

Christ Church, Ipswich
Sunday 18th May 2025
All-age Church Parade and Christian Aid Service

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

Call to worship

We pray together to our Lord:

Giver of living water, we thirst for your presence.

Let your steadfast love be upon us, as we hope in you.

Bread of life, we hunger for your word.

Let your steadfast love be upon us, as we hope in you.

Holy one, you set a path before us, we seek to walk in your ways.

Let your steadfast love be upon us, as we hope in you.

An opening prayer

Gracious God, you gather all creation together in love.

As we meet today, enlighten our hearts,

so that we may perceive the hope to which you have called us.

As your children, may we grow into your likeness,

filled with compassion and desiring justice.

Embolden us to live out our calling,

and put faith, hope and love into action. Amen.

R&S 289 To God be the glory, great things he has done!

1 To God be the glory, great things he has done!

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,

who yielded his life in atonement for sin,

and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son;

and give him the glory - great things he has done!

2 O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,

to every believer the promise of God!

And every offender who truly believes,

that moment from Jesus a pardon receives:

3 Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,

and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;

but purer and higher and greater will be

the wonder, the beauty, when Jesus we see:

Fanny Crosby (1820-1915) altd.

A prayer of adoration

Lord of the heavens and the earth,

Lord of all creatures above and below ground,

Lord of the oceans, the ebb and flow of tides:

Lord of everything, your glory and majesty is supreme.

Lord of all our yesterdays, written in the pages of history.
 Lord of what is to come, the story that is yet to unfold.
 Lord of our now, your presence among us:
Lord of everything, your glory and majesty is supreme. Amen.

A prayer of confession

Merciful Father, you challenge us through the words of prophets.
 We confess that we have failed to listen,
 or pretended not to hear.
 'Let justice roll down like water,' you tell us.
 But we block the flowing streams and drain the rivers dry.
 In your mercy:
Forgive us and help us.

Loving Lord, you came not to be served but to serve.
 We confess that we have buried our talents,
 and turned away from those who need our gifts.
 'Love your neighbour as yourself,' you command us.
 But we worry that such love will cost us too much.
 In your mercy:
Forgive us and help us.

Holy Spirit, you empower us with abundant hope.
 We confess that we have given in to cynicism,
 and declared that the world cannot change.
 When we despair, you are there to comfort us.
 But we try to rely on ourselves alone.
 In your mercy:
Forgive us and help us.

We are assurance of God's forgiveness

A prayer for Christian Aid Week

Lord, you are faithful to your promises.
 Through the Spirit you bless us with abounding hope.
 When power seeks to silence justice,
 give us the courage to raise our voice.
 When an end to poverty seems far off,
 renew our faith in your kingdom come on earth.
 When our neighbour reaches out,
 inspire us to respond with overflowing love.
 In Jesus' name,
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Christian Aid Video

Song **Our God is a great big God**

Our God is a great big God,
Our God is a great big God,
Our God is a great big God,
and He holds us in His hands.

He's higher than a skyscraper
and he's deeper than a submarine.
He's wider than the universe,

and beyond my wildest dreams.
And he's known me and he's loved me
since before the world began.
How wonderful to be a part
of God's amazing plan!

Nigel and Jo Hemming © Vineyard Songs
CCLI Licence 181784

Gospel Reading

John 13:31-35

NT page 101

(Scouts Reader)

A New Commandment

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, ^[a] God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

Family Talk

A moment for reflection

The Compassion Hymn

1. There is an everlasting kindness you lavished on us,
When the radiance of heaven came to rescue the lost.
You called the sheep without a shepherd to leave their distress,
For Your streams of forgiveness and the shade of Your rest.

2. And with compassion for the hurting You reached out Your hand,
As the lame ran to meet You and the dead breathed again.
You saw behind the eyes of sorrow and shared in our tears;
Heard the sigh of the weary, let the children draw near.

*What boundless love, what fathomless grace
You have shown us, O God of compassion.
Each day we live as an offering of praise
As we show to the world Your compassion.*

3. We stood beneath the cross of Calvary and gazed on Your face,
At the thorns of oppression and the wounds of disgrace;
For surely You have borne our suffering and carried our grief,
As You pardoned the scoffer and showed grace to the thief. *Chorus*

4. How beautiful the feet that carry this Gospel of peace
To the fields of injustice and the valleys of need;
To be a voice of hope and healing, to answer the cries
Of the hungry and helpless, with the mercy of Christ. *Chorus*

Stuart Townend , Keith Getty & Kristyn Getty Copyright © 2008 Thankyou Music (Adm. by CapitolCMGPublishing.com
excl. UK & Europe, adm. by Integrity Music, part of the David C Cook family, songs@integritymusic.com

Our prayers of intercession

(Responses based on Micah 7:7)

Let us pray together.

We watch in hope for the Lord:

our God will hear us.

Lord, hear us as we pray for your creation.

We pray for an end to the destruction of the natural world.

We hold before you communities who are watching
their land become parched and their rivers dry up.

We pray for farmers like Aurelia who carefully tend
their crops, only to see them wither and die.

We grieve for what has already been lost and damaged.

Show us how to act now to help those most affected by the climate crisis.

Energise us, that we may use our power to make change happen.

We watch in hope for the Lord:

our God will hear us.

Lord, hear us as we pray for all people living in poverty.

For children who will not be able to eat a nutritious meal today,
or cannot afford to attend school.

Fill us with a fierce determination to end the outrage of poverty.

May we hear the cries of those who are marginalised in our world.

May we speak up with them for a more equal and just society.

We watch in hope for the Lord:

our God will hear us.

Lord, hear us as we pray with thanksgiving for peacemakers and
changemakers.

Aurelia and her mother on the long
walk back from collecting water.

We give thanks for community leaders like Aurelia, whose hope is her power.

We pray for Congcoop, Christian Aid's partner in Guatemala, who support
communities through training.

Strengthen those working for peace and protecting human rights.

We pray for a just peace wherever there is conflict, thinking especially of...

[Pray here for places and people affected by war and violence. You may wish to
include prayers for:

Peace in the Middle East.

An end to the war in Ukraine.

Those affected by conflict in Sudan.

Christian Aid's partners working in Guatemala to ensure every person is
protected from violence and has access to a robust justice system.]

We watch in hope for the Lord:

our God will hear us.

Lord, you welcome us when we are heavy laden with sorrow or pain, in you we find rest.

We pray for all those known to us who are sick or suffering. [Remembering particularly...]

We pray for all those who are grieving. [Remembering particularly...]

We pray especially for communities living in poverty
around the world who have suffered great losses: the loss
of homes, the loss of access to clean water, the loss of family members.

Bless those who mourn and give them your comfort.

We watch in hope for the Lord:

our God will hear us.

Lord, hear as we pray for those whose hope overflows into action.
 We give thanks for all those giving, acting and praying this Christian Aid Week.
 May each of us seek to serve our global neighbours.
 Help us to see the value of our loving service,
 whether we make cups of coffee, shake collection buckets, step out on sponsored walks,
 hold plant sales or organise afternoon teas, or offer support in other ways.
 Make us your witnesses, proclaiming your kingdom.
 We watch in hope for the Lord:
our God will hear us.
 We offer these prayers in Jesus' name.
Amen.

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 sending out prayer

God of all, you have abundantly blessed us.
 As we go out from this place,
 help us to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with you.
 We give thanks for the vital work of Christian Aid
 and for all who support this work.
 May your compassion flow through our actions and offerings.
 Loving and faithful God, give us hope and send us out to serve you,
 this day and every day.
Amen

The Blessing

And may the blessing of God Almighty,
 Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
 be upon us and those we love, this day 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.**