

Christ Church, Ipswich

Sunday 21st June 2026

Family Worship

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

A gathering prayer

Awesome God,
today we choose to come and worship you.
There is none like you; you are amazing.
Help us to follow you,
knowing the risks, not counting the costs,
but trusting that you walk always at our side.
Amen.

A prayer of approach

Our faith in our creator God draws us to worship.
Our faith in our redeemer God gathers us
together.
Our faith in our loving God draws us close to each
other as his people.
Praise be to our Lord and God,
The one in whom we place our hope.
Amen.

R&S 586 All my hope on God is founded

1 All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown,
he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

2 Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray our trust;
what with care and toil is builded,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power
hour by hour
is my temple and my tower.

3 God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought;
splendour, light and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.

Evermore
from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.

4 Daily doth the almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand
at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.

5 Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call
one and all;
ye who follow shall not fall.

Robert Bridges (1844-1930) altd.*
based on Joachim Neander (1650-80)

A prayer of adoration

Lord God, as we come to you today, we will hear difficult words. Words we might not expect from you. You warn us that the way ahead might not always be easy. We need to look closely at ourselves. Make sure we are ready for whatever comes: not frightened to trust in you, whatever you ask us to do; not frightened to take up our cross as we walk your way. Make us ready, Lord. **Amen.**

A prayer of confession

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

Silence

An assurance of forgiveness

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in life in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A prayer of praise and thanksgiving

You have given so much of yourself for us and to us, O God.

To you be all praise and glory.

Your sacrifice for us is beyond understanding.

To you be all praise and glory.

You reach out to us in love and compassion.

To you be all praise and glory.

Your spirit burns within us, warms us, bursts forth from us when we let it.

To you be all praise and glory.

Yours is a story to transform the world, to transform lives, to save lives, to enrich lives.

To you be all praise and glory.

You are the giver of life, the giver of abundant love.

To you be all praise and glory.

In this generation and the next and for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Family Talk

R&S 278 I know that my Redeemer lives

1 I know that my Redeemer lives—
what comfort this assurance gives!
He lives, who once lived on the earth,
who through his death now brings new birth.

2 He lives, triumphant from the grave;
what joy, eternally to save!
He lives to bless me with his love,
to plead for me in heaven above.

3 He lives to help in time of need;
what gifts, my hungry soul to feed!
He lives, and grants me daily breath
and leads me on to conquer death.

4 He lives, my wise and constant friend,
what kindness guards me to the end!
He lives, and while he lives I'll sing
Jesus, my Prophet, Priest and King.

5 He lives: all glory to his name!
What love, unchangeably the same!
What joy the blest assurance gives.
I know that my Redeemer lives!

Samuel Medley (1738-99) altd.*

The children go to Junior Church with our love and blessing

Dying and Rising with Christ

6 What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 10:24-39

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²⁴ 'A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; ²⁵it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

Whom to Fear

²⁶ 'So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. ³⁰And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³² 'Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; ³³but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

Not Peace, but a Sword

³⁴ 'Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father,

and a daughter against her mother,

and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

³⁶ and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

³⁷ Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

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.

Reflection

A moment for reflection as Stephen plays the organ

R&S 558 Will you come and follow me

1 Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you,
and you in me?

2 Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare,
should your life attract or scare,
will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?

3 Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?

4 Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

Graham Maule & John L. Bell.
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Our prayers of intercession

God of all mercy, our loving heavenly Father,
we bring our prayers to you.
Father, hear us: **You alone can help and save us.**

We pray for those who feels their life is lost in deep water and great darkness.
For victims of natural disaster.
For those trapped in debt or addiction.

We pray for all who love and serve those who feel lost.
Father, hear us: **You alone can help and save us.**

We pray for those who fear the deep will swallow them up.
For those facing bullying or oppression
For those undergoing medical tests or treatment.

We pray for those who speak out for justice and kindness.
Father, hear us: **You alone can help and save us.**

We pray for those whose distress leads them to feel
that your face is turned against them.
For those struggling with lack of self-worth.
For those with poor mental health.

We pray for all who support and encourage vulnerable people.
Father, hear us: **You alone can help and save us.**

We pray for those who need to know that you,
Loving God, draw near to them.
For those whose lives have just begun,
or whose lives have changed dramatically.
For those nearing death

We pray for all those who accompany others and bring hope.

Father, hear us: **You alone can help and save us.**

Loving God, save us, lift us up, hear us, draw near to us.
That our prayers may be heard and answered,
and we and all your children know your love more deeply.

Father, hear us: **You alone can help and save us.**

We pray in Jesus name and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

R&S 598 Will your anchor hold in the storms of life

1 Will your anchor hold in the storms of life
when the clouds unfold their wings of strife?
When the strong tides lift, and the cables strain,
will your anchor drift, or firm remain?

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll;
fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!*

2 Will your anchor hold in the straits of fear,
when the breakers roar and the reef is near?
While the surges rave, and the wild winds blow,
shall the angry waves your boat o'erflow?

3 Will your anchor hold in the floods of death,
when the waters cold chill your latest breath?
On the rising tide you can never fail;
while your anchor holds you will still prevail.

4 Will your eyes behold through the morning light
the city of gold and the harbour bright?
Will you anchor safe by the heavenly shore,
when life's storms are past for evermore?

Priscilla J. Owens (1829-1907) altd.*

A sending out prayer

Jesus, you walked to the cross,
and paid the ultimate sacrifice for us, for our freedom;
may we walk with you this week as we learn what it is to truly take up our cross and follow you.
May we shout from the rooftops
and burn with your love inside us, so that others may see you too. **Amen.**

The Blessing

May the peace of Christ go with you wherever He may send you
May He guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm
May He bring you home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown you
May He bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors
And may the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
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.**