

Christ Church, Ipswich

Sunday 19th July 2026

Family Worship

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

Call to worship

God has been with us through the week just gone,
in all the joys and all the sorrows.

Let us come together and worship God
as creator and sustainer of all things,
and our constant companion in all things.

BPW 5 Be still, for the presence of the Lord

1 Be still,
for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here;
come bow before Him now
with reverence and fear:
in Him no sin is found
we stand on holy ground.

Be still,
for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here.

2 Be still,
for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire,
with splendour He is crowned:
how awesome is the sight
our radiant King of light!

Be still,
for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.

3 Be still,
for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place:
He comes to cleanse and heal,
to minister His grace —
no work too hard for Him.
In faith receive from Him.
Be still,
for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place.

David J Evans
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A prayer of adoration

Almighty God, all-seeing and all-knowing,
with confidence we accept your power and authority,
knowing that we can always trust in your judgement;
for your loving nature pervades creation,
and all shall be well – all shall be well. **Amen.**

A prayer of confession

Lord, we confess that we are quick to decide who are the weeds among us;
mostly, we think they are whoever is outside these walls,
and maybe one or two here with whom we disagree in some way.
We, of course, are wheat; so, we raise ourselves high,
while casting our brothers and sisters down in our harsh judgement.
But you, Lord, see the wheat and the weeds within each one of us,
the good and the bad battling for space to grow.

Forgive us, Father, for the less-than-Christian thoughts and attitudes we allow to take hold of our souls, smothering the good growth you have nurtured within us.
 Help us to accept that we all have our failings,
 and so it is right that we should all be given a chance, for you are the only one who sees everything and is fit to judge.
 We humbly ask your mercy, O Lord. **Amen.**

An assurance of forgiveness

God the creator and re-creator,
 constant in your care for your creatures and creation,
 you forgive us time and time again
 when the thoughts and attitudes that choke our faith
 spring up to darken the light and love of your grace within us.
 We thank you that we can trust your judgement
 and rely on your forgiveness in all circumstances. **Amen.**

A prayer of praise and thanksgiving

Loving God, who permits wheat and weeds to grow together,
 allowing light and nurture to both,
 we thank you for your patience and forbearance
 with your fallen and faltering children.
 We do not notice the things within us that
 choke our spiritual growth, shutting out your light,
 yet we are quick to spot them in others.
 We thank you for your slowness to condemn us,
 praising you for your unmerited mercy and grace,
 for all are sinners and have fallen short. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Family Talk

Hymn The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want (*and I will trust in you alone...*)

1 The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.
 He makes me lie in pastures green.
 He leads me by the still, still waters,
 His goodness restores my soul.

*And I will trust in You alone,
 and I will trust in You alone,
 for Your endless mercy follows me,
 Your goodness will lead me home.*

2 He guides my ways in righteousness,
 and He anoints my head with oil,
 and my cup, it overflows with joy,
 I feast on His pure delights.

3 And though I walk the darkest path,
 I will not fear the evil one,
 for You are with me, and Your rod and staff
 are the comfort I need to know.

Psalm 23
 adapted Stuart Townend
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A prayer with our young people

The Parable of Weeds among the Wheat

²⁴ He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵ but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?" ²⁸ He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" ²⁹ But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Jesus Explains the Parable of the Weeds

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.' ³⁷ He answered, 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears^[a] listen!

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*

R&S 620 For the healing of the nations

1 For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.

2 Lead us, Father, into freedom;
from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.

3 All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.

4 You, Creator-God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.

Fred Kaan (1929-2009) © Stainer & Bell Ltd

Our prayers of intercession

Lord, we have just heard from the scriptures that evil and good co-exist –
they did whilst you walked the earth,
and they are ever evident as we walk the earth today.
So, as we now turn to think about those around us,
we recall the words of the Psalm 139
assuring us that you know us and we cannot hide from you,
we lift up to you to world and communities in which we live.

There is so much happening around us in the world –
war and violence are ever present.
So, we pray that you will be with those who are caught up in such situations;
those who don't have the means to leave
and those who have been forced to leave,
those who have chosen to stay
and those who have been forced to fight.
May they know your hand of protection on them...

For those working towards peace – give them grace and discernment;
may they know when to speak and not speak, when to act or not act.
Grant them wisdom and guide them that the good of the people they steward
may be at the forefront of their minds in all they do.

As we move closer to home,
we lift up to you our own local villages/town/cities.
Lord, you regularly interacted with people as you went about your daily activities,
bring them healing and wholeness.
As we go about our daily lives of working, shopping, schooling and being,
may we bring about healing and wholeness to those we encounter,
whether it be by a simple word, action or gesture,
knowing that all we do is a witness and testimony to the fact
that we are all created in your image and are all your children.

We lift up to you too Lord, those in our own church communities.
Be with those who are not well in body, mind, soul or spirit –
may they know your presence, and may we be that presence too Lord.
Again, we recall the words of Psalm 139,
"even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you."
May your light shine in our lives and may we be a light to everyone around us. **Amen.**

R&S 345 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

1 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
 pilgrim through this barren land;
 I am weak, but thou art mighty,
 hold me with thy powerful hand:
 bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
 feed me now and evermore;
 feed me now and evermore.

2 Open thou the crystal fountain
 whence the healing stream doth flow;
 let the fiery, cloudy pillar
 lead me all my journey through:
 strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
 be thou still my strength and shield;
 be thou still my strength and shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
 bid my anxious fears subside;
 death of death, and hell's destruction,
 land me safe on Canaan's side:
 songs of praises, songs of praises,
 I will ever give to thee;
 I will ever give to thee.

William Williams, Pantycelyn (1717-91)
 v. 1 tr. Peter Williams (1722-96) altd.
 vv. 2-3 tr. William Williams
 (or John Williams, 1754-1828) altd.

A sending out prayer

Almighty God,
 you are the creator and sustainer of all things
 and we put our trust in you.
 Be with us in the days ahead,
 in all our joys and challenges.
 Help us to remember that all things are yours
 and nothing can take us out of your hands.
 In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

The Blessing

And may the blessing of Almighty God,
 Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
 be with you, and those whom you 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.**