

# **Christ Church, Ipswich**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2025**

**Family Worship**

*Led by Neil*

*Organist: Stephen*

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

## **Call to worship**

Come people of the Risen One, you who delight to praise God,  
come and tune your hearts to sing.

**We come to worship God.**

Come you who find joy in the morning sun,  
dry your nighttime tears and tell of God's victories!  
Come and follow the One whose love never changes and whose mercies never end.

**We come to worship God.**

Come, young and old, people of faith, come!  
Come with empty hands to find the riches of God's grace;  
Come and rejoice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!

**We come to worship God.**

## **R&S 104 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven**

1 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
to his feet thy tribute bring;  
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
who like me his praise should sing?  
Praise him! praise him!  
Praise him! praise him!  
praise the everlasting King.

2 Praise him for his grace and favour  
to his people, in distress;  
praise him still the same for ever,  
slow to chide, and swift to bless:  
Praise him! praise him!  
Praise him! praise him!  
glorious in his faithfulness.

3 Father-like he tends and spares us;  
well our feeble frame he knows;  
in his hands he gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes:  
Praise him! praise him!  
Praise him! praise him!  
widely as his mercy flows!

4 Frail as summer's flower we flourish,  
blows the wind and it is gone,  
but while mortals rise and perish  
God endures unchanging on.  
Praise him! praise him!  
Praise him! praise him!  
praise the high Eternal One!

5 Angels help us to adore him,  
ye behold him face to face;  
sun and moon, bow down before him,  
dwellers all in time and space:  
Praise him! praise him!  
Praise him! praise him!  
praise with us the God of grace!

H.F. Lyte (1793-1847) altd. Based on Psalm 103

## **Prayers of Approach, Confession, and Grace**

We come to worship You, O Most High,  
for You have planted, nurtured, and cared for us, as a farmer cares for her crops.  
You have ensured we are rooted in Your Word,  
watered by Your own hand,  
and bathed in Your light.  
For this we thank You.

We come to worship You, O Risen Lord,  
to ensure we grow right,  
to see where we need pruning,  
and to confront the fact that often we produce rotten fruit.

Where we hoped to provide sustenance, we have yielded only wormwood.  
Where we desired to be good, we have become bitter.  
Where we once showed such promise, we have failed to follow.  
Forgive us, Good Lord,  
where our wealth has made others poor,  
where our greed has led to others' hunger,  
where our lifestyles despoil the earth, our mother.  
Forgive us, and give us time to change!  
We come to worship you, Most Holy Spirit,  
in the faith that we can be forgiven,  
in the hope that we can change,  
in the promise of Your guiding presence,  
and in the expectation that, in Your good time,  
we will yield good fruit. Amen.

May God, the vinedresser continue to nurture you.  
May God, the Good Shepherd, continue to lead you.  
May God, the forgiving one, hold you in divine arms.  
May God, the Eternal Trinity of Love, give you time to change. **Amen.**

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

We give you thanks for variety and richness, for friend and neighbour.  
We give you thanks for examples set and lessons taught.  
We give you thanks for stories told and journeys shared.  
We give you thanks for reconciliation and resolution.  
We give you thanks for healing and redemption.  
We give you thanks for acceptance and forgiveness.  
We give you thanks for the chance of a fresh start.  
We give you thanks for the gentleness and care of others in our vulnerability and need.  
We give you thanks for time and space.  
We give you thanks for people who have journeyed with us, held our hands and been our crutch.  
We give you thanks, dear God, for inspiring so many and for simply being God, our God. **Amen.**

### **Family Time and a prayer with our children**

#### **Song     The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want**

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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Integritymusic.com

**Epistle Reading****Hebrews 11:29-12:2****NT page 209***The Faith of Other Israelite Heroes*

<sup>29</sup> By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. <sup>30</sup> By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. <sup>31</sup> By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

<sup>32</sup> And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— <sup>33</sup> who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. <sup>35</sup> Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. <sup>36</sup> Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup> They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— <sup>38</sup> of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. <sup>39</sup> Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup> since God had provided something better so that they would not, without us, be made perfect.

*The Example of Jesus*

**12** Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

**Gospel Reading****Luke 12:49-56****NT Page 70***Jesus the Cause of Division*

<sup>49</sup> 'I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! <sup>50</sup> I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! <sup>51</sup> Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! <sup>52</sup> From now on, five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; <sup>53</sup> they will be divided:

father against son

and son against father,

mother against daughter

and daughter against mother,

mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law

and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

*Interpreting the Time*

<sup>54</sup> He also said to the crowds, 'When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, "It is going to rain"; and so it happens. <sup>55</sup> And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, "There will be scorching heat"; and it happens. <sup>56</sup> You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

**R&S 433 O thou who camest from above**

1 O thou who camest from above,  
the pure celestial fire to impart,  
kindle a flame of sacred love  
on the mean altar of my heart.

2 There let it for thy glory burn  
with inextinguishable blaze;  
and trembling to its source return,  
in humble prayer and fervent praise.

3 Jesus, confirm my heart's desire  
to work and speak and think for thee;  
still let me guard the holy fire,  
and still stir up thy gift in me:

4 ready for all thy perfect will,  
my acts of faith and love repeat,  
till death thine endless mercies seal,  
and make my sacrifice complete.

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

## Reflection

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

#### **R&S 344 God of grace and God of glory**

1 God of grace and God of glory,  
on thy people pour thy power;  
crown thine ancient Church's story;  
bring her bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom,  
grant us courage,  
for the facing of this hour.

2 Lo! the hosts of evil round us  
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us,  
free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom,  
grant us courage,  
for the living of these days.

3 Cure thy children's warring madness;  
bend our pride to thy control;  
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom,  
grant us courage,  
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

4 Save us from weak resignation  
to the evils we deplore;  
let the gift of thy salvation  
be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom,  
grant us courage,  
serving thee whom we adore.

H. E. Fosdick (1878-1969) altd.

#### **Our prayers of intercession**

As God's people longing for justice in difficult times,  
we bring our prayers to the Holy One for the world, the Church, and ourselves.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer!**

Merciful Judge,  
we live in a world of so much disparity between rich and poor,  
where unimaginable wealth insulates the lives of the super-rich,  
and where the poor struggle along from hand to mouth.

We live in a world of so much disparity between north and south,  
where developing countries are enslaved by debt and foreign policy,  
exploited by the developed who squander their resources and people  
so they can live in ease.

We live in a world with so much disparity between  
what we know we should do and how we live;  
burning oil, exploiting natural resources,  
and failing to read the signs of the times the Earth gives us.

Give us time to change, Merciful Judge,  
that we don't need the coming calamity to change our minds.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer!**

Living Lord,  
we pray for your Church, called to be a sign of Your salvation  
yet often mired in scandal and sin;  
a place supposed to be safe becoming a place of danger to so many.

We pray for your Church, called to be a sign of Your love,  
yet often filled with judgement and hatred,  
where those who lead protect their backs and advance their careers,  
while the world looks on in horror.

We pray for your Church, called to be a sign of reconciliation  
fighting long lost battles, stoking hatred in return for political power,  
and forgetting that it, too, will one day have to give account.

Give us time to change, Living Lord,  
that we don't need the coming calamity to change our minds.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer!**

Troubling Spirit,  
we pray for ourselves, so often complacent,  
unable to read the signs of the times,  
and knowing Your will but refusing to follow...(pause)

We pray for those we love, in any kind of need... (pause)

We pray for those we struggle to love...(pause)

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer!**

Holy One, we dare to pray as Jesus taught...Our Father...

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

### **R&S 658 For all the saints who from their labours rest**

1 For all the saints who from their labours rest,  
who thee by faith before the world confessed,  
thy name, Lord Jesus, be for ever blessed:

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

2 Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress and their  
Might,  
thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight,  
in deepest darkness thou their one true light:

3 O may thy servants, faithful, true, and bold,  
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,  
and win with them the victors' crown of gold:

4 O blest communion, fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
Yet all are one in thee, for all are thine:

5 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest  
coast,  
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
and sings to Father, Son and Holy Ghost:

W. W. How (1823-97)\*

### **A sending out prayer**

Lord, help us to run with perseverance  
the race ahead of us.  
Help us to encourage each other on the way.  
We look to you, Lord Jesus,  
the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. **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.**

### **The Blessing**

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