

Christ Church, Ipswich
Sunday 2nd November 2025
Family Worship with Holy Communion
Led by Neil
Guest Organist: Mr David Tibby

A gathering prayer

God of friendship,
 you are our life's companion –
 a guest in our homes
 and our host in this place and all the world.
 May we always be eager for your company
 and, as we meet you here today,
 may we be open to your transforming presence.
Amen

A prayer of approach

We come to you, O Lord:
 you who call us by name.
 May we encounter you today
 and, in doing so, be transformed
 in how we see you,
 in how we see others,
 in how we see ourselves.
 In your name we pray.
Amen.

R&S 405 Angel voices ever singing

1 Angel voices ever singing
 round thy throne of light,
 angel harps for ever ringing
 rest not day nor night;
 thousands only live to bless thee,
 and confess thee,
 Lord of might.

2 Lord, we know that thou rejoicest
 o'er each work of thine;
 thou didst ears and hands and voices
 for thy praise design;
 craftsman's art and music's measure
 for thy pleasure
 all combine.

3 In thy house, great God, we offer
 of thine own to thee,
 and for thine acceptance proffer,
 all unworthily,
 hearts and minds and hands and voices,
 in our choicest
 psalmody.

4 Honour, glory, might and merit
 thine shall ever be,
 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
 blessed Trinity;
 of the best that thou hast given
 earth and heaven
 render thee.

Francis Pott (1832-1909) altd.

A prayer of adoration

All-forgiving, all-loving God,
 we worship you today.
 We acknowledge your greatness,
 confessing we cannot understand your ways –
 but we know that they are wonderful.
 We bring you all our praise,
 joining our voices with your children around the world,
 lifting our hearts and faces to you.
 You, God of our lives, our hearts, our world,
 we bless your name today.
Amen.

A prayer of confession

Gracious Lord, who sees all,
 you know all that we hide in our hearts.
 We lay before you all the things
 that dishonour you and us,
 acknowledging the damage they cause.
 We turn from hate and greed and pride.
 We ask that you would restore us and renew us,
 transforming our lives by the words and actions of your Son, Jesus,
 and cleansing us with your Holy Spirit,
 through whom you make your home in us.
Amen.

An assurance of forgiveness

The God who called us, calls us still:
 cleansing our hearts and renewing our minds.
 We delight in knowing that we are forgiven,
 that we can turn away from wrongdoing,
 that we can start afresh today.
 In God's great love, we choose to live differently.
 For Jesus' sake,
Amen.

A prayer of praise and thanksgiving

Jesus, thank you that you want to meet with us;
 that you want us to know you.
 Thank you for your willingness
 to step into the messiness of our lives,
 to console us, change us, and celebrate with us,
 whatever the season or circumstance.
 Thank you for challenging us to live differently,
 for modelling integrity and love,
 and for your indwelling Spirit
 who makes transformation possible.
 Thank you, Lord, you are worthy of all our praise;
 may our lives proclaim your glory and tell your story,
 now and for ever.
Amen.

A prayer of dedication for all our giving

All good gifts around us are sent from You O God;
 we give thanks for all those gifts, and for all Your love.
 Bless us now as we return to You some of what you have given to us.
 We thank You, Great God, for Your many gifts.
 Bless these gifts which we offer to You now,
 that we may use them wisely and widely,
 sharing Your love and changing our ways. Amen

Old Testament Reading**Isaiah 1:10-18****OT Page 574**

¹⁰ Hear the word of the Lord,
 you rulers of Sodom!
 Listen to the teaching of our God,
 you people of Gomorrah!
¹¹ What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?
 says the Lord;
 I have had enough of burnt-offerings of rams
 and the fat of fed beasts;
 I do not delight in the blood of bulls,
 or of lambs, or of goats.
¹² When you come to appear before me, ^[a]
 who asked this from your hand?
 Trample my courts no more;
¹³ bringing offerings is futile;
 incense is an abomination to me.
 New moon and sabbath and calling of
 convocation—
 I cannot endure solemn assemblies with
 iniquity.
¹⁴ Your new moons and your appointed festivals
 my soul hates;
 they have become a burden to me,

I am weary of bearing them.
¹⁵ When you stretch out your hands,
 I will hide my eyes from you;
 even though you make many prayers,
 I will not listen;
 your hands are full of blood.
¹⁶ Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;
 remove the evil of your doings
 from before my eyes;
 cease to do evil,
¹⁷ learn to do good;
 seek justice,
 rescue the oppressed,
 defend the orphan,
 plead for the widow.
¹⁸ Come now, let us argue it out,
 says the Lord:
 though your sins are like scarlet,
 they shall be like snow;
 though they are red like crimson,
 they shall become like wool.

Epistle Reading**2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12****NT page 191***Salutation*

1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
 To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

² Grace to you and peace from God our ^[a] Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving

³ We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. ⁴ Therefore we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith during all your persecutions and the afflictions that you are enduring.

¹¹ To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfil by his power every good resolve and work of faith, ¹² so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

R&S 349 I heard the voice of Jesus say

1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 'Come unto me and rest;
 lay down, O weary one, lay down
 your head upon my breast.'
 I came to Jesus as I was,
 forlorn and faint and sad;
 I found in him a resting-place,
 and he has made me glad.

2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 'Behold, I freely give
 the living water; thirsty one,
 stoop down, and drink, and live.'

I came to Jesus, and I drank
 of that life-giving stream;
 my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
 and now I live in him.

3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 'I am this dark world's light;
 look unto me, your morn shall rise,
 and all your day be bright.'
 I looked to Jesus, and I found
 in him my star, my sun;
 and in that light of life I'll walk,
 till travelling days are done.

H. Bonar (1808-89) altd

Jesus and Zacchaeus

19 He entered Jericho and was passing through it. ²A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax-collector and was rich. ³He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. ⁵When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.' ⁶So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. ⁷All who saw it began to grumble and said, 'He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.' ⁸Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, 'Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.' ⁹Then Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.'

Reflection***A moment for reflection as David plays the organ*****Our prayers of intercession**

Father God as we celebrate you at work, we are aware of many in the world trapped in circumstances where it is hard to see your hand. We think of those whose lives are destroyed by war: homes flattened, families lost, loved ones maimed and hungry.

We pray for peace between Ukraine and Russia. Move hardened hearts and bring about change. Lead those in power to the negotiating table so there can be an end to the devastation and a laying down of arms.

We pray for the Middle East where the fragile tightrope of peace strains to breaking point as more strikes are ordered. There were recent celebrations of homecoming hostages but there are still families mourning those not returned.

Father God of all power and grace, may we see your hand at work as you bring about a silencing of guns and a laying down of arms. May the world celebrate your mighty powers of restoration, peace, and justice.

Our hearts go out to those caught in the path of hurricane Melissa, the magnitude of which has not been seen for a generation. We pray Father, for your world where sea levels are rising and winds and rains are intensifying with each year that passes.

Father God of all power and grace, may we see your hand at work naturally restoring nature and halting climate change.

We pray for this country and the struggling economy. May your hand fall upon this nation, this government. Evaporate simmering tensions within society.

We pray for our shambolic prison service and justice system; for the falsely imprisoned and those escaping justice through bungling errors. We pray for the abused and victims of crime still to see justice.

We pray for all our emergency services: police, firefighters, ambulance workers, and our overstretched NHS. May you comfort the sick and suffering and all who care for them. Meet the needs of all still waiting for appointments.

Father God of all power and grace, we pray to see your guiding hand at work bringing wisdom, truth and healing to bear where it is needed. Meet all needs, Father God with your loving grace and mercy.

Father God, we bring before you our own communities, the struggling businesses, the lonely, the hungry, those in danger of losing their jobs and wondering how they are going to meet financial pressures. Remove all fear of the future.

We pray for your church. May it be true to your Word, looking only to you and not pandering to worldly influencers. May your church give hope, reaching out to the lost, breaking chains that bind.

Father God of all power and grace, we join our prayers with all those that have gone before. We exalt and celebrate you, lifting our prayers to you, our loving God who has ultimate power over all things. Hear our prayers.

R&S 373 Lord Jesus Christ

1 Lord Jesus Christ,
 You have come to us,
 You are one with us,
 Mary's son.
 Cleansing our souls from all their sin,
 pouring Your love and goodness in;
 Jesus, our love for You we sing,
 Living Lord.

2 Lord Jesus Christ,
 now and every day,
 teach us how to pray,
 Son of God.
 You have commanded us to do
 this in remembrance, Lord, of You:
 into our lives Your power breaks through,
 Living Lord.

3 Lord Jesus Christ,
 You have come to us,
 born as one of us,
 Mary's son.
 Led out to die on Calvary,
 risen from death to set us free,
 living Lord Jesus, help us see
 You are Lord.

4 Lord Jesus Christ,
 we would come to You,
 live our lives for You,
 Son of God.
 All Your commands we know are true,
 Your many gifts will make us new,
 into our lives Your power breaks through,
 Living Lord.

Patrick Appleford.
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Our children and young people will return from Café Church and join us for Holy Communion

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.**

**O amazing God,
You come into our ordinary lives
and set a holy table among us,
filling our plates with the bread of life
and our cups with salvation.
Send us out, O God, with tender-heartedness
to touch an ordinary everyday world,
with the promise of Your holiness, Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Sung this Sunday

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

R&S 658 For all the saints

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)*

The Blessing

And may the blessing of God Almighty,
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
be upon us and those we love, this day and always. **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.**

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