

Christ Church, Ipswich

Sunday 20th July 2025

Family Worship

Led by Neil

Guest Organist: Nicholas Jardine

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

Call to worship

Listen to the words of Jesus Christ!
Seize the moment with both hands!
Let us come together to listen and to learn,
as we seek to be his servants.

A gathering prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, we come to you,
burdened by our insecurities and responsibilities.
Sometimes we are not valued for what we are,
but for what other people want to make us.
But we know you love us for what and who we are,
and this sets us free to be our fullest selves,
disciples, following your way, and learning from you.
May we listen and learn together today.
Amen.

R&S 74 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:
come ye who hear,
brothers and sisters, draw near,
praise him in glad adoration!

2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
bears thee on eagle's wings, and through all troubles sustaineth:
hast thou not seen
all that is needful hath been
granted in what he ordaineth?

3 Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee!
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee:
ponder anew
all the Almighty can do,
who with his love doth befriend thee.

4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the amen
sound from his people again:
gladly for aye we adore him!

Joachim Neander (1650-80)
tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-78) and others
based on Psalm 103:1-5; Psalm 150; etc.

A prayer of adoration

God Almighty, Father and Mother, Son and Spirit,
you are the Word of life.
You are the Word of truth.
You are the Word of love.
You are the Word of hospitality.
You are the one above and beyond all else.
Yours is the Word to be heard and listened to.

Yours is the voice in eternity.
You are the Alpha and the Omega.
You are the beginning and the end.
You are.
You are our God. **Amen.**

A prayer of confession

Blessed, Holy God, your Word has been spoken,
 your voice heard, your desire known.
 You speak to our every moment,
 our every breath, our every deed, and yet...
 so often even if we hear, we do not listen...
 and, even when we do listen, we do not always
 follow.
 Blessed, Holy God, forgive us for being inattentive,
 deaf to your word and your ways.
 Forgive us, Holy God.
 Amen.

A prayer of praise and thanksgiving

We give you thanks and praises, Lord God,
 for your Word in Ancient times,
 and your Word that set the world in motion.
We offer our thanks and praise.
 For your Word to prophet, priest and king,
 and your Word to Abraham and Sarah.
We offer our thanks and praise.
 For your Word to Jew and Gentile,
 and your Word to rich and poor.
We offer our thanks and praise.

The Lord's Prayer

Family Time

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.

An assurance of forgiveness

The God of creation,
 the God of Word and deed,
 the God of all that has been and all that will be,
 calls us to confess and assure us that our sins,
 our failings, our falterings,
 our stammerings are forgiven.
 If we listen, we will hear God's promise:
 'My child, your sins are forgiven, go in peace, go in
 love.'
Amen.

For the stories of Jesus that bring your Word to life,
 and the freedom we have to hear and listen to your
 Word.

We offer our thanks and praise.

For your Word to the disciples and early followers,
 and your Word to us, to our families, our neighbours
 and friends.

We offer our thanks and praise.

And may our thanks and praise be lived,
 in our listening and doing, and caring and sharing.
Amen.

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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 music.

The children go to Junior Church with our love and blessing

Epistle Reading**Colossians 1:15-28****NT page 185***The Supremacy of Christ*

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

²¹ And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him— ²³ provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

Paul's Interest in the Colossians

²⁴ I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. ²⁵ I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶ the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. ²⁷ To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

Gospel Reading**Luke 10:38-42****NT Page 66***Jesus Visits Martha and Mary*

³⁸ Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.' ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; ⁴² there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'

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 while Nicholas plays the organ

R&S 558 Will you come and follow me

1 Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you,
and you in me?

2 Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare,
should your life attract or scare,
will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?

3 Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?

4 Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

Graham Maule & John L. Bell.
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Our prayers of intercession

Loving God
we come to place into your hands
ourselves, our lives and our concerns for the world in which we live.
As our attention is divided and our world becomes increasingly rushed and noisy
and we feel the constant pressure to be doing
more and more with fewer and fewer resources,
we pray that we would find our still centre in you
and that our actions would be rooted and grounded in your abundance.
Come close to us O God

All: Hear our prayer.

As world leaders struggle to make and keep the peace
and the suffering caused by wars seems unending,
we pray that you would keep alive our hope in a better future
for all the peoples of the earth,
remembering particularly the efforts to build a just and lasting peace
in the Middle East and between Russia and Ukraine.
Come close to us O God

All: Hear our prayer.

As social media scatters our attention and fragments society
and shouting replaces conversation, listening and debate,
we pray that we would be disciplined in our use of technology
and that we would pay attention to others
and use our words to build up other people.
Come close to us O God

All: Hear our prayer.

As four areas of England move into drought following extreme heat
and wildlife and crops are under threat,
we pray for more careful stewardship of Earth's precious water resources
and for accountability where water is polluted by carelessness
or choices driven by greed.
Come close to us O God

All: Hear our prayer.

As our rights to peaceful protest become increasingly limited
and challenging the status quo comes at great cost,
we pray for wisdom to discern the actions to which you are calling us
and courage as we respond to issues that threaten life and stability on this planet.
Come close to us O God

All: Hear our prayer.

As people struggle with life's challenges or are overwhelmed by trouble
and some we know are ill or in hospital
we pray for peace in body, mind and soul for all who are suffering and strength for those who care for them.
(Today we remember in particular...)
Come close to us O God

All: Hear our prayer.

As so many people are rootless and lonely in our communities
and young and old seek a place to belong and to be heard
we pray that our churches would be places of hospitality,
where bread is broken and shared
and friend and stranger find a welcome home.
Come close to us O God

All: Hear our prayer. Amen.

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

Lord, send us out into the world,
alert to whatever nudges us to hear you calling,
or whatever points us in your way.
Make us bold to resist those who would keep us
in the comfortable well-trodden paths,
so that – like Mary – we can break free from time to time,
to sit at your feet.

The Blessing

And may the love and blessing of God,
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer
be with upon us and those 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.**