

Christ Church, Ipswich

Sunday 13th September 2026

Family Worship

Led by Neil

Organist: Stephen

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

Psalms 103:1-13

Thanksgiving for God's Goodness
Of David.

¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.

² Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits—

³ who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,

⁴ who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and
mercy,

⁵ who satisfies you with good as long as you live^[a]
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

⁶ The LORD works vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.

⁷ He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.

⁸ The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast
love.

⁹ He will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger for ever.

¹⁰ He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love towards those
who fear him;

¹² as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us.

¹³ As a father has compassion for his children,
so the LORD has compassion for those who fear
him.

R&S 74 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:
come ye who hear,
brothers and sisters, draw near,
praise him in glad adoration!

2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
bears thee on eagle's wings, and through all troubles sustaineth:
hast thou not seen
all that is needful hath been
granted in what he ordaineth?

3 Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee!
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee:
ponder anew
all the Almighty can do,
who with his love doth befriend thee.

4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the amen
sound from his people again:
gladly for aye we adore him!

Joachim Neander (1650-80)
tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-78) and others
based on Psalm 103:1-5; Psalm 150; etc.

A prayer of adoration

Creator God, living Saviour, enlivening Spirit, your generosity far outweighs our deserving. Your grace is far more beautiful than our imagining. Your forgiveness far exceeds our understanding. So, we bow our heads and open our hearts, as we offer you our lives in adoration and thankfulness. **Amen.**

A prayer of confession

Incredible God, forgive us we pray when we are reluctant to let go of the things that have been done to us that hurt.
Help us to understand more fully what it is to forgive, **and heal us.**

Forgive us when we justify our own mistakes but are harsh in our judgements of others. Help us to understand them better from the way that you treat us.
Help us to understand more fully what it is to forgive, **and heal us.**

Forgive us when we could offer forgiveness but withhold it.
Help us to understand more fully what it is to forgive, **and heal us.**

Forgive us, heal us and help us grow into the likeness of your Son Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Gracious God, there are debts to you and to others that we cannot pay. There are mistakes that we cannot undo. There are words that we cannot unsay. But because you forgive us, we can take another step, face another day with confidence, and rejoice at your love for us and for all creation. **Amen.**

A prayer of praise and thanksgiving

God of all hope and love,
we stand under your forgiveness and praise you,
we are bowled over by your generosity and praise you,
we are in awe of your mercy and praise you,
we are reassured by your understanding and praise you,
we are confident of your faithfulness and praise you,
we are the people we are and the people we can become
because of you – and we praise you.
For all your blessings, for all your patience, for all your love,
we praise you in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Family Talk

R&S 353 There's a wideness in God's mercy

1 There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in his justice
which is more than liberty.

2 There is plentiful redemption
in the blood that has been shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the Head.

3 There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in the Lord's unfathomed bliss.

4 For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

5 But we make his love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we magnify his strictness
with a zeal he will not own.

6 If our love were but more simple
we should take him at his word;
and our lives would be illumined
by the glory of the Lord.

F. W. Faber (1814-63) altd.*

Do Not Judge Another

14 Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,

and every tongue shall give praise to ¹⁰ God.'

¹² So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Gospel Reading**Matthew 18:21-35****NT page 19***Forgiveness*

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' ²² Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

²³ 'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." ²⁹ Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

R&S 302 O Breathe of life, come sweeping through us

1 O Breathe of life, come sweeping through us,
revive your church with life and power;
O Breath of life, come, cleanse, renew us,
And fit your church to meet this hour.

2 O Wind of God, come, bend us, break us,
till humbly we confess our need;
then in your tenderness remake us,
revive, restore; for this we plead.

3 O Breath of love, come, breathe within us,
renewing thought and will and heart:
come, love of Christ, afresh to win us,
revive your church in every part.

Elizabeth Porter Head. (1850-1936)

Reflection

A moment for reflection as Stephen plays the organ

R&S 92 Amazing grace

1 Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

2 As grace that taught my heart to fear
so grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear,
the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
God's grace that brought me safe thus far,
and he will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures;

5 and, when this heart and flesh shall fail,
and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil
a life of joy and peace.

John Newton. (1725-1807)

Our prayers of intercession

Almighty and all-knowing God, your world and all its people are in your hand. You alone see the big picture. You alone know your plans, plans to prosper and not to harm us. And yet it is hard not to feel anxious and uncertain when we look around us and see so much need for prayer.

Yours is a path of generosity, grace and peace, but your children are led astray with greed, intolerance and violence. We ask your blessing on the peace-makers - those seeking to mediate between warring nations and factions and individuals. Encourage and strengthen them, giving them the right words to say. May your Holy Spirit infuse the hearts of those who wield power and influence, that they may prioritise justice, safety and wellbeing for all. May we use our votes prayerfully and our voices wisely, unafraid to speak truth to power.

Help us trust your love and your leading, as we journey on together.

God, who led your people to safety in treacherous times, we pray for those who are in danger at this time; those who make the news such as the victims of the floods in Nepal and China, the volcano in Indonesia or the collapsed building in Delhi, and those whose situation goes unnoticed by others. We pray for those who put their lives at risk to seek sanctuary in another country due to danger at home, not knowing what kind of welcome they will receive. Bless all who work to support those in danger and in need, and may our hearts be filled with compassion and understanding.

Help us trust your love and your leading, as we journey on together.

Creator and carer of all, you see the needs of each individual and long to lead them from all that holds them back from living life in all its fullness. We pray for those whose mental health is affected by their situation, those who are limited by anxiety or lack of understanding of how to navigate the circumstances they find themselves in. We bring before you all whose quality of life is marred by poverty, unemployment, homelessness, and lack of opportunity. We pray for those who are sick or who feel held back by weakness or impairment, and for those who mourn. May your love and comfort envelop them, your strength infuse them, your spirit encourage them. Strengthen and equip those who work amongst them and move us with compassion to help where we can, whether it be practically, emotionally or financially.

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R&S 663 Love divine, all loves excelling

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
 joy of heaven to earth come down!
 fix in us thy humble dwelling,
 all thy faithful mercies crown.
 Jesus, thou art all compassion,
 pure unbounded love thou art;
 visit us with thy salvation,
 enter every trembling heart.

2 Come, almighty to deliver,
 let us all thy grace receive;
 suddenly return, and never,
 never more thy temples leave.

Thee we would be always blessing,
 serve thee as thy hosts above,
 pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
 glory in thy perfect love.

3 Finish then thy new creation,
 pure and spotless let us be;
 let us see thy great salvation
 perfectly restored in thee!
 changed from glory into glory,
 till in heaven we take our place;
 till we cast our crowns before thee,
 lost in wonder, love and praise.

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

A sending out prayer

Go out as forgiven people,
 forgiving those who hurt, disappoint or outrage,
 not in the world's way of 'anything for a quiet life',
 but as disciples of Jesus who forgive from the heart,
 offering generously of yourselves,
 in the cause of God's peace. **Amen.**

The Blessing

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.**

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we are the people we are and the people we can become
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we praise you in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

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R&S 302 O Breathe of life, come sweeping through us

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And fit your church to meet this hour.

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A sending out prayer

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The Blessing

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.**