

Christ Church, Ipswich
Sunday 4th October 2026
Family Worship with Holy Communion
 Minister: Neil Organist: Stephen

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

Call to worship

Whatever gains we have
 we come to regard them as loss because of Christ.
 More than that, we regard everything as loss
 because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus our Lord.
 So come, set aside all that clings to us and drags us down;
 we come to worship God, our Source, Guide, and Goal, the Eternal Trinity.

R&S 268 Jesus is Lord! Creation's voice proclaims it

1 Jesus is Lord! Creation's voice proclaims it,
 for by his power each tree and flower
 was planned and made.
 Jesus is Lord! The universe declares it—
 sun, moon and stars in heaven cry: 'Jesus is Lord!'

Jesus is Lord! Jesus is Lord!
Praise Him with hallelujahs
for Jesus is Lord!

2 Jesus is Lord! Yet from his throne eternal
 in flesh he came to die in pain
 on Calvary's tree.
 Jesus is Lord! From him all life proceeding,
 yet gave His life a ransom thus setting us free.

3 Jesus is Lord! O'er sin the mighty conqueror,
 from death he rose and all his foes
 shall own his name.
 Jesus is Lord! God sent his Holy Spirit
 showing by works of power that Jesus is Lord.

David J. Mansell.
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A prayer of adoration

God of all ages and all generations, we lay before you today:
 ourselves and all that has been entrusted to us,
 our prayers to surround those who are in trouble,
 our words to share your good news,
 our hands to reach out to those who are lonely,
 our feet to walk with those whose journey is hard,
 our hearts to pass on your great legacy of love,
 and our lives for you to shape and nurture.
 We lay this all before you, in Jesus' name.

Loving God, Father, Son and Spirit,
 creator, sustainer, empowerer, we worship you.
 We give you thanks for all that is beautiful:
 for all that is fruitful, for all that is lifegiving, for all that is precious.
 And we thank you too for entrusting us with the privilege and the
 responsibility of passing on the baton of your creativity
 and your ministry of care for all you have made. **Amen.**

A prayer of confession

Response after each phrase: **Forgive us and help us, we pray.**

Faithful God, you give us chance after chance, opportunity after opportunity, yet we do not take them.

You entrust to us things that are precious, and life-giving, yet we do not share them.

You offer us a share in your kingdom, a path to fulfilment, yet we want our own way and go our own way.

You invite us to work for the future, to bless the next generation, yet we live for ourselves and look only at now.

You speak both words of wisdom and warnings, of security and salvation, yet we are in danger of missing out.

We pray – in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Assurance of forgiveness

Patient God, you give us another chance to hear your message of hope, challenge and grace, through the words of Scripture and of others, through the silence of prayer, through the beauty of creation; a chance to act and react with hearts in tune with yours, and with that freedom to give our all in your service, rejoicing that it is never too late to begin again. Thank you, Lord. **Amen.**

A prayer of praise and thanksgiving

God of all creation, thank you for calling us to be stewards of your earth and your treasures, for calling us to tend your Gospel, to share the fruits of your Spirit, to encourage your disciples in their daily lives, and to work together for the good of all – joyfully, humbly and urgently, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

A prayer of dedication for all our giving

Epistle Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14

NT Page 184

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Pressing towards the Goal

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

³³ 'Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance." ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' ⁴¹ They said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.'

⁴² Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

"The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;

this was the Lord's doing,

and it is amazing in our eyes"?

⁴³ Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.'

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

R&S 371 Take my life, and let it be

1 Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2 Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet, and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.

3 Take my voice, and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee.

4 Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure-store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-79)

Reflection

A moment for reflection

Our prayers of intercession

God of truth and justice, we pray for all those living in war zones around the world, in places of extreme violence and fear. We remember especially the people of Gaza, of Yemen, of Sudan, of Ukraine and pray for all who are killed and maimed by those who have made a god of power.

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

We pray for our world leaders that they would honour all that is good, right and just and be given humility, wisdom and integrity in their dealings with one another and in the decisions which impact the lives of so many...

We pray for more positive relationships between nations of different faiths and different cultures and for all who stand up for peace and freedom in nations where both these things are stifled...

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

We pray for everyone who has been exploited by those who have made a god of money and material possessions. We pray especially for the victims of scams and theft, for those who have given their money away in moments of vulnerability, and for all who are struggling with debt.

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

We pray for all those who have been dishonoured by others, publicly in the media or privately, in relationships, at work, or school or college... We pray for those who are abused or discriminated against because of their faith, their appearance, or their sexuality...

We pray for our church communities and those who guide and lead us. We pray for those we know who are struggling today and those who are struggling behind closed doors, for those who are ill or isolated or who feel lost. We pray for one another, for grace that we would not dishonour you by our life choices or by disrespecting those around us.

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

And on this Animal Welfare Sunday as we pray for our earth and all the climatic challenges we are facing, we pray especially for the animals we share this planet with... We pray for those companion animals who bring us so much joy and those animals around the world who are losing their natural habitat, those that are being trafficked, hunted, exploited and killed...

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

Finally, we pray from the heart for our own families, our friends and all those we worship alongside, we pray with and for them now...

A moment of quite for our own prayers.

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

We ask all these prayers in Jesus name,
Amen.

R&S 217 When I survey the wondrous Cross

1 When I survey the wondrous Cross,
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

3 See from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down;
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

4 His dying crimson, like a robe,
spreads o'er his body on the tree;
then am I dead to all the globe,
and all the globe is dead to me.

5 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

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

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**

The Lord's Prayer - sung

BPW 585 We have a gospel to proclaim

1 We have a gospel to proclaim,
good news for men in all the earth;
the gospel of a saviour's name:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

2 Tell of His birth at Bethlehem,
not in a royal house or hall
but in a stable dark and dim:
the Word made flesh, a light for all.

3 Tell of his death at Calvary,
hated by those he came to save;
in lonely suffering on the cross
for all he loved, his life he gave.

4 Tell of that glorious Easter morn:
empty the tomb, for he was free;
He broke the power of death and hell
that we might share his victory.

5 Tell of His reign at God's right hand,
by all creation glorified;
He sends his Spirit on his Church
to live for him, the Lamb who died.

6 Now we rejoice to name him king:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth;
This gospel-message we proclaim:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Edward Joseph Burns

The Blessing

Go in Jesus' name, restored and renewed.
May you know God's face shining on you,
and the God's Spirit flowing through you,
So that your life may be fertile ground for good news. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
Be upon us, and those we love, in this moment, and in every moment, forevermore. **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.**