

Christ Church, Ipswich

Sunday 16th August 2026

Family Worship

Led by Neil

Organist: Stephen

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

Call to worship

People will come from east and west,
from north and south,
and will eat in the kingdom of God (Luke 13 v29)

Praise the Lord!

Every tribe and language and people and nation (Revelation 5 v9)

Praise the Lord!

Where can I go from your Spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence? (Psalm 139 v7)

Praise the Lord!

Lord, who will not fear and glorify your name?
For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you....' (Revelation 15 v4)

Praise the Lord!

R&S 269 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun

1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does his successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

2 For him shall endless prayer be made,
and praises throng to crown his head;
his name like sweet perfume shall rise
with every morning sacrifice.

3 People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.

4 Blessings abound where'er he reigns;
the prisoners leaps to lose their chains;
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blessed.

5 Let every creature rise and bring
peculiar honours to our King;
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud Amen.

Psalm 72:12-19
Isaac Watts (1674-1748) altd.

A prayer of adoration

Lord, we thank you that no cry is too small for you to hear
and that you are attuned to the voices of the weak and oppressed.
Lord, we thank you that no voice is too loud for you to acknowledge
and that you are not offended by those who shout in their need and determination.
We adore you for being the God whose heart is open to all. **Amen.**

A prayer of confession

We are one people, You are one God.
 You call each of us by name,
 we learn more of you and understand more deeply who you are when we hear your story -
 from another place,
 from another voice,
 from another heart.
 God, when we behave as though our way is best. Lord, forgive us.

When we claim you are at work in each one, but behave as though You can only be worshipped with our songs, You can only be glorified in our liturgy, You can only be encountered in our culture. Lord, forgive us.

For narrowing the truth of your kingdom,
 for hiding from the vision that you gave -
 that all shall be included in the feast of life.
 Move us from complacency, apathy and indifference,
 to see the truth that in you we are one – yes – but that you made us different,
 you made us unique and you come to us uniquely.

Open our eyes, our ears, our hearts, our homes, our tables, our churches,
 that we might encounter you in each other,
 in our treasured sisters and brothers,
 each showing us your image,
 until the day, when we sit at the table in the kingdom of heaven together.

To all who repent, Jesus says, 'your sins are forgiven, now come, and follow me'.
 Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

A prayer of praise and thanksgiving

Almighty God, from ancient times you have reminded your people to listen to the cries of those excluded or marginalised; and through Jesus you have expanded your people Israel to include us, with an invitation to all the world.

Thank you for your generous and caring nature. Help us to mirror it in our lives and actions, as we hear with your ears, see with your eyes, and love with your heart.

We praise you for your arms outstretched to save the lost, to include the excluded, to raise those the world despises. You are God of the outcast and stranger, welcoming all, making friends of foes. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Family Talk

R&S 289 To God be the glory, great things he has done

1 To God be the glory, great things he has done!
 So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
 who yielded his life in atonement for sin,
 and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
 Let the earth hear his voice!
 Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
 Let the people rejoice!
 O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son;
 and give him the glory - great things he has done!*

2 O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
 to every believer the promise of God!
 And every offender who truly believes,
 that moment from Jesus a pardon receives:

3 Great things he has taught us,
 great things he has done,
 and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
 but purer and higher and greater will be
 the wonder, the beauty, when Jesus we see:

Fanny Crosby (1820-1915) altd.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

OT page 624

*The Covenant Extended to All Who Obey***56** Thus says the Lord:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to
the Lord,

to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant—

⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt-offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸ Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 15:10-28

NT page 16

Things That Defile

¹⁰ Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, 'Listen and understand: ¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.' ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, 'Do you know that the Pharisees took offence when they heard what you said?' ¹³ He answered, 'Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.' ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, 'Explain this parable to us.' ¹⁶ Then he said, 'Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.'

The Canaanite Woman's Faith

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' ²⁴ He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' ²⁶ He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' ²⁷ She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

R&S 207 My song is love unknown

1 My song is love unknown,
my Saviour's love to me:
love to the loveless shown,
that they might lovely be.
O who am I, that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

2 He came from his blessed throne,
salvation to bestow;
but men made strange, and none
the longed-for Christ would know.
But O, my Friend, my Friend indeed,
who at my need his life did spend.

3 Sometimes they strew his way,
and his sweet praises sing;
resounding all the day
hosannas to their King:
then 'Crucify!' is all their breath,
and for his death they thirst and cry.

4 Why, what hath my lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run,
he gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
themselves displease and 'gainst him rise.

5 They rise and needs will have
my dear Lord made away;
a murderer they save,
the Prince of Life they slay,
yet cheerful he to suffering goes,
that he his foes from thence might free.

6 In life no house, no home
my Lord on earth might have;
in death, no friendly tomb,
but what a stranger gave.

What may I say? Heaven was his home;
and mine the tomb wherein he lay.

7 Here might I stay and sing,
no story so divine;
never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine.
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.

Samuel Crossman. (1624-84)

Reflection

A moment for reflection

R&S 647 In Christ there is no East or West

1 In Christ there is no East or West,
in him no South or North,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

2 In him shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find,
his service is the golden cord
close-binding humankind.

3 Join hands, then, all the human race,
whate'er your nation be;
all who my Father's image bear
are surely kin to me.

4 In Christ now meet both East and West,
in him meet South and North,
all Christlike souls are one in him,
throughout the whole wide earth.

'John Oxenham' (1852-1941) altd.*

Our prayers of intercession

(Written by Revd Dr Susan Durber, URC Minister)

Thank you God, that your heart is so big, so full of love and mercy. Thank you that we are all welcome in your world, and never excluded from your embrace.

Fill us all with hope for better, kinder times, when in our families and communities all will find acceptance, joy and love.

We pray for those close to us,
in our family and among our friends
who we know are struggling with illness or anxiety
with worries about money or the future,
or with broken relationships...
We entrust them to your embrace.

We pray for the communities in which we live,
for an end to division, prejudice and resentment.
Wherever people speak threats or encourage hatred,
let there be voices that speak welcome,
and offer hope for a shared and joyful future,
where all can live without fear
and neighbours live together in peace.

We pray for the nations and peoples of this world.
Where now we see war and invasion,
bombs falling on civilians,
populations driven out or killed,
may there be peace.

Where now refugees live in tents
amid the ruins of homes,
may there be rebuilding.
Where children now hunger and sicken,
may there be food and care.
we long for a world where everyone
can sleep peacefully and unafraid,
where all may receive more than crumbs from the rich,
but dignity, rights and fullness of life.

O God, who loves us all,
every child, every adult, every creature,
show us how to share this world
with joyful, peaceful, generosity.
Give us loving hearts and open minds,
that the world may be different
and the future filled with hope.

We make these prayers
through the name of Jesus,
and in the power of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

BPW 382 I will sing the wondrous story

1 I will sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me,
how he left the realms of glory
for the cross on Calvary.

*Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me,
sing it with the saints in glory,
gathered by the crystal sea.*

2 I was lost, but Jesus found me,
found the sheep that went astray,
raised me up and gently led me
back into the narrow way.

Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story...

3 Days of darkness still may meet me,
sorrow's path my feet may tread;
but his presence still is with me,
by his guiding hand I'm led.

Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story...

4 He will keep me till the river
rolls its waters at my feet;
then He'll bear me safely over,
made by grace for glory meet.

Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story...

F.H. Rowley (1854-1952)

The Blessing

Go forth in the name of Jesus, who came among us in vulnerability,
who lived among us in poverty, yet welcomed us in hospitality.
Let us share the riches of his grace with all those we meet.

And may the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
Be upon us, and those we love, in this moment, and in every moment, forevermore. 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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