

**Christ Church, Ipswich**  
**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2026**  
**Family Worship with Holy Communion**  
*Led by Neil*  
*Guest Organist: Mr Nicholas Jardine*

Hello, I hope you are well. Let us worship God together:

**Psalm 145:8-14**

<sup>8</sup> The Lord is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
<sup>9</sup> The Lord is good to all,  
and his compassion is over all that he has made.

<sup>10</sup> All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,  
and all your faithful shall bless you.  
<sup>11</sup> They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom,  
and tell of your power,  
<sup>12</sup> to make known to all people your mighty deeds,  
and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.  
<sup>13</sup> Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

The Lord is faithful in all his words,  
and gracious in all his deeds.  
<sup>14</sup> The Lord upholds all who are falling,  
and raises up all who are bowed down.

**R&S 96 Great is thy faithfulness**

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)  
© 1923 renewal 1951, Hope Publishing Co.

**A prayer of adoration**

God, you are the source of creation, the giver of life.  
Christ, you are the one who embodies the freedom God offers,  
embracing life as it should be lived.  
Holy Spirit, you are the inspiration and motivation to live  
the kingdom life here and now. **Amen.**

**A prayer of confession**

Lord, we confess that we sometimes see religion as a rule book;  
especially for others, when we expect them to behave as we think they should.  
Forgive us when we live as inmates of an institution,  
rather than children of your open and welcoming Church.

We confess that we are often blind to the life Jesus revealed,  
 failing to recognise his revolutionary ways;  
 for he didn't behave as people thought he should,  
 but turned the world upside down with his lifestyle choices.  
 He lived simply, freely, with compassion and forgiveness,  
 fulfilling the essence of grace rather than the letter of the Law.  
 We are sorry for the yoke with which we burden ourselves and others,  
 and we turn to Jesus as our example and guide. **Amen.**

### **An assurance of forgiveness**

Although we mistake your ways, O God,  
 being rigid instead of righteous,  
 steeped in rules and regulations rather than love and light,  
 yet still you forgive us and lead us, by Christ's example,  
 to a life of freedom and grace.  
 Thank you, God, and to you be all the glory  
 for this blessed forgiveness that frees us  
 to live and love in the liberty of your kingdom life. **Amen.**

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

Father, we thank you that Jesus emerged in  
 captive Judea  
 when those who trod your path had made it a dry  
 and dusty trail;  
 a wearisome wilderness of restrictions and rules,  
 where religious regulations were a burden,  
 keeping ordinary people from truly knowing you.  
 We praise you for his revelation of a different life,  
 another way to live, to pray, to love;

and we thank you for the community of care to  
 which we belong,  
 the Church, and the life it encourages us to live –  
 one with you, one with Christ and the Holy Spirit,  
 in a lifestyle of love and light  
 by which we aspire to live more fully, day by day,  
 in your name. **Amen.**

### **Old Testament Reading**

### **Zechariah 9:9-12**

**OT page 807**

#### *The Coming Ruler of God's People*

<sup>9</sup> Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

<sup>10</sup> He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the warhorse from Jerusalem;

and the battle-bow shall be cut off,

and he shall command peace to the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea,

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

<sup>11</sup> As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

<sup>12</sup> Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;

today I declare that I will restore to you double.

<sup>16</sup> 'But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another,

<sup>17</sup> "We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn."

<sup>18</sup> For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon"; <sup>19</sup> the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.'

### *Jesus Thanks His Father*

<sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup> yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup> All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

<sup>28</sup> 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

### **R&S 543 Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us**

1 Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us  
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;  
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,  
for we have no help but thee;  
yet possessing every blessing  
if our God our Father be.

2 Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us;  
all our weakness thou dost know,  
thou didst tread this earth before us,  
thou didst feel its keenest woe;  
lone and dreary, faint and weary,  
through the desert thou didst go.

3 Spirit of our God, descending,  
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,  
love with every passion blending,  
pleasure that can never cloy:  
thus provided, pardoned, guided,  
nothing can our peace destroy.

James Edmeston (1791-1867)

### **Reflection**

#### ***A moment for reflection while Nicholas plays the organ***

### **Our prayers of intercession**

Lord God, we look to you for your leading in all that we do. Give us discernment and direction we pray. Life is full of decisions to be made, large and small.

Lord, we pray for all on the cusp of this decision. And ask that you lead them your way.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, we pray for those who have decided to walk a dark path, and those who have been coerced onto such a path. We think of those lost in a world of drugs, those lost and held in the grip of human trafficking, and those caught up in a never-ending cycle of violence. Light up your path, Lord God. Open their eyes to see, their minds to know and understand.

Lord, touch the lives of the lost, that they may be drawn to go your way and commit their lives to you.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, we pray for your church today. We lift to you all those in roles of ministry. May they look and act on your word for your people, and look not to their own ideas, the demands of the world or society's trends. May your word be paramount as all seek to discern your leading.

Lord, lead your church the way you want it to go. Guide us your way, Lord.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, after yet another Prime Minister resignation we pray for much-needed stability for our country. This country needs your direction, Lord. May you reign in power over this land. Put the right people in government and have Christian values central in all decisions.

Lord, we pray for all whose actions affect our daily life. May you shine your light and lead them and this country your way.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, we pray for the world, for all caught up in conflict. We pray for your hand on peace talks, Lord. We pray for the war in Ukraine and the end to hostilities worldwide. Strengthen the innocent caught up amid the rubble of broken lives and provide nourishment for body and soul.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, we pray for the devastation wrought by the twin earthquakes in Venezuela. We pray for the rescue teams. Lord, rebuild the shattered lives of those devastated by war, famine or earthquakes.

Lord, we pray for all people crying out for help. Speak peace, grant sustenance and restore your world. May the light of your love shine brightly in our world as you lead us your way.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer. Amen.**

### **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 children and young people return from Café Church and join us for Holy Communion***

#### **Holy Communion**

#### **Gospel Words**

Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life.  
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,  
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

John 6:35

Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking;  
if you hear my voice and open the door,  
I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.

Revelation 3:20

God proves his love for us in  
that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,  
and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;  
for I am gentle and humble in heart,  
and you will find rest for your souls.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-30

### Invitation to the Table

Come to this table, not because you must but because you may,  
 not because you are strong, but because you are weak.  
 Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you a right to come,  
 but because you need mercy and help.  
 Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love him more.  
 Come, because he loved you and gave himself for you.  
 Come and meet the risen Christ, for we are his Body.

We pray together:

**Almighty God,  
 to whom all hearts are open,  
 all desires known,  
 and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
 cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
 by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
 that we may perfectly love you,  
 and worthily magnify your holy name;  
 through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### The Institution

The apostle Paul tells us of the institution of the Lord's Supper:

For I received from the Lord  
 what I also handed on to you,  
 that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed  
 took a loaf of bread,  
 and when he had given thanks,  
 he broke it and said,  
 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'  
 In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying,  
 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood.  
 Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'  
 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,  
 you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11.23–26

### Thanksgiving

Loving God,  
 we praise and thank you  
 for your love shown to us in Jesus Christ.

We thank you for his life and ministry,  
 announcing the good news of your kingdom  
 and demonstrating its power  
 in the lifting of the downtrodden,  
 and the healing of the sick,  
 and the loving of the loveless.  
 We thank you for his sacrificial death upon the cross  
 for the redemption of the world,  
 and for your raising him to life again,  
 as a foretaste of the glory we shall share.  
 We give you thanks for this bread and wine,  
 symbols of our world  
 and signs of your transforming love.  
 Send your Holy Spirit, we pray,  
 that we may be renewed  
 into the likeness of Jesus Christ

and formed into his Body.  
This we pray in his name and for his sake. Amen.

### **The Breaking of Bread**

Jesus said, 'This is my body which is for you;  
do this in memory of me'.

#### *Sharing the Bread*

Take this in remembrance that Christ died for you  
and feed on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

### **The Lifting of the Cup**

In the same way,  
he took the cup after supper, and said:  
'This cup is the new covenant sealed by my blood.  
Whenever you drink it,  
do this in memory of me.' 1 Corinthians 11:25

#### *Sharing the Wine*

Drink this and remember that Christ's blood was shed for you  
and be thankful.

### **Words of Acclamation and Prayer**

Your death, O Lord, we commemorate.  
Your resurrection we confess.  
Your final coming we await.  
Glory be to you, O Christ.

**Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

**Father of all,  
we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us home.  
Dying and living, he declared your love,  
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.  
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;  
we who drink his cup bring life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,  
so we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen**

**A prayer of dedication for all our giving**

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

**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**

Loving Lord Jesus, we take your yoke upon us now.  
Lift from of us any burdens we are carrying,  
any expectations we are trying to meet that are not from you.  
Give us rest, and lead us to those good works  
that you have prepared for us to do this week.  
Be glorified in us as we walk with you. **Amen.**

**The Blessing**

As we go from this place, let us be alive to God's presence with us.  
May we be God's agents, God's very hands and feet  
offering love and joining in with God's beautiful story.  
And may the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,  
be with us, and those whom we love, now and always. **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.**