

Christ Church, Ipswich

Sunday 23rd August 2026

Family Worship

Led by Neil

Organist: Stephen

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

Psalm 138

*Thanksgiving and Praise
Of David.*

¹ I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;
² I bow down towards your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast
love and your faithfulness;
for you have exalted your name and your word
above everything.
³ On the day I called, you answered me,
you increased my strength of soul.
⁴ All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.

⁵ They shall sing of the ways of the Lord,
for great is the glory of the Lord.
⁶ For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly;
but the haughty he perceives from far away.
⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve me against the wrath of my
enemies;
you stretch out your hand,
and your right hand delivers me.
⁸ The Lord will fulfil his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O Lord, endures for ever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.

R&S 657 Rejoice, the Lord is King

1 Rejoice, the Lord is King;
your Lord and King adore;
mortals, give thanks, and sing,
and triumph ever more:

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:
rejoice, again I say: rejoice!*

2 Jesus the Saviour reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains,
he took his seat above:

3 His kingdom cannot fail,
he rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus given:

4 He sits at God's right hand
till all his foes submit,
and bow to his command,
and fall beneath his feet:

5 Rejoice in glorious hope;
Jesus the judge shall come,
and take his servants up
to their eternal home:

*We soon shall hear the archangel's voice;
the trump of God shall sound: rejoice!*

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

A prayer of adoration

Lord Jesus Christ, Messiah, name above all names, we worship and adore you for revealing yourself to us, becoming one of us and calling each of us by name. In you, we discover who we truly are, for you lead us to become the people you mean us to be, one with you and with one another in your Church. **Amen.**

A prayer of confession

Lord, we confess that sometimes we lose sight of who you are.
We forget about you, or we take you for granted,
failing to recognise or acknowledge that you are the Messiah.
We also forget who we are in you;
where we fit into your Church, who you mean us to be.
We are distracted by the world and its problems and temptations.

We turn back to you, Lord,
 seeking to renew our relationship with you.
 We want to realise our full potential in you,
 to grow and move forward, making right choices and decisions,
 living in you, and you in us. **Amen.**

Lord, we thank you for forgiving us when we don't get things right straight away; when, like the disciples,
 we hedge our bets and fudge the issue in our hesitancy, our doubt, our failure to believe.

Yet even although Peter was right to call you Messiah, he still got things wrong from time to time, even to
 the end of your earthly life and his; and you forgave him, this great example to us, this person who
 embodies the pattern of discipleship.

So do you forgive all of us who seek to follow you, merciful and mighty Lord. **Amen.**

A prayer of praise and thanksgiving

Father, we thank you that we can always trust in you, for you make provision for our faults and failings,
 and send us all the help and encouragement we need. Thank you for Jesus and his earthly life among his
 disciples, from that we learn so much. Thank you that we can always have confidence in Jesus, leaning on
 his teaching and promises. We praise you for who he is, and for who we are and will become in your plans
 for us. Lead us onward, heavenly Father. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Family Talk

GG 30 There is a Redeemer

1 There is a redeemer,
 Jesus, God's own Son,
 precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
 Holy One.

*Thank you, O my Father,
 for giving us your Son,
 and leaving your Spirit
 till the work on Earth is done.*

2 Jesus, my Redeemer,
 name above all names,
 precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
 O, for sinners slain.

3 When I stand in glory,
 I will see His face,
 and there I'll serve my King forever
 in that holy place.

Melody Green

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 51:1-6

Blessings in Store for God's People

51 Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,
 you that seek the Lord.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn,
 and to the quarry from which you were dug.

² Look to Abraham your father
 and to Sarah who bore you;
 for he was but one when I called him,
 but I blessed him and made him many.

³ For the Lord will comfort Zion;
 he will comfort all her waste places,
 and will make her wilderness like Eden,
 her desert like the garden of the Lord;
 joy and gladness will be found in her,
 thanksgiving and the voice of song.

OT page 620

⁴ Listen to me, my people,
 and give heed to me, my nation;
 for a teaching will go out from me,
 and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,
 my salvation has gone out
 and my arms will rule the peoples;
 the coastlands wait for me,
 and for my arm they hope.

⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
 and look at the earth beneath;
 for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
 the earth will wear out like a garment,
 and those who live on it will die like gnats;
 but my salvation will be for ever,
 and my deliverance will never be ended.

Peter's declaration about Jesus

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' ¹⁴ And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' ¹⁵ He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

R&S 317 Lord, thy word abideth

1 Lord, thy word abideth,
and our footsteps guideth;
who its truth believeth
light and joy receiveth.

2 When our foes are near us,
then thy word doth cheer us;
word of consolation,
message of salvation.

3 When the storms are o'er us,
and dark clouds before us,
then its light directeth
and our way protecteth.

4 Who can tell the pleasure,
who recount the treasure,
by thy word imparted
to the simple-hearted?—

5 word of mercy, giving
succour to the living;
word of life, supplying
comfort to the dying.

6 O that we, discerning
its most holy learning,
Lord, may love and fear thee,
evermore be near thee.

H. W. Baker (1821-77)

Reflection***A moment for reflection as Stephen plays the organ*****R&S 280 Join all the glorious names**

1 Join all the glorious names
of wisdom, love and power,
that ever mortals knew,
that angels ever bore.
All are too mean to speak his worth,
too mean to set my *Saviour* forth.

2 Great *Prophet* of my God,
my tongue would bless thy name;
by thee the joyful news
of our salvation came:
the joyful news of sins forgiven,
of hell subdued and peace with heaven.

3 Jesus, my great *High-Priest*,
offered his blood and died:
my guilty conscience seeks
no sacrifice beside;
his powerful blood did once atone,
and now it pleads before the throne.

4 My dear almighty *Lord*,
my *Conqueror* and my *King*,
thy sceptre and thy sword,
thy reigning grace I sing.
Thine is the power: behold I sit
in willing bonds before thy feet.

5 Now let my soul arise
and tread the tempter down;
my *Captain* leads me forth
to conquest and a crown.
A feeble saint shall win the day,
though death and hell obstruct the way.

6 Should all the hosts of death
and powers of hell unknown
put their most dreadful forms
of rage and mischief on,
I shall be safe, for *Christ* displays
superior power, and guardian-grace.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Our prayers of intercession

God of hope and healing

we pray for those entrusted with huge responsibilities...

for those empowered by the votes of others and those who have seized power through violence and corruption...

We pray for those involved in sensitive negotiations in the middle East

and for all mediators and peacemakers as the death toll from conflicts around the world continues to rise day after day...

We pray for those trying to deliver aid where it is most needed

and for those treating injured bodies and traumatised minds with minimal resources...

In the power of Jesus' name we ask this.

We pray for Andy Burnham and his cabinet

as they seek the best for the people of this country

whilst looking to support allies and those countries facing natural disasters...

We pray for the leaders of our churches and all faiths that they would set examples of integrity, generosity tolerance and faithfulness.

In the power of Jesus' name we ask this.

We pray for those who covet power and those who abuse it...

May all those who can affect the lives of millions

put peace before popularity and wisdom before wealth.

In the power of Jesus' name we ask this.

We pray for those who have the gift of encouragement...

and for those who have been empowered to fulfil their dreams, to overcome challenges, to achieve things they never knew were possible...

because someone believed in them.

We pray for parents, for teachers, for coaches, counsellors and mentors...

In the power of Jesus' name we ask this.

We pray for those whose confidence and lives have been destroyed

because of criticism, bullying, abuse and social media attacks...

We remember the family of Jason Arday

and pray for all who have been destroyed and damaged

by the pressure of negative publicity...

and for all those whose lives, public and private, are constantly scrutinised and judged.

May all those whose spoken and written words influence so many

be responsible in their reporting

and put sensitivity before sensationalism and accuracy before accusations.

In the power of Jesus' name we ask this.

We pray for those who are grieving today...

those who have lost family and friends in road accidents, in accidents at sea, in the air.

We pray especially for those affected by the tragedies in County Kildare and Shoreham.

In the power of Jesus' name we ask this.

We pray for those who have seen their loved ones suffer over many years with debilitating and painful illnesses...

for those who feel their bodies or their minds are growing weaker,

for all who are afraid of what lies ahead...

Loving God may all those who feel at rock bottom today...

be lifted up and empowered by your strength and your comfort.

In the power of Jesus' name we ask this.

We pray for one another that we would be empowered to live creatively, inclusively, faithfully,

following in the footsteps of all who have gone before us and who have shown us the way of truth, humility and resilience.

May we be a positive influence on those around us and spread your hope, your grace and your love.

In the power of Jesus' name we ask this. Amen

R&S 566 The Church's one foundation

1 The Church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the word:
from heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

2 Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation
one Lord, one faith, one birth:
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses
with every grace endued.

3 'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace for evermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great Church victorious
shall be the Church at rest.

4 Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.

Samuel J. Stone (1839-1900)

The Blessing

We go out into your world
full of the confidence that you give us.
May we, like Peter, begin to grasp what is special
about your kind of strength and your kind of courage,
as we grapple with our turbulent world.

Amen.

And may the blessing of God,
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
Be upon us, and those whom we love,
This day 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.**