

Christ Church, Ipswich

Sunday 31st August 2025

Family Worship

Led by Neil

Organist: Stephen

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

Call to worship

Near and far we come;
old and young, we come;
new and experienced, we come;
hopeful and weary we come.
Why do we come?
Because our God has promised to meet us, and He will come!
Friends, He is here!

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.

Prayers of Adoration, Confession, and Grace

In your presence, in this place, we come to you, Almighty God.

You are the God we adore.

You are the reason for our being, and our being here.

You are the God we adore.

You are the one who created us, who breathed life into us.

You are the God we adore.

You are the giver of love, the welcomer to all.

You are the God we adore.

Almighty God, as we gather, we are humbled by your greatness,
by your generosity and justice.

You are the God we adore.

Together, we offer you our prayers for who you are and what you are.

You are the God we adore. Amen.

Forgive us, O God, for those times, too often, when we have felt ourselves to be more important than others.
 Forgive us, O God, for those times when we have excluded people from a welcome.
 Forgive us, O God, when we have seen others as of less worthy than us.
 Forgive us, O God, when we have failed to be hospitable.
 Forgive us, O God, when we have ignored need on our doorsteps.
 Forgive us, O God, we pray. Amen.

O God, why you forgive us when we treat others badly, we do not know, but you do.
 Why you offer us such forgiveness amazes us day by day.
 We are not worthy of your love, time and attention and yet we hear echoes of your words:
 'You are forgiven, go and be my people'. **Amen.**

A prayer of praise and thanksgiving

To you, O God, be all praise and glory, this day and forever more.
 From the moulding of creation, to the breathing of new life,
 you have been worthy of praise.
 For the giving of your Word and the blessing of the prophets,
 you have been worthy of praise.
 For the gift of Jesus and the blessing of the Holy Spirit,
 you have been worthy of praise.
 For the Scriptures, written and explained, you are worthy of praise.
 For your abiding love, peace and presence, you are worthy of praise.
 For your open arms to each and everyone, you are worthy of praise.
 For your generosity that abounds, you are worthy of praise.
 For all of this and so much more,
 beyond our imagining and comprehension,
 we give you thanks and praise. **Amen.**

Family Time and a prayer with our children

R&S 373 Lord Jesus Christ

1 Lord Jesus Christ,
 You have come to us,
 You are one with us,
 Mary's son.
 Cleansing our souls from all their sin,
 pouring Your love and goodness in;
 Jesus, our love for You we sing,
 Living Lord.

2 Lord Jesus Christ,
 now and every day,
 teach us how to pray,
 Son of God.
 You have commanded us to do
 this in remembrance, Lord, of You:
 into our lives Your power breaks through,
 Living Lord.

3 Lord Jesus Christ,
 You have come to us,
 born as one of us,
 Mary's son.
 Led out to die on Calvary,
 risen from death to set us free,
 living Lord Jesus, help us see
 You are Lord.

4 Lord Jesus Christ,
 we would come to You,
 live our lives for You,
 Son of God.
 All Your commands we know are true,
 Your many gifts will make us new,
 into our lives Your power breaks through,
 Living Lord.

Patrick Appleford.
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Service Well-Pleasing to God

13 Let mutual love continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honour by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, 'I will never leave you or forsake you.' ⁶ So we can say with confidence,

'The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?'

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.

¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Gospel Reading

Luke 14:1-14

NT Page 71

Jesus Heals the Man with Dropsy

14 On one occasion when Jesus^[a] was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely. ² Just then, in front of him, there was a man who had dropsy. ³ And Jesus asked the lawyers and Pharisees, 'Is it lawful to cure people on the sabbath, or not?' ⁴ But they were silent. So Jesus^[b] took him and healed him, and sent him away. ⁵ Then he said to them, 'If one of you has a child^[c] or an ox that has fallen into a well, will you not immediately pull it out on a sabbath day?' ⁶ And they could not reply to this.

Humility and Hospitality

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable. ⁸ 'When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, "Give this person your place", and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, "Friend, move up higher"; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.'

¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, 'When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.'

BPW 330 Come, let us sing of a wonderful love

1 Come, let us sing of a wonderful love,
tender and true;
out of the heart of the Father above,
streaming to me and to you:
wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.

2 Jesus, the Saviour, this gospel to tell,
joyfully came;
came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell,
sharing their sorrow and shame;
seeking the lost,
saving, redeeming at measureless cost.

3 Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet;
Why do they roam?
Love only waits to forgive and forget;
Home! weary wanderers, home!
Wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.

4 Come to my heart now, O wonderful Love,
come and abide,
lifting my life till it rises above
envy and falsehood and pride;
seeking to be
lowly and humble, a learner of Thee.

Robert Walmsley (1831–1905)

Reflection

A moment for reflection while Stephen plays the organ

R&S 474 Brother, Sister, let me serve you,

1 Brother, Sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

2 We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

3 I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

4 I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.

5 When we sing to God in heaven
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

6 Brother, Sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

Richard Gillard. (1953-) altd.
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Our prayers of intercession

Lord Jesus, we thank you that you care about every aspect of our lives. You're not just interested in the big, life-changing moments - everything is important to you no matter how small. So we come with confidence, knowing that you will not turn us away. We can ask for anything, pray about anything and you will listen, and you will care. Give us the courage to pray the big prayers...And help us not to be diffident about praying for the small things. And give us the confidence to acknowledge that, though our prayers may not be answered in the way we want, you are ultimately in control.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever...

So we are confident that you listen and you care.

Lord Jesus, we come with our big prayers for the world. We weep with you for those who are suffering from war and famine. We lift the people of Gaza to you, urgently praying for an end to hostilities. We pray for the Israeli hostages longing for home and for those so anxious for their release. We pray that aid may be brought to those in desperate need. And we pray for Ukraine and Russia, and all who suffer from the consequences of war. We pray for those who are seeking to negotiate a ceasefire. We pray for the leaders of the nations, asking that you will give them wisdom to speak out to bring an end to war wherever it is fought.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever...

So we are confident that you listen and you care.

Lord, you call us to show hospitality to strangers, so we pray for refugees, asylum seekers and all those who travel to our nations from elsewhere. We pray that migrants will be made welcome and shown compassion rather than being greeted with hostility and suspicion. Give us the courage to see others as you see them and to serve them as if we are serving you.

We remember all those who are in prison. We remember, too, their families, who live with the sadness of being separated from them for long periods of time. We thank you for prison visitors and those who support the lonely and troubled. And we pray for all victims of crime who are often forgotten about...

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever...

So we are confident that you listen and you care.

Lord, after a long summer holiday, many of our children are preparing to return to school this week. We pray for those who are excited to be in new classes and those who are nervous about starting new schools. We remember that many will be very anxious, especially those who feel unable to attend school. Be close to each child, we pray, may they know your presence with them as they enter the classroom or do their lessons at home. We also pray for teachers. Give them patience, wisdom and clear heads as they go back to their classrooms this

week. And we pray for parents who may feel lonely when their children start school for the first time or whose young adults are preparing for university. Give us eyes to see those in our communities who may need some extra support over the coming days and make us quick to help.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever...

So we are confident that you listen and you care.

Lord we pray for our communities. We think of the businesses, the surgeries, schools and shops - everyone who lives and works around us. We focus our minds on one particular place... We pray for all who work there, help us to find ways of bringing your love to that place.

We pray for our neighbours and friends, the housebound and the lonely. Show us how we, as a church, can make a difference in our community. And we pray for ourselves as a congregation. Fill us with your Spirit in this place that we may go from here renewed and refreshed having met with, and been challenged by, you.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever...

So we are confident that you listen and you care.

Finally, we lift ourselves to you. Lord, you know where we are joyful and you know where we have deep sadness and worry. In the stillness, we tell you our deepest needs. Help us not to be afraid to pray but to open our souls to you because you are a God of compassion. Lead us forward into the week ahead knowing that you go before us. Help us to listen to you and be people of compassion wherever you send us.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever...

So we are confident that you listen and you care.

Send us out, lead us on, into your world, as listening and caring people. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

R&S 740 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!

1 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!

Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;

tender to me the promise of his word;

in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

2 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!

Make known His might, the deeds his arm has done;

his mercy sure, from age to age the same;

his holy name—the Lord, the mighty One.

3 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!

Powers and dominions lay their glory by;

proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,

the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

4 Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!

Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord

to children's children and forever more!

Timothy Dudley-Smith. (1926-2024) based on Luke 1:46-55

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A sending out prayer

We have worshipped you here today, Lord.

Ask the congregation to face

or look towards the door.

Now we go out, with hope and confidence,
to love and to serve.

Help us to worship you out there,

just as we do here. 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.**

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