

**Christ Church, Ipswich**  
**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025**  
**All-age Family Worship with Holy Communion**

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

**Call to worship**

This is the place  
 and this is the time;  
 here and now,  
 God waits  
 to break into our experience;  
**to change our minds,**  
**to change our lives,**  
**to change our ways;**

to make us see the world  
 and the whole of life  
 in a new light;  
**to fill us with hope,**  
**joy and certainty**  
**for the future.**  
 This is the place  
 as are all places;  
 this is the time  
 as are all times.  
**Here and now**  
**let us praise God.**

**R&S 74 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!**

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 prayers of approach**

God of change and transitions,  
as summer comes to an end  
and many begin or return to places of learning,  
or to other new routines,  
we approach you now from the place of our own  
apprehensions.  
Lord of stability, on whose foundations we build our lives,  
we come to anchor ourselves fast to the unchanging rock,  
so that we may be supported in all life's turning points. **Amen.**

### **A prayer of adoration**

Lord Jesus Christ, Messiah, name above all names,  
we worship and adore you for revealing yourself to us,  
becoming one of us and calling each of us by name.  
In you, we discover who we truly are,  
for you lead us to become the people you mean us to be,  
one with you and with one another in your Church. **Amen.**

### **A prayer of confession**

Lord, we confess that sometimes we lose sight of who you are.  
We forget about you, or we take you for granted,  
failing to recognise or acknowledge that you are the Messiah.  
We also forget who we are in you;  
where we fit into your Church, who you mean us to be.  
We are distracted by the world and its problems and temptations.  
We turn back to you, Lord,  
seeking to renew our relationship with you.  
We want to realise our full potential in you,  
to grow and move forward, making right choices and decisions,  
living in you, and you in us. **Ame**

### **Assurance of forgiveness**

Lord, we thank you for forgiving us when we don't get things right straight away; when, like the disciples,  
we hedge our bets and fudge the issue in our hesitancy, our doubt, our failure to believe.  
Yet even although Peter was right to call you Messiah, he still got things wrong from time to time, even to  
the end of your earthly life and his; and you forgave him, this great example to us, this person who  
embodies the pattern of discipleship.  
So do you forgive all of us who seek to follow you, merciful and mighty Lord. **Amen.**

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

Father, we thank you that we can always trust in you,  
for you make provision for our faults and failings,  
and send us all the help and encouragement we need.  
Thank you for Jesus and his earthly life among his disciples,  
from that we learn so much.  
Thank you that we can always have confidence in Jesus,  
leaning on his teaching and promises.  
We praise you for who he is,  
and for who we are and will become in your plans for us.  
Lead us onward, heavenly Father. **Amen.**

## A prayer of dedication for all our giving

We are called to give – of our time, our future and our courage in order to live as committed disciples of the Lord Jesus. We also give of our resources to support charities at home and abroad and to support the work of God through the Church. We may give through envelopes or cash, bank transfers or standing orders. We give knowing that we return to God something of what has been given to us and, in so doing, we embody the change our world cries out for. Let's pray:

Accept our gifts O God, as tokens of our praise and thanks to You.

Accept our gifts O God, as tokens of our desire to change.

Accept our gifts O God, as tokens of our love.

Accept us too O God,

that we may continue to praise, change and love. **Amen.**

### Epistle Reading

**Romans 12:1-8**

**NT page 149**

#### *The New Life in Christ*

**12** I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

<sup>3</sup> For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup> For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup> We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup> ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup> the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

### Gospel Reading

**Matthew 16:13-20**

**NT page 17**

#### *Peter's Declaration about Jesus*

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' <sup>14</sup> And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' <sup>15</sup> He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' <sup>20</sup> Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

### Action Song

**Lord, I lift our name on high**

Lord, I lift Your name on high,  
 Lord, I love to sing Your praises;  
 I'm so glad You're in my life,  
 I'm so glad You came to save us.  
*You came from Heaven to earth  
 to show the way,  
 from the earth to the cross  
 my debt to pay;  
 from the cross to the grave,  
 from the grave to the sky,  
 Lord, I lift Your name on high.*

## Family Talk

### All-age prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, you are our rock,  
 the firm ground on which we stand. *(stamp feet)*  
 You are there when things go wrong. *(cover face with hands)*  
 You help us when we don't know what to do next. *(thumbs up, both hands)*  
 You love us when we are hurt by other people. *(hug self)*  
 With your help we can hang on to calm, no matter what.  
*(palms down, calming gesture)*  
 Thank you. Amen.

### A Moment for reflection

#### R&S 522 From heaven you came, helpless babe

1. From heaven you came, helpless babe,  
 entered our world, your glory veiled;  
 not to be served, but to serve,  
 and give your life that we might live

*This is our God, the Servant King,  
 he calls us now to follow him,  
 to bring our lives as a daily offering  
 of worship to the Servant King.*

2. There in the garden of tears,  
 my heavy load he chose to bear;  
 his heart with sorrow was torn,  
 'Yet not my will but yours', he said.

3. Come see his hands and his feet,  
 the scars that speak of sacrifice,  
 hands that flung stars into space  
 to cruel nails surrendered.

4. So let us learn how to serve,  
 and in our lives enthrone him;  
 each other's needs to prefer,  
 for it is Christ we're serving.

Graham Kendrick (1950- )  
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## 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

God proves his love for us in  
 that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

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.**

### Our prayers of intercession

*We will pray for prayer requests added to our Prayer Tree at the Multicultural Festival last Sunday  
and for those we know who are in need.*

*Our prayers will be followed by The Lord's Prayer (Sung)*

### R&S 566 The Church's one foundation

1 The Church's one foundation  
is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
she is his new creation  
by water and the word:  
from heaven he came and sought her  
to be his holy bride;  
with his own blood he bought her,  
and for her life he died.

2 Elect from every nation,  
yet one o'er all the earth,  
her charter of salvation  
one Lord, one faith, one birth:  
one holy name she blesses,  
partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses  
with every grace endued.

3 'Mid toil and tribulation,  
and tumult of her war,  
she waits the consummation  
of peace for evermore;  
till with the vision glorious  
her longing eyes are blest,  
and the great Church victorious  
shall be the Church at rest.

4 Yet she on earth hath union  
with God the Three in One,  
and mystic sweet communion  
with those whose rest is won:  
O happy ones and holy!  
Lord, give us grace that we,  
like them, the meek and lowly,  
on high may dwell with thee.

Samuel J. Stone (1839-1900)

### The Blessing

Go in the name of Jesus,  
to follow the way of Jesus,  
to love with the love of Jesus,  
and to be sustained by the peace of Jesus. **Amen.**

May the blessing of our loving God,  
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,  
be upon us all, and those we love, today and always, **Amen.**

### The Grace is shared with one another

Resources taken and adapted from *ROOTS for Churches Limited*, *URC Worship Notes* and *BUGB Gathering for Worship*.  
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