

**Christ Church, Ipswich**  
*Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2026*  
**Family Worship for The Sixth Sunday of Easter**

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

**Call to worship**

Come to the living God,  
 to the Spirit promised by Jesus,  
 to the Comforter, our Advocate.  
 Come and worship.

**A gathering prayer**

Come down, O love divine,  
 seek thou this soul of mine,  
 and visit it with thine own ardour glowing.  
 O comforter, draw near,  
 within my heart appear,  
 and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

**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.

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.

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.

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**

With you, O God, we are surrounded by love,  
 by meaning and purpose, peace and completeness.  
 You are our all, our grounding and our reason for being.  
 You are our truth and in you we put our trust,  
 in you we believe,  
 in you we find strength and purpose, joy and hope.  
 You are known to us in our imperfection,  
 we glimpse you and catch our breath at the wonder of the revelation.  
 We hear an echo and we strain our ears to hear it again.  
 We sense your presence and we tense our being wanting more.  
 You are within us and yet beyond us.  
 We adore you for what we know  
 and what is still to be revealed. **Amen.**

### **A prayer of confession and an assurance of forgiveness**

Spirit of God, move within us, illuminate our minds, our beings, to see our failings and faults, to see our neglect of those around us, those who are lonely and untouched by the love of others or their love of you. Forgive us for being so self-centred that others get pushed to the periphery of our living and our loving. Forgive us that so often our faith is an add-on and not an imperative in our daily lives. Illuminate our lives that our faith in you and our knowledge of your love permeates our every word and breath. **Amen.**

### **An assurance of forgiveness**

The Spirit of God moves within us, floods our being, cleanses and renews us and sets us free of the burdens and pains, the faults and the failings that stop us from being the people we are called to be. The Spirit of God never leaves us or abandons us; We can be assured, forgiveness is ours. **Amen.**

### **A prayer of thanksgiving**

God, you show us how relationships should be – generous, open, caring, supportive, loving.

The Spirit of God moves among us:

**Thanks be to God.**

You gave us Jesus to walk this earth and live among the daily living, loving, doing, being.

The Spirit of God moves among us:

**Thanks be to God.**

You sent your Spirit to be our constant companion, to stay with us for ever.

The Spirit of God moves among us:

**Thanks be to God.**

You gave us a blueprint, commandments to guide us.

The Spirit of God moves among us:

**Thanks be to God.**

You give us dreams and visions of life to come.

**The Spirit of God moves among us:**

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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

### **Family Talk**

### **R&S 518 Father, I place into your hands**

1 Father, I place into your hands  
the things I can't do.

Father, I place into your hands  
the things that I've been through.

Father, I place into your hands  
the way that I should go,  
for I know I always can trust you.

2 Father, I place into your hands  
my friends and family.

Father, I place into your hands  
the things that trouble me.

Father, I place into your hands  
the person I would be,  
for I know I always can trust you.

3 Father, we love to see your face,  
we love to hear your voice.

Father, we love to sing your praise  
and in your name rejoice.

Father, we love to walk with you  
and in your presence rest,  
for we know we always can trust you.

Jenny Hewer © 1975 Thankyou Music.

**The children go to Junior Church with our love and blessing**

**Acts Reading****Acts 17:22-31****NT page 127**

<sup>22</sup> Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup> For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup> From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup> so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup> For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.”

<sup>29</sup> Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup> While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

**Gospel Reading****John 14:15-21****NT page 101***The Promise of the Holy Spirit*

<sup>15</sup> “If you love me, you will keep<sup>1</sup> my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup> This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup> “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup> In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

**R&S 294 Come down, O Love Divine**

1 Come down, O Love divine!  
seek out this soul of mine  
and visit it with your own ardour glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near,  
within my heart appear,  
and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.

2 There let it freely burn  
till earthly passions turn  
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
and let your glorious light  
shine ever on my sight,  
and clothe me round, while still my path illuming.

3 Let holy charity  
my outward vesture be,  
and lowliness become my inner clothing;  
true lowliness of heart  
which takes the humbler part,  
and for its own shortcomings weeps with  
loathing.

4 And so the yearning strong  
with which the soul will long  
shall far surpass the power of human telling;  
for none can guess its grace  
till we become the place  
in which the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

Bianco Da Siena (d 1434)  
Translated by R.F. Littledale (1833-90)

## Reflection

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

#### **R&S 413 What a friend we have in Jesus**

1 What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry  
everything to God in prayer!

2 Have we trials and temptations,  
is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged;  
take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful  
who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness:  
take it to the Lord in prayer.

3 Are we weak and heavy-laden,  
burdened with a load of care?  
Jesus is our only refuge:  
take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do your friends despise, forsake you?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer;  
in his arms he'll take and shield you,  
you will find a solace there.

Joseph M. Scriven. (1819-1918) altd

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

God of hope and comfort,  
as we look on the brokenness of our world  
and on our own fears and dreams for the future,  
we pray for trust in your provision for us.  
Hear our cry.  
Come close to us and help us, O Lord.  
**All: Give us your peace.**

God of hope and comfort,  
as Christian Aid week begins  
we pray for agencies working on the front line of human suffering here and abroad.  
For those whose daily lives are given to alleviating displacement, danger and distress  
and for all who speak up for the needs of those who do not have a voice.  
Hear our cry.  
Come close to us and help us, O Lord.  
**All: Give us your peace.**

God of hope and comfort,  
as members of Jewish communities live in fear for their lives  
and prejudice and hatred have taken root in our our public discourse,  
we pray for calm and also for courage in standing up to hatred and rejecting violence  
and for measured speech that inspires unity rather than division.  
Hear our cry.  
Come close to us and help us, O Lord.  
**All: Give us your peace.**

God of hope and comfort,  
as the impact of local elections is felt in recriminations, regrets and new responsibility,  
we pray for the dedicated and brave service of the people in our local government in England, in the  
Scottish Parliament and in the Senedd;  
for wise decision making, though resources are slim and funds are stretched;  
and for the repairing of the fabric that holds us all together.  
Hear our cry.  
Come close to us and help us, O Lord.  
**All: Give us your peace.**

God of hope and comfort,  
as war destroys life and hope in many countries of our troubled world,  
we pray for journalists who seek to bring the truth into our living rooms;  
for protection from harm as they seek out danger to expose its causes;  
and for courage in speaking truth to power in spite of the cost.  
Hear our cry.

Come close to us and help us, O Lord.

**All: Give us your peace.**

God of hope and comfort,  
as strikes continue in Southern Lebanon in spite of the ceasefire  
and people in Gaza weep amid the mountains of rubble and flattened homes,  
we pray for determination to bring an end to these conflicts  
and for hope to flourish where everything seems to be destroyed.  
Hear our cry.

Come close to us and help us, O Lord.

**All: Give us your peace.**

God of hope and comfort,  
as tensions mount In the Strait of Hormuz,  
ships and their crews and cargo are stranded  
and Iran and the United States issue increasingly violent threats,  
we pray for a plan for peace and for wisdom to guide what happens next.  
Hear our cry.

Come close to us and help us, O Lord.

**All: Give us your peace.**

As those we love struggle with illness, pain or any kind of loss,  
we pray for your love to surround them and all who care for them.  
We pray for all who work in medical and social care settings  
and for paramedics and district nurses  
and ask that you would give them strength for today's challenges.  
Hear our cry.

Come close to us and help us, O Lord.

**All: Give us your peace.**

God of hope and comfort,  
As we try to live faithfully for you in this community,  
we pray for the strength of the Holy Spirit to surround us  
and lead us in the footsteps of your Son.  
Hear our cry.

Come close to us and help us, O Lord.

**All: Give us your peace.**

**BPW 585 We have a gospel to proclaim**

1 We have a gospel to proclaim,  
good news for men in all the earth;  
the gospel of a saviour's name:  
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

2 Tell of His birth at Bethlehem,  
not in a royal house or hall  
but in a stable dark and dim:  
the Word made flesh, a light for all.

3 Tell of his death at Calvary,  
hated by those he came to save;  
in lonely suffering on the cross  
for all he loved, his life he gave.

4 Tell of that glorious Easter morn:  
empty the tomb, for he was free;  
He broke the power of death and hell  
that we might share his victory.

5 Tell of His reign at God's right hand,  
by all creation glorified;  
He sends his Spirit on his Church  
to live for him, the Lamb who died.

6 Now we rejoice to name him king:  
Jesus is Lord of all the earth;  
This gospel-message we proclaim:  
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Edward Joseph Burns (1938 - )

**Sending out prayer**

When we are troubled... **God is our hope.**

When our faith is challenged... **God is our hope.**

When life is tough... **God is our hope.**

Let us go share God's love in the world because... **God is our hope.**

**Amen.**

**The Blessing**

And may the blessing of God Almighty  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
be amongst us and remain with us  
this day and for 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.**