

Christ Church, Ipswich

Sunday 19th October 2025

Family Worship

Led by Neil

Organist: Stephen

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

Call to worship

Come before the God who hears our prayers.

We come, trusting in God's steadfast love.

Come before the God who welcomes our questions.

We come, bringing our doubts and our hopes.

Come before the God who never lets us go.

We come, ready to hold on to God's promises.

Opening prayers

Lord, we meet to worship and to bring our prayers.

Teach us to be patient as we wait for your response.

We know that you hear all our prayers,

however they are made and whoever we are.

Give us faith to trust your awesome love and care for us. **Amen.**

God, source of life and strength,

we approach you with longing hearts and addled minds.

May you lift our faces to see you,

even when the world is puzzling and unclear.

Help us to know you better;

and draw close to us today. **Amen**

R&S 67 Immortal, invisible, God only wise

1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,

in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,

most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,

almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,

nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;

thy justice like mountains high soaring above

thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

3 To all life Thou givest, to both great and small;

in all life Thou livest, the true life of all;

we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,

And wither and perish; but naught changeth Thee.

4 Great Father of glory: O help us to see

'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

And so let thy glory, Almighty, impart,

through Christ in the story, thy Christ to the heart.

Walter Chalmers Smith. (1824-1908)

A prayer of adoration

Lord, you are our keeper,
the one who watches over us,
you are always present,
ever loving, ever faithful.
You are creator and redeemer.
We praise you
for your kindness and justice,
and for all that you are. **Amen.**

A prayer of confession and an Assurance of forgiveness

A prayer of confession

Lord, forgive us when we have closed our eyes
to the things that matter,
when we have prioritised the trivial surface matters
over urgent needs and deep-seated injustice.
Forgive us when we have chosen to look away
from those who need us the most.
Forgive us when we have stretched ourselves so thin
that we do not have time and energy
for that which you call us to do and to be.
Forgive us and restore us, we pray.
Give us what we need to live, love and pray persistently,
in the power and counsel of your Spirit. **Amen.**

Assurance of forgiveness

Loving God,
we know you hear us.
You not only hear us,
you accept us as your children,
surrounding us with grace and forgiveness.
Thank you for your unconditional love. **Amen.**

A prayer of praise and thanksgiving

Lord, thank you that you are our place of help.
Where others fail us and circumstances change,
you remain and you are unchanging.
Your love supports us, underpinning us
with a strength beyond ourselves.
We praise you for your passion for justice,
for your kindness towards your people.
We thank you that you call us
to a life-giving existence,
that we may give and receive
in your name, learning your ways
and caring for your world. **Amen.**

Family Time

R&S 96 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,

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)

Copyright © 1923 renewal 1951, Hope Publishing Co.

The children go to Junior Church with our love and blessing**Old Testament Reading****Genesis 32:22-31****(OT page 28)***Jacob Wrestles at Peniel*

²²The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶Then he said, 'Let me go, for the day is breaking.' But Jacob said, 'I will not let you go, unless you bless me.' ²⁷So he said to him, 'What is your name?' And he said, 'Jacob.' ²⁸Then the man said, 'You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed.' ²⁹Then Jacob asked him, 'Please tell me your name.' But he said, 'Why is it that you ask my name?' And there he blessed him. ³⁰So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, 'For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.' ³¹The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

Gospel Reading**Luke 18:1-8****(NT page 75)***The Parable of the Widow and the Unjust Judge*

18 Then Jesus^[a] told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ²He said, 'In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, "Grant me justice against my opponent." ⁴For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, "Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming."'^[b] ⁶And the Lord said, 'Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?'

Choir Anthem**Lead me Lord****Music: S S Wesley**

Lead me Lord,
lead me in thy righteousness,
make thy way plain before me face.
For it is thou Lord, thou Lord only
that makest me dwell in safety.

Reflection

A moment for reflection while Stephen plays the organ

R&S 495 Father, hear the prayer we offer;

1 Father, hear the prayer we offer;
not for ease that prayer shall be,
but for strength that we may ever
live our lives courageously.

2 Not for ever in green pastures
do we ask our way to be;
but the steep and rugged pathway
may we tread rejoicingly.

3 Not for ever by still waters
would we idly rest and stay;
but would smite the living fountains
from the rocks along our way.

4 Be our strength in hours of weakness,
in our wanderings be our guide;
through endeavour, failure, danger,
Father, be thou at our side.

Love Maria Willis (1824-1908) and others

Our prayers of intercession

This autumn, as the leaves change colour, we remember all those people who are facing change. We remember those getting used to being away from home at college and university, and adjusting to new lives in new places. We remember those who prefer the light and warmth of the summer, and fear the cold and darkness of this season. We remember those who are searching, displaced, lost, or feeling that they have no hope and no purpose. We remember all those for whom this is a difficult time, and we seek your help for them.

Where does our help come from?

Our help comes from the Lord.

This autumn, as the guns and sirens of the Middle East are quieter, we remember those caught up in that conflict. We remember those in Gaza who have returned to their homes to find nothing but wreckage and destruction. We remember those who mourn the death of loved ones, and those who have been subject to imprisonment and cruel handling. We remember all the pain and anguish that thousands of people have and will continue to feel. We remember this tentative ceasefire, and we seek your peace for the future.

Where does our help come from?

Our help comes from the Lord.

This autumn, as we gather as the people of God, we remember all those that help us to learn and to worship. We remember those who give their time to serve you in children's and youth work, sharing the gospel with the young. We remember our church leaders, ministers, and key volunteers who seek to make the joy of faith alive and real for our congregations. We remember all of the people who quietly serve as Martha served your son Jesus, doing practical things and helping others feel welcomed and valued. We remember that you have given us your Word to learn, to live by, and to cherish. We remember all those who serve us, and seek your strength for them in all they do.

Where does our help come from?

Our help comes from the Lord.

This autumn, as parliament has just returned after their long break, we remember all those in power and opposition. We remember those who aim to make the lives of others better, and who are motivated by their love for you. We remember those who make big and important decisions, and whose words can affect the lives of all people in our country. We remember those who seek fame and influence for the wrong reasons, and ask that they may be filled with wisdom and caution. We remember all in local and national politics, and seek your guidance for them.

Where does our help come from?

Our help comes from the Lord.

This autumn, as another season passes, we remember all those facing sadness, sickness, and fear. We remember those who have recently lost family or friends who were close to them, and feel that mourning and emptiness inside. We remember those who are struggling with their health, who are patiently waiting for treatment, or who are facing an uncertain future. We remember those who have heard life-changing news, and are coming to terms with what it means. We remember all in need, and ask for your hope and healing to fill them as we pray.

Where does our help come from?

Our help comes from the Lord.

The Lord's Prayer

R&S 345 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,

1 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
hold me with thy powerful hand:
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore;
feed me now and evermore.

2 Open thou the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery, cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.

William Williams, Pantycelyn (1717-91)

v. 1 tr. Peter Williams (1722-96) altd.

vv. 2-3 tr. William Williams (or John Williams, 1754-1828) altd.

A sending out prayer

Lord our God, you promise to stay awake, you protect us, you hear all of our prayers, you want us to keep talking to you. You are God of everything and we look up to you. Bless us as we trust in you. Send us out to live and work and pray. In Jesus' name. **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.**