ Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
 and righteousness will look down from the sky.
¹² The Lord will give what is good,
 and our land will yield its increase.
¹³ Righteousness will go before him,
 and will make a path for his steps.

The Lord's Prayer

11 He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.' **2** He said to them, 'When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

3 Give us each day our daily bread.

4 And forgive us our sins,
for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.
And do not bring us to the time of trial.'

Perseverance in Prayer

5 And he said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, "Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; **6** for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him." **7** And he answers from within, "Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything." **8** I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

9 'So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. **10** For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. **11** Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? **12** Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? **13** If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'

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 while Nicholas plays the organ

R&S 413 What a friend we have in Jesus

1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer!

2 Have we trials and temptations,
is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness:
take it to the Lord in prayer.

3 Are we weak and heavy-laden,
burdened with a load of care?
Jesus is our only refuge:
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
in his arms he'll take and shield you,
you will find a solace there.

Joseph M. Scriven. (1819-1918) altd.

Our prayers of intercession

Faithful God,
You created a beautiful world for us to enjoy and treasure
and you surround us with Earth's gifts to sustain us
Though our planet is damaged by greed and our destructive choices
and the resources meant for everyone to share are exploited by a few;
your healing is seen in the small steps we make towards more equal sharing.
Forgive our short-term thinking and Inspire us in the work needed to renew the Earth
and fill us with gifts of compassion, bravery, joy and love for your world
as we seek to challenge the deep structural injustices
and build a fairer and more sustainable future.

Faithful God,
Your forgiveness towards us is limitless
and though we often fail you, you give us strength to start again.
We pray for a world in which we hold on to the things that unite us
and where we seek the best for other people.
We pray for our communities to be places of radical inclusion,
where we look not on appearances but on the heart.
May we show the same loving kindness to others that you have shown to us.
May we be slow to judge other people
and generous in our opinions of them.

Faithful God,
Your generosity to us is endless
and you give us much more than we need or deserve.
We cry to you on behalf of all who do not know where their next meal is coming from;
we cry for victims of a massacre claimed to have been carried out by Syrian forces at a hospital in Suweida city;
we cry for the seemingly endless deaths of civilians, especially children, at food aid sites in Gaza
and for the horror of people being killed there as they seek the essentials for survival.
We pray for urgency in ending this war;
we pray for Palestinians risking their lives daily just to find food;
we pray for strength to carry on for all aid workers and medical staff in Gaza
and for humanitarian aid to be swift and generous.
May there be justice for earth's suffering and starving peoples.

Faithful God,
Your love for us is unending
and you are with us every step of life's journey.
Though we walk through life's troubles
you give us the strength we need to face each day's challenges.

We pray for all in our community who are suffering in body or mind asking that you would surround them with your peace.

In the quiet we name to you the people we know who are in particular need today and ask for courage and peace as they face illness or adversity.

Faithful God

You restore us and give us rest.

As school terms end and holiday season begins,
we pray for relaxation, peace of mind and fun for teachers, parents and students
for time to think and to focus on what matters
and for new energy to face the challenges of life as summer moves towards autumn. Amen

BPW 486 Lord of the church, we pray for our renewing

1 Lord of the church, we pray for our renewing:
Christ over all, our undivided aim.

Fire of the Spirit, burn for our enduing,
wind of the Spirit, fan the living flame!
We turn to Christ amid our fear and failing,
the will that lacks the courage to be free,
the weary labours, all but unavailing,
to bring us nearer what a church should be.

2 Lord of the church, we seek a Father's blessing,
a true repentance and a faith restored,
a swift obedience and a new possessing,
filled with the Holy Spirit of the Lord!

We turn to Christ from all our restless striving,
unnumbered voices with a single prayer:
the living water for our souls' reviving,
in Christ to live, and love and serve and care.

3 Lord of the church, we long for our uniting,
true to one calling, by one vision stirred;
one cross proclaiming and one creed reciting,
one in the truth of Jesus and his word.
So lead us on; till toil and trouble ended,
one church triumphant one new song shall sing,
to praise his glory, risen and ascended,
Christ over all, the everlasting King!

Timothy Dudley Smith © Hope Publishing

A sending out prayer

Lord, help us to think before praying,
and pray before acting.
May we see our community
and the people who make it up
as precious to you and precious to us,
as we seek to preserve all that is beautiful
and build up all that is holy and Godly. **Amen.**

The Blessing

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