

**Christ Church, Ipswich**  
**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2026**  
**All-age Family Worship with Holy Communion**

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

**Call to worship**

This is the place  
 and this is the time;  
 here and now,  
 God waits  
 to break into our experience;  
**to change our minds,**  
**to change our lives,**  
**to change our ways;**

to make us see the world  
 and the whole of life  
 in a new light;  
**to fill us with hope,**  
**joy and certainty**  
**for the future.**

**R&S 104 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;**

1 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
 to his feet thy tribute bring;  
 ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
 who like me his praise should sing?  
 Praise him! praise him!  
 Praise him! praise him!  
 praise the everlasting King.

2 Praise him for his grace and favour  
 to his people, in distress;  
 praise him still the same for ever,  
 slow to chide, and swift to bless:  
 Praise him! praise him!  
 Praise him! praise him!  
 glorious in his faithfulness.

3 Father-like he tends and spares us;  
 well our feeble frame he knows;  
 in his hands he gently bears us,  
 rescues us from all our foes:

Praise him! praise him!  
 Praise him! praise him!  
 widely as his mercy flows!

4 Frail as summer's flower we flourish,  
 blows the wind and it is gone,  
 but while mortals rise and perish  
 God endures unchanging on.  
 Praise him! praise him!  
 Praise him! praise him!  
 praise the high Eternal One!

5 Angels help us to adore him,  
 ye behold him face to face;  
 sun and moon, bow down before him,  
 dwellers all in time and space:  
 Praise him! praise him!  
 Praise him! praise him!  
 praise with us the God of grace!

H.F. Lyte (1793-1847) altd. Based on Psalm 103

**A prayer of adoration**

Holy God, we reach out to you in thankfulness knowing that you will bless us with stability in turmoil, courage in conflict, and grace in unity. May we both challenge and change those things in ourselves, in our church, our community, and our world, that dishonour your love for us and spoil our relationships with one another, so that we may grow in the likeness of your Son, and bring peace where there is brokenness – to your glory. **Amen.**

**A prayer of confession**

In the chaotic ways of life, Lord, with challenges and changes pulling us this way and that, we sometimes find it hard, in the heat of the moment, to know what is right and what is wrong. Forgive us for our failings and wrongdoings. Forgive our insensitivities to the ways of others. Forgive anything that cuts us off from each other or from you. **Amen.**

The almighty and merciful Lord, grants us his pardon and remission of all our sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. Thanks be to God! **Amen.**

### **A prayer of praise and thanksgiving**

God of integrity and wisdom,  
 you are the source of peace and the healer of conflicts  
 within ourselves and our families,  
 within our community and our country,  
 within the nations of the world;  
 so, we praise you for caring when we hurt one another,  
 for grieving when we are divided,  
 for rejoicing when we are reconciled to one another and to you,  
 and for inspiring us to be the best we can be.  
 In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

### **A prayer of dedication for all our giving**

We are called to give – of our time, our future and our courage in order to live as committed disciples of the Lord Jesus. We also give of our resources to support charities at home and abroad and to support the work of God through the Church. We may give through envelopes or cash, bank transfers or standing orders. We give knowing that we return to God something of what has been given to us and, in so doing, we embody the change our world cries out for. Let's pray:

Accept our gifts O God, as tokens of our praise and thanks to You.  
 Accept our gifts O God, as tokens of our desire to change.  
 Accept our gifts O God, as tokens of our love.  
 Accept us too O God,  
 that we may continue to praise, change and love. Amen

### **Epistle Reading**

#### **Romans 13:8-14**

#### *Love for One Another*

<sup>8</sup> Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' <sup>10</sup> Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

#### *An Urgent Appeal*

<sup>11</sup> Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup> the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; <sup>13</sup> let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

### **Gospel Reading**

#### **Matthew 18:15-20**

#### *Reproving Another Who Sins*

<sup>15</sup> 'If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup> But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup> If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. <sup>18</sup> Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup> Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup> For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

**R&S 492 Dear Lord and Father of mankind**

1 Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
forgive our foolish ways!  
Reclothe us in our rightful mind;  
in purer lives thy service find,  
in deeper reverence, praise.

2 In simple trust like theirs who heard  
beside the Syrian sea  
the gracious calling of the Lord,  
let us, like them, without a word,  
rise up and follow thee.

3 O Sabbath rest by Galilee!  
O calm of hills above,  
where Jesus knelt to share with thee  
the silence of eternity  
interpreted by love!

4 With that deep hush subduing all  
our words and works that drown  
the tender whisper of thy call,  
as noiseless let thy blessing fall  
as fell thy manna down.

5 Drop thy still dews of quietness,  
till all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of thy peace.

6 Breathe through the heats of our desire  
thy coolness and thy balm;  
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,  
O still, small voice of calm!

J.G. Whittier (1807-92)

**Family Talk*****A Moment for reflection*****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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**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

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

### **Our prayers of intercession**

God of freedom and of new beginnings, you called your people to ready themselves for change, a walk from drudgery and oppression to a land of new hope. Not an easy walk, but a walk with you. We bring to you now the things that weigh us down, that burden your creation, trusting in the promise that your plans for us are good. We ready ourselves to hear your voice, to follow your call, to place our trust in you.

We pray for our world, your world, as we hear reports of war and conflict, natural disaster and human greed ravaging the land. We think of the continuing hostilities between America and Iran, Israel and Gaza, Russia and Ukraine and the civil war in Sudan. Strengthen and empower those working for peace and those bringing aid to innocent victims of oppression and violence.

We pray for the many people killed, injured and displaced by the glacial collapse and floods in Nepal, Tibet and China; for those affected by earthquakes and flash flooding in America; and for the disastrous effects of wildfires in Algeria, Indonesia and elsewhere.

Lord, break the chains of despair. **Lead your people into new hope.**

As parliament reconvenes under a new Prime Minister, we bring our prayers for our own country, asking that you bless all those in positions of power and leadership. Guide them into wise decisions and effective policies - fair and in the interests of all - not just the wealthy or influential. Where Pharaoh feared those of a different ethnicity, turning welcome into hostility, may we instead embrace the opportunity to cherish our neighbours, no matter how they may differ from us, sharing in the joy of knowing that all are your children and made in your image.

Lord, break the chains of poverty and intolerance. **Lead your people into new hope.**

Just as the Hebrew people prepared for upheaval, this is a time of transition for many experiencing major life changes. We think especially of children, young people and adults embarking on the next stage of their education or employment. We pray for those experiencing anxiety or other mental health difficulties brought about by change or fear of the unknown, and for those who support and mentor them, especially parents and grandparents and other carers. We pray for those relocating, retiring, or entering into new relationships.

Lord, break the chains of uncertainty. **Lead your people into new hope.**

Grant your love, strength and comfort to those whose life is not going smoothly. We think of those sick in mind, or body or spirit; or finding their independence or quality of life restricted in any way; those who are dealing with financial challenges such as unemployment or redundancy, homelessness or unsatisfactory accommodation, poverty or need; and those whose relationships are not running smoothly or who find themselves isolated and alone.

Lord, break the chains of insecurity. **Lead your people into new hope.**

In a moment of quiet, we bring to you the things that are particularly on our hearts today.

Lord, break the chains that bind us. **Lead your people into new hope.**

**Amen**

We join all our prayers together as we pray as Jesus taught: **Our Father... (Sung)**

### **R&S 489 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart**

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art—  
thou my best thought in the day and the night,  
waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,  
thou ever with me and I with thee, Lord;  
thou my great Father, thy child let me be,  
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

3 Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;  
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,  
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my strong tower;  
raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my  
power.

4 Riches I heed not, nor earth's empty praise,  
thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,  
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

5 High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright sun,  
grant me its joys after vict'ry is won;  
heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Ancient Irish poem  
tr. Mary E. Byrne (1880-1931)  
and Eleanor H. Hull (1860-1935) altd

### **The Blessing**

God of peace, we pray for peace throughout the world. Send us out as peacemakers, people who help to set things right where there is disagreement, who try to resolve conflict. Show us the way of peace in our own lives, and in our homes and places of learning, in our streets and throughout our community.

In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

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.**  
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.**

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