

Christ Church, Ipswich

Sunday 28th June 2026

Family Worship

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

Call to worship

Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18 (NRSV)

God's Covenant with David
A Maskil of Ethan the Ezrahite.

¹ I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

² I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

³ You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to my servant David:

⁴ "I will establish your descendants forever,
and build your throne for all generations.'" *Selah*

¹⁵ Happy are the people who know the festal shout,
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your countenance;

¹⁶ they exult in your name all day long,
and extol your righteousness.

¹⁷ For you are the glory of their strength;
by your favour our horn is exalted.

¹⁸ For our shield belongs to the Lord,
our king to the Holy One of Israel.

R&S 293 Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim

1 Ye servants of God,
your Master proclaim,
and publish abroad
his wonderful name;
the name all-victorious
of Jesus extol;
his kingdom is glorious
and rules over all.

2 God ruleth on high,
almighty to save;
and still he is nigh,
his presence we have;
the great congregation
his triumph shall sing,
ascribing salvation
to Jesus our King.

3 Salvation to God,
who sits on the throne!
let all cry aloud,
and honour the Son;
the praises of Jesus
the angels proclaim,
fall down on their faces,
and worship the Lamb.

4 Then let us adore,
and give him his right,
all glory and power,
all wisdom and might,
all honour and blessing,
with angels above,
and thanks never ceasing,
and infinite love.

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

A prayer of adoration

God, you are the open arms of acceptance, the warmth of a hearty welcome, the joy of a sincere smile. We cannot see you, and Jesus walked the earth long before our time, yet we know by faith that he embodied your welcoming presence in his dealings with your needy children. We bow before you in worship and adoration for all that you are. **Amen.**

A prayer of confession

Lord, so often our welcome lacks sincerity. The word is cold on our lips; the smile does not reach our eyes. We are polite; but there is little warmth in our hearts. Perhaps no deeds accompany our words, no comfort offered, hospitality withheld. We ask forgiveness of the One who always receives with open arms – generous, caring, meeting needs and so much more. We ask forgiveness from the One who accepts us, unconditionally, and is never too weary to care. As we are welcomed, so may we welcome your children in return, in your name, representing your love and generous nature. **Amen.**

Assurance of forgiveness

Thank you, O God, for welcoming us even when we do not deserve it; when we have thought, said and done things that others would find hard to forgive. For with you, God, there is always forgiveness. You accept our flawed humanity, and welcome us back to the fold again and again when we stray. Thank you for your loving forgiveness, and for the welcome that encourages us to emulate your generosity. **Amen.**

A prayer of praise

God, in your Son our Lord, you extend your welcome to all nations. You are the universal God. Christ Jesus, you opened the kingdom of God to all, even those excluded by deed or creed from sacred rites and places. Holy Spirit, your indwelling is a welcome that embraces us in belonging. Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one in word and deed, trinity of welcome in realms above and below, we thank and praise you for the everlasting arms outstretched to welcome us, to enfold us, to catch us when we fall; and for the heart that overflows with love and acceptance. Help us to see others with your eyes, to love with your heart, and to welcome with your arms, in your holy name. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Family Time

GG 49 I, the Lord of sea and sky

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark or sin
My hand will save.

I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

2 I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord.

3 I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will send the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.

Daniel L Schutte

¹² Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. ¹³ No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

Slaves of Righteousness

¹⁵ What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, ¹⁸ and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

²⁰ When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²² But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

R&S 339

Great God, your love has called us here

1 Great God, your love has called us here
as we, by love, for love were made.

Your living likeness still we bear,
though marred, dishonoured, disobeyed.

We come, with all our heart and mind
your call to hear, your love to find.

2 We come with self-inflicted pains
of broken trust and chosen wrong,
half-free, half-bound by inner chains,
by social forces swept along,
by powers and systems close confined
yet seeking hope for humankind.

3 Great God, in Christ you call our name
and then receive us as your own
not through some merit, right or claim
but by your gracious love alone.
We strain to glimpse your mercy-seat
and find you kneeling at our feet.

4 Then take the towel, and break the bread,
and humble us, and call us friends.
Suffer and serve till all are fed,
and show how grandly love intends
to work till all creation sings,
to fill all worlds, to crown all things.

5 Great God, in Christ you set us free
your life to live, your joy to share.
Give us your Spirit's liberty
to turn from guilt and dull despair
and offer all that faith can do
while love is making all things new.

Brian Wren (1936-)
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Gospel Reading

Matthew 10:40-42

NT page 10

Rewards

⁴⁰ 'Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹ Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; ⁴² and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.'

Talk

A Moment for reflection as Stephen plays the organ

R&S 629 Make me a channel of your peace

1 Make me a channel of your peace.
 Where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
 where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;
 and where there's doubt, true faith in you:

*O, Master, grant that I may never seek
 so much to be consoled as to console;
 to be understood as to understand;
 to be loved as to love with all my soul.*

2 Make me a channel of your peace.
 Where there's despair in life let me bring hope;
 where there is darkness, let me bring your light;
 and where there's sadness, bring your joy:

3 Make me a channel of your peace;
 for when we give we will ourselves receive.
 It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
 and in dying that we gain eternal life.

From a prayer sometimes attributed to St Francis (1182-1226)
 arr. Sebastian Temple. (1928 - 1997)*
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Our prayers of intercession

Creator God, you made our world and set it in the liquid water zone.
 Without water there would be, no sea, no fish, no plants, no life.
 You have shown your care for our planet long before we could understand.
 Be with us now and hear our prayers.

We bring to you those who struggle to take clean water and food to those who need it. Give them strength to carry on.

We pray for those whose daily struggle is to find the necessities of life
 and who find it difficult to provide for their children.

We pray for those in our world who cannot express their love for you in freedom,
 by whatever name they call you.

We think of the people who we know do not always receive
 the kind of welcome you would want them to have.
 We ask that we find ways to make them welcome.

We pray that our churches become places of welcome, showing your kindness.

And we pray for ourselves.
 You know the times when we have not had the things we needed
 and you know when we have not felt welcome.
 Help us to be true to your teaching
 and give what welcome we can and share what we can
 and give hope when we can.
 In Jesus name, Amen.

R&S 603 Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided

1 Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
 urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
 sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
 Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

2 Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
 speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
 teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
 Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.

3 Lord, for our land in this our generation,
 spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
 for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
 Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

4 Lord, for our world where we disown and doubt you,
 loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
 hungry and helpless, lost indeed without you:
 Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

5 Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us –
 self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
 past put behind us, for the future take us:
 Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Timothy Dudley-Smith.

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The Blessing

Go in the name of Jesus,
 to follow the way of Jesus,
 to love with the love of Jesus,
 and to be sustained by the peace of Jesus. **Amen.**

May the blessing of God Almighty,
 Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
 be upon us all, and those we love, today 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.**