

# **Christ Church, Ipswich**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

**Family Worship**

*Led by Neil*

*Organist: Stephen*

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

## **Call to worship**

Praise the Lord! Come, praise the Lord!

**Everything in heaven and earth, praise God!**

Praise the Lord, all creation – sun, moon and shining stars,

**Everything in heaven and earth, praise God!**

Praise the Lord, sea and land, animals, birds and all nature,

**Everything in heaven and earth, praise God!**

Rulers and nations, young and old together,

**Everything everywhere, praise the Lord!**

## **Opening prayers**

We gather to approach our God.

A God of justice and of love.

A God who hears the cries of those in need,  
and who calls us to live in loving ways.

May we draw near to God;

may God draw near to us:

Father, Son, Spirit – the triune One. **Amen.**

Amazing and loving God,

as we meet together –

inspire us by your word,

renew us with your Spirit

and unite us as we worship you,

creator, redeemer and sustainer. **Amen.**

## **R&S 734 I'll praise my maker while I've breath**

1. I'll praise my maker while I've breath,  
and when my voice is lost in death,  
praise shall employ my nobler powers:  
my days of praise shall ne'er be past,  
while life and thought and being last,  
or immortality endures.

2. Happy the one whose hopes rely  
on Israel's God! He made the sky  
and earth and sea, with all their train:  
His truth for ever stands secure;  
He saves the oppressed, He feeds the poor,  
and none shall find His promise vain.

3. The Lord gives eyesight to the blind;  
the Lord supports the fainting mind;  
He sends the labouring conscience peace:  
He helps the stranger in distress,  
the widow and the fatherless,  
and grants the prisoner sweet release.

4. I'll praise Him while He lends me breath;  
and when my voice is lost in death,  
praise shall employ my nobler powers.  
My days of praise shall ne'er be past,  
while life and thought and being last,  
or immortality endures.

Psalm 146

Isaac Watts (1674–1748)

### **A prayer of adoration**

God of kindness and compassion, God of fairness and justice, God who sees all and hears all, we worship you. God of infinite love and boundless hope, who calls us to life with you, now and always, we worship and adore. **Amen.**

### **A prayer of confession**

O guardian of our hearts, so often we have focused on the wrong things and turned away from those who need our help. Whether through thoughtlessness, presumption or fear, we have not embodied the abundant life you offer us. Re-tune our hearts to your Spirit and your perfect love, motivate us to find ways of helping, even when we feel limited or without resources. May we never turn away from doing something because we cannot do everything. Help us be light wherever we are, not keeping it to ourselves but working together to show your generosity. Forgive us, restore us, and guide us, we pray. **Amen.**

### **Assurance of forgiveness**

Loving God, thank you that it is not too late. Every day is a new chance to serve you, to love others and to be the people you made us to be. Thank you for forgiving us when we get it wrong. Thank you for being ever willing to begin again. May we dispense kind words and generous actions. May we be known for an attitude of love, that honours you and all you have made. **Amen.**

### **A prayer of thanksgiving**

God, thank you for being a God of restoration. Thank you for reaching out to us all. Thank you for caring about how we treat each other, and for your encouragement as we live our lives. Help us to share what we have – whatever that may be – and together make our world a better place. Thank you for inspiring us to do this! **Amen.**

### **Family Time**

#### **R&S 200 The Kingdom of God**

1. The kingdom of God  
is justice and joy,  
for Jesus restores  
what sin would destroy;  
God's power and glory  
in Jesus we know,  
and here and hereafter  
the kingdom shall grow.

2. The kingdom of God  
is mercy and grace,  
the prisoners are freed,  
the sinners find place,  
the outcast are welcomed  
God's banquet to share,  
and hope is awakened  
in place of despair.

3. The kingdom of God  
is challenge and choice,  
believe the good news,  
repent and rejoice!  
His love for us sinners  
brought Christ to his cross,  
our crisis of judgement  
for gain or for loss.

4. God's kingdom is come,  
the gift and the goal,  
in Jesus begun,  
in heaven made whole;  
the heirs of the kingdom  
shall answer his call,  
and all things cry 'Glory!'  
to God all in all.

Bryn A. Rees (1911-83)\*  
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*The children go to Junior Church with our love and blessing*

**Old Testament Reading****Amos 6:1a, 4-7**

6 Alas for those who are at ease in Zion,  
and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria,  
the notables of the first of the nations,  
to whom the house of Israel resorts!

<sup>4</sup> Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory,  
and lounge on their couches,  
and eat lambs from the flock,  
and calves from the stall;

<sup>5</sup> who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp,  
and like David improvise on instruments of music;

<sup>6</sup> who drink wine from bowls,  
and anoint themselves with the finest oils,  
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!

<sup>7</sup> Therefore they shall now be the first to go into  
exile,  
and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

**Gospel Reading****Luke 16:19-31***The Rich Man and Lazarus*

<sup>19</sup> 'There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup> And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, <sup>21</sup> who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. <sup>22</sup> The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup> In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup> He called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames." <sup>25</sup> But Abraham said, "Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup> Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us." <sup>27</sup> He said, "Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house— <sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment." <sup>29</sup> Abraham replied, "They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them." <sup>30</sup> He said, "No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent." <sup>31</sup> He said to him, "If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

**Reflection*****A moment for reflection while Stephen plays the organ*****R&S 620 For the healing of the nations**

1. For the healing of the nations,  
Lord, we pray with one accord;  
for a just and equal sharing  
of the things that earth affords.  
To a life of love in action  
help us rise and pledge our word.

2. Lead us, Father, into freedom;  
from despair your world release,  
that, redeemed from war and hatred,  
all may come and go in peace  
Show us how through care and goodness  
fear will die and hope increase.

3. All that kills abundant living,  
let it from the earth be banned:  
pride of status, race or schooling,  
dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice  
may we hallow life's brief span.

4. You, Creator-God, have written  
your great name on humankind;  
for our growing in your likeness  
bring the life of Christ to mind;  
that by our response and service  
earth its destiny may find.

### Our prayers of intercession

God of compassion and justice,  
You see what is hidden, and You hear every silent cry.  
With the story of the rich man and Lazarus still echoing in our ears,  
we come before You, lifting our prayers for the world You love.

We pray for those who sit at the gates of our comfort—  
the hungry, the homeless, the refugee, the forgotten.  
May they know dignity, healing, and hope.  
May we not walk past them, but kneel beside them,  
offering not only words, but action shaped by love.

We pray for the powerful and wealthy,  
for those who live in ease while others suffer.  
Soften hardened hearts.  
Shake loose the illusion of self-sufficiency.  
Open eyes to the responsibility that comes with privilege.

We pray for the Church,  
that we might not simply hear the prophets, but respond with courage and faith.  
Make us bold in our witness, tender in our service, and urgent in our love.  
We pray for those who live with regret, who wish they had acted differently -  
that they may know Your mercy and find a new way forward.  
We pray for ourselves, that we would live each day in light of eternity,  
trusting Christ, walking with the poor, and listening to the voice of Scripture.

God of Lazarus, God of justice, God of mercy -  
hear our prayers and make us instruments of Your kingdom.

We pray this morning for the rich and powerful;  
for the leaders of nations and multi-national companies, for diplomats and generals.  
May they not feel so elevated that they are unable to see the poor at their feet.  
God of the poor: **meet us in our need.**

We ask that your Church should be on the side of Lazarus.  
Help us to see those around us in need and to welcome all those excluded by society  
because of religion, wealth, background or birth.  
God of the poor: **meet us in our need.**

We pray for everyone in need:  
for all those ill, physically, mentally, spiritually;  
for the despised, excluded and hated;  
for the bereaved and lonely.  
God of the poor: **meet us in our need.**

Help us to meet others this week as you have met us,  
and help us to share in the riches that you give us. Amen.

### The Lord's Prayer

## **R&S 626 Judge eternal, throned in splendour**

1 Judge eternal, throned in splendour,  
Lord of lords and King of kings,  
with thy living fire of judgement  
purge this land of bitter things;  
over all its wide dominion  
spread the healing of thy wings.

2 Still the weary folk are pining  
for the hour that brings release;  
and the city's crowded clangour  
cries aloud for sin to cease;  
and the homesteads and the woodlands  
plead in silence for their peace.

3 Crown, O God, thine own endeavour;  
cleave our darkness with thy sword;  
feed the faithless and the hungry  
with the richness of thy word;  
cleanse the body of this nation  
through the glory of the Lord.

H Scott Holland (1847-1918) altd.\*

### **A sending out prayer**

Go with eyes and hearts open to the needs of the world.  
As you are blessed with belonging,  
so may you enfold others in God's community of care. 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.**

### **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.**