

Christ Church, Ipswich
Sunday 7th June 2026
Family Worship with Holy Communion

Hello, I hope you are well. For our worship today, our focus will be on our reading from the Gospel, Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26. Here we find the stories about the calling of Matthew the tax collector, the raising of the synagogue leader's daughter and the healing of the woman who had been unwell for 12 years.

Let us worship God together:

Call to worship

Let us walk with love.
 Let us walk with mercy.
 Let us walk with kindness and compassion,
 as we walk together and worship God today.

A gathering prayer

Merciful God,
 as we gather to worship,
 let us remember what Jesus did on the cross –
 the love and compassion that was poured out for
 us.
 You have invited us to act justly, to love mercy and
 to walk humbly
 with you – help us to do this.
 In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

R&S 261 At the name of Jesus

1 At the name of Jesus
 every knee shall bow,
 every tongue confess him
 King of glory now.
 'Tis the Father's pleasure
 we should call him Lord,
 who from the beginning
 was the mighty Word.

2 Humbled for a season,
 to receive a Name
 from the lips of sinners
 unto whom he came,
 he became a witness,
 faithful to the last,
 and returned victorious,
 when from death he passed.

3 In your hearts enthrone him;
 there let him make new
 all that is not holy,
 all that is not true.
 He is God the saviour
 He is Christ the Lord,
 ever to be worshipped,
 trusted and adored.

4 When this same Lord Jesus
 shall appear again
 in his Father's glory,
 there with him to reign,
 then may we adore him,
 all before him bow,
 as our hearts confess him
 King of glory now.

Caroline Maria Noel (1817-77)

Prayers of Approach, Confession, and Grace

Come, let us return to the Lord, for he will heal us and bind us up.
 Let us pray.

O Most High, your appearing is as sure as the dawn;
 You come to us like refreshing showers,
 like the spring rains that nourish the earth.
 We meet You here seeking Your wisdom.
 We praise You seeking your blessing.
 We listen to You seeking your direction for our lives.

O Risen Lord, we meet You here,
 aware that Your love is steadfast
 whilst ours is like a morning cloud, as dew that evaporates quickly.
 We bring you our worship, poetic prayers, and rousing hymns,
 yet You ask for steadfast love.
 We give You our time hoping you will be pleased with us,
 yet You ask for knowledge of God and Your ways.
 We worship you on Sundays but all too often ignore You on weekdays;
 yet You demand mercy, and lives lived with a sacrifice of praise.
 Forgive us, Risen Lord, and give us time to change.

We gather in Your presence, Most Holy Spirit,
 knowing our faith will make us whole,
 longing for Your power within us, yearning to follow Your lead
 as we worship, evangelise, witness, and serve,
 showing the Church's mission in our world.
 Give us the grace to accept the forgiveness You bring,
 forgive ourselves, and forgive those who have hurt us. Amen.

A prayer of praise

We live our lives, O merciful God,
 seeking to serve you and our neighbours;
 seeking and searching to know the best way
 to share all that you are and all that you mean to us.

We give thanks to you that, as we seek, you inspire us.
 As we search, you help us discover.
 As we listen, you speak.
 As we look, you reveal yourself.
 As we breathe, your spirit breathes within us.

We praise you for coming to us
 even when we don't know we are in need.
 We praise you for never excluding or neglecting us,
 for never abandoning or rejecting us.
 We praise you that you know our needs
 without us explaining them to you.
 We praise you that in life and in death,
 you are our God and we can always trust you.
 We praise you for the promise of an abundance of life, now and always,
 that in due course may rest in peace and rise in glory.
 We praise you that you are an understanding
 and compassionate God, far beyond our deserving,
 far beyond our imagining
 and far beyond our understanding.
 Thanks and praise be to you, O God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

OT Reading**Hosea 5:15-6:6****OT Page 766**

¹⁵ I will return again to my place
until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my
face.

In their distress they will beg my favour:

A Call to Repentance

6 'Come, let us return to the Lord;
for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us;
he has struck down, and he will bind us up.

² After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live before him.

³ Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord;
his appearing is as sure as the dawn;

he will come to us like the showers,
like the spring rains that water the earth.'

Impenitence of Israel and Judah

⁴ What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?

What shall I do with you, O Judah?

Your love is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.

⁵ Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets,
I have killed them by the words of my mouth,
and my judgement goes forth as the light.

⁶ For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice,
the knowledge of God rather than burnt-offerings.

R&S 187 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness

1 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,
bring and adore him; the Lord is his name.

2 Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy
prayerfulness,
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

3 Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth thou would'st reckon as thine;
truth in its beauty and love in its tenderness,
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.

4 These, though we bring them in trembling and
fearfulness,

he will accept for the name that is dear;
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
trust for our trembling, and hope for our fear.

5 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,
bring and adore him: the Lord is his name.

John S. B. Monsell. 1811-1875 altd.

Gospel Reading**Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26****NT Page 8***The Calling of Matthew*

⁹ As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.

¹⁰ And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' ¹² But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.'

A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed

¹⁸ While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, 'My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.' ¹⁹ And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. ²⁰ Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, ²¹ for she said to herself, 'If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.' ²² Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, 'Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.' And instantly the woman was made well. ²³ When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute-players and the crowd making a commotion, ²⁴ he said, 'Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping.' And they laughed at him. ²⁵ But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. ²⁶ And the report of this spread throughout that district.

Reflection

A moment for reflection while Stephen plays the organ

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, when we look at the world around us, we are tempted to lose hope. We see wars and rumours of wars and destruction of the planet. People living in poverty or devastated by sickness. Sometimes it feels like there is no way back. Help us to remember that you are in control. That in you and with you there is always hope for a better future and a better world.

So, we bring to you now our fears... and our hopes; our troubles... and our dreams; knowing that you will hear us and bring us hope.

L: Lord, even when all seems lost, we put our trust in you.

All: For you are our living hope.

So, Lord we think about our world. We pray for all the areas where there is war: particularly between Ukraine and Russia and in the Middle East. We pray for the leaders of these nations, that they will be prepared to negotiate for peace. We pray for all those who are in dialogue, trying to find diplomatic solutions that will end the fighting and mistrust. And we pray for all those affected by the conflicts, who have lost loved ones, homes, security... who feel there is no way back... who feel beyond hope. Lord, we pray for relief agencies working to bring hope back into war-torn areas. May they be bringers of your light.

L: Lord, even when all seems lost, we put our trust in you.

All: For you are our living hope.

Lord, we pray for those areas of the world which are under the news radar... where there is drought and famine and sickness that go unnoticed by the majority of the world. We remember those affected by the Ebola outbreak in Africa. We pray for those living in poverty, in our own nation and elsewhere; those who have to fight every day to find where the next meal will come from; those who are desperate to keep their children healthy amid great difficulty. We pray for those who live in refugee camps, with no hope of returning to their homeland. We pray for those who see their only hope is to make dangerous journeys to other places. We pray for our food banks and clothing banks; and other organisations getting help to those who are in great need.

L: Lord, even when all seems lost, we put our trust in you.

All: For you are our living hope.

We pray for those we know who are ill, suffering or sad. We pray for those who care for them at home or through the health services and hospices in our neighbourhood. We especially remember by name....

We pray for the families and friends of those who have recently died, particularly... Lord, give us the wisdom and the words to bring your hope into these painful situations.

L: Lord, even when all seems lost, we put our trust in you.

All: For you are our living hope.

Lord, we focus on our community and think of those places that feel hopeless to us... We picture them in our minds... and the people who live and work in these areas. Lord, they may seem hopeless to us but to you they are places of flourishing because you see the positives where so often we cannot. Lord, give us eyes to see as you see and find hope even in the most difficult of places.

L: Lord, even when all seems lost, we put our trust in you.

All: For you are our living hope.

Lord, we remember the young people of our communities who are currently taking exams. Give them clear heads and courage. Help them to be calm when the papers are hard. Give them the hope they need to succeed.

L: Lord, even when all seems lost, we put our trust in you.

All: For you are our living hope.

Lord, we commit the week ahead to you. Shine your light into every situation so that we can see where you are at work and follow your lead. Send us out as people of hope to bring your love into every place you lead us.

L: Lord, even when all seems lost, we put our trust in you.

All: For you are our living hope.

Amen.

Hymn Here is love vast as the ocean

1 Here is love vast as the ocean,
 loving kindness as the flood,
 when the Prince of life, our ransom,
 shed for us His precious blood.
 Who His love will not remember;
 who can cease to sing His praise?
 He can never be forgotten
 throughout heaven's eternal days.

2 On the mount of crucifixion
 fountains opened deep and wide;
 through the floodgates of God's mercy
 flowed a vast and gracious tide.
 Grace and love, like mighty rivers
 poured incessant from above;
 and heaven's peace and perfect justice
 kissed a guilty world in love.

After William Rees

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.

for the redemption of the world,
 and for your raising him to life again,
 as a foretaste of the glory we shall share.

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

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.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen**

A prayer of thanks and dedication for all our giving

The Lord's Prayer,
which will be sung today

BPW 585 We have a gospel to proclaim

1 We have a gospel to proclaim,
good news for all throughout 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.

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A sending out prayer

God of mercy and justice,
as we walk alongside those in our communities
who seek mercy, kindness, or forgiveness,
open our eyes to see them
and our minds and hearts to reach out to them,
that we may be moved to share your love and compassion
in practical ways – and in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

The Blessing

May God who is light shine in our darkness.
May God who is love be the love between us.
May God who is life be our life, everlasting.
And may the blessing of God, Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit,
be with us, and those whom we love, now 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.**