



# COMMUNITY WORSHIP HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity

**COME TO WORSHIP**

**WELCOME & INTRODUCTION**

Before our cloistering started we had a quiet communion service at 9.45 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month. This is the second Sunday and Mark Hinchliffe has provided us with three older hymns to enable us to prepare our hearts:

**God of mercy, God of grace**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nvn4OEq9ezU>

**Brother, sister, let me serve you**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ttW9oQ-yiuU>

**Come ye faithful, raise the strain**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8u2owUn57-w>

During this service, after each hymn being announced, we will allow time for you to change the YouTube link if you choose. Also, after each passage of our Bible reading is announced we will allow time for you to look it up in your Bibles, or on your Bible Apps or Bible Gateway and follow the reading. We use the New International Version (UK).

**OPENING HYMN:**

**Come now is the time to worship**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-jU1q33K6yQ>

**✠ THE PSALM FOR THE DAY IS PSALM 114**

<sup>1</sup> When Israel came out of Egypt, Jacob from a people of foreign tongue, <sup>2</sup> Judah became **God's sanctuary**, Israel **his dominion**. <sup>3</sup> The sea looked and fled, the Jordan turned back; <sup>4</sup> the mountains leaped like rams, the hills like lambs. <sup>5</sup> **Why was it**, sea, that you fled? **Why, Jordan**, did you turn back? <sup>6</sup> **Why, mountains**, did you leap like rams, you hills, like lambs? <sup>7</sup> Tremble, earth, **at the presence** of the Lord, **at the presence** of the God of Jacob, <sup>8</sup> who turned the rock into a pool, the hard rock **into springs of water**.

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen*



**THE GREETING**



We come together in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Faithful one, whose word is life: come with saving power to free our praise, inspire our prayer and shape our lives for the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**The St George's Prayer** *Our Father, as individuals and as a community may we come to know and love you more and more, may we feel your love and care through each other, may we be witnesses to Christ wherever we are, and by the power of your Holy Spirit, may we be attentive to you, to our neighbour and to your world.*

🎵 **CELEBRATION SONG** – a song about God being with us

**Whether You're one** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLbGU6ZbuBQ>

### ✠ **INTRODUCTION TO CONFESSION**

St Paul says 'Be imitators of God; love as Christ loved; do not grieve the Holy Spirit; put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and malice.' So let us confess our sins to God who forgives us in Christ.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

### ✠ **ABSOLUTION**

May almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to save sinners, bring *you* his pardon and peace, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### ***THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS is said or sung and/or SONGS OF THANKSGIVING***

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

🎵 **In Response: Wonderful grace**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kdugliaCXUk>

### ✠ **COLLECT**

Merciful God, your Son came to save us and bore our sins on the cross: may we trust in your mercy and know your love, rejoicing in the righteousness that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord.



**SCRIPTURE:** NB Normally in **Vita Voce Services** there will only be one reading and the Gospel.

✘ **OLD TESTAMENT READING** Exodus 14.19-31

<sup>9</sup> **Then the angel of God**, who had been travelling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. **The pillar of cloud also** moved from in front and stood behind them, <sup>20</sup> coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other; so neither went near the other all night long.

<sup>21</sup> **Then Moses stretched out his hand** over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, <sup>22</sup> and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

<sup>23</sup> The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. <sup>24</sup> During the last watch of the night **the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud** at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. <sup>25</sup> He jammed<sup>[a]</sup> the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, 'Let's get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.'

<sup>26</sup> **Then the LORD said to Moses**, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen.' <sup>27</sup> Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing towards<sup>[b]</sup> it, and the LORD swept them into the sea. <sup>28</sup> The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen – the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.

<sup>29</sup> **But the Israelites** went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. <sup>30</sup> That day the LORD saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. <sup>31</sup> And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

**This is the Word of the Lord, Thanks be to God**

✘ **NEW TESTAMENT READING** Romans 14.1-12

**Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarrelling** over disputable matters. <sup>2</sup> One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. <sup>3</sup> The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, **for God has accepted them.** <sup>4</sup> Who are you to judge someone else's servant? **To their own master, servants stand or fall.** And they will stand, **for the Lord is able to make them stand.** <sup>5</sup> **One person considers one day more sacred than another;** another considers every day alike. **Each of them should**

**be fully convinced in their own mind.** <sup>6</sup> Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. <sup>7</sup> **For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone.** <sup>8</sup> **If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.** <sup>9</sup> **For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.** <sup>10</sup> You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister?<sup>[a]</sup> Or why do you treat them with contempt? **For we will all stand before God's judgment seat.** <sup>11</sup> It is written: "As surely as I live," says the Lord, **"Every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God."** <sup>12</sup> So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

### **This is the Word of the Lord, Thanks be to God**

 **GOSPEL HYMN** **He is Lord** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bu5LSVKdGCs>

✠ The Word was made flesh and lived among us **and we have seen his glory.**

**Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St ... , Glory to you O Lord**

✠ **THE GOSPEL** **Matthew 18.21-35**

<sup>21</sup> **Then Peter came to Jesus and asked,** 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?' <sup>22</sup> **Jesus answered,** 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.'<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>23</sup> **Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like** a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup> As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold<sup>[b]</sup> was brought to him. <sup>25</sup> Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. <sup>26</sup> 'At this the servant fell on his knees before him. "Be patient with me," he begged, "and I will pay back everything."<sup>27</sup> **The servant's master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go.** <sup>28</sup> **But when that servant went out,** he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. "Pay back what you owe me!" he demanded. <sup>29</sup> 'His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, "Be patient with me, and I will pay it back."<sup>30</sup> 'But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. <sup>32</sup> 'Then the master called the servant in. "You wicked servant," he said, "I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. <sup>33</sup> **Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?"** <sup>34</sup> In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. <sup>35</sup> **'This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'**

### **This is the Gospel of the Lord, Praise you O Christ**

## Sermon    Being a Grace-Church

*May the words of my mouth and the meditation of all our hearts  
be pleasing to you O Lord our Saviour*

### Introduction

In the world we are to exhibit the character of our God. Truth and love should dance together in our lives in a beautiful tango

✘ **PSALM 114** Our Psalm reading tells us something about God – a God who can only be known if he chooses to reveal himself. This he does in creation, in his people and, of course, most clearly and dramatically, in the incarnation – Emmanuel, God with us.

In this Psalm we discover that God is happy to draw close to us - <sup>2</sup>*Judah became God's sanctuary, Israel his dominion* – the God whose power and work causes the sea, the Jordan river and the mountains to tremble – is the one who makes himself present with his people. For his people, he *turned the rock into a pool, the hard rock into springs of water.*

This is grace – it is a God who at all times humbles himself in order to enter into relationship with humanity. To bless is to bow the knee and God in his infinite love and grace, bows the knee to us – we in response, bless him by bowing our knee to him.

✘ **OLD TESTAMENT READING Exodus 14.19-31** Here is the presence of God in action – the story is the crossing of the Red Sea. The Israelites are fearful, all looks lost. Their enemy is much stronger ... and then God intervenes. His messengers the angels are there protecting the people of God ... but even greater is the pillar of cloud and fire – cloud by day and fire by night. This is the sign of God's presence. When the pillar stayed, they stayed. When the pillar moved, they moved. God's presence was real and active.

Would it not be great to have God obvious in such a way? I think of guidance as the pillar of cloud. I am in a place as long as the cloud seems settled. When I feel it begin to shimmer, I wonder if it is time to get ready to move. Sometimes then the cloud settles back and other times it moves ... and I have to move also.

This view of God, though, is quite impersonal. He shows his love and grace in a most powerful way.

The New Testament, though, leads us into a more intimate view of God. When you read the Old Testament it is full of God's grace. Read Deuteronomy, Ruth, Psalms and Isaiah in particular – but it is there throughout. However, it is only in Christ that we see God's grace in its fullest.

✘ **GOSPEL Matthew 18.21-35** Our Gospel reading introduces us to the personal side of grace. The Old Testament readings was about the powerful presence, this is a personal presence. It is presence that should enable us to live as God would have us. If God forgives us ... we have to keep on forgiving others. Forgiveness is not the same as trusting ... that is to do with wisdom. Forgiveness is letting go of hurt and disappointment, it is refusing to hold grudges and this allow bitterness to grow within us. If we were to appreciate the enormity of God's grace and favour, if we were to understand the depths of God's forgiveness then we would not be like this servant who despite being forgiven much refused to forgive others a little. Our Gospel reading in Matthew 18 finishes with: ***.<sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?"*** <sup>34</sup>*And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt.* ***<sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.***

Forgiveness is serious stuff. We are to be judged if we don't forgive. Forgiveness is necessary in friendship, marriage and the family, at school, work or church. Our attitudes have to be gracious – treat others as we would want to be treated ourselves. There is to be no cheap grace – forgiveness is meant to make a difference to how we live. I want us always to be a grace-filled church – a church full of forgiveness, affirmation and love. We are well on the road to that I believe but let us never rest .. we want to be like Jesus!

So if this is so, how would we treat others? Our reading from Romans 14 gives us some hint.

✘ **NEW TESTAMENT READING Romans 14.1-12** We recognise that Christians have different views, some believe one thing, others another; some prefer one thing, others another. Some are vegetarian, others like meat, some are more expressive in worship, others more meditative. The lessons of this passage is clear:

1. We must not spend our time quarrelling: arguments are won more by love than arguing. V1
2. If God welcomes them, how can I not. v3 ***for God has welcomed them:***
- 3.v4 All are accountable to God, not to us: ***It is before their own lord that they stand or fall.***
4. v4 In the end we have to trust God for others. ***for the Lord is able to make them stand:***
5. v5 This does not mean we should be woolly or undecided in what we believe. Rather, ***Let all be fully convinced in their own minds.***

Then Paul goes to to some principles to remember:

- ✘ <sup>8</sup> 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.***
- ✘ For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God.
- ✘ every knee shall bow to me, every tongue shall give praise to God.'

✠ <sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

### Some things to remember

1. Primaries and secondaries: we need to be clear about which is which. What things are key to faith and which are secondary. The reason we worship with creeds and liturgy is because it teaches us what are the primaries.
2. Where Christians disagree: how we disagree is important.
3. This does not mean there are to be no standards in the Christian community and anything goes ... no, Scripture is very clear when it wants to be – and unclear when it wants to be! Scripture stands against all societies, all politics, all movements and urges us to live our lives in the light of **the judgement seat of God**. We live in the world, but it is to God we all have to be accountable for our attitudes and behaviour. As in Philippians 2, it is to him that **every knee will bow**.

### A final word

These words are addressed to the whole church. The work of the church is not only the work of the minister. We are all responsible for each other. I would say, please be realistic in expectations of each other but in love, serve each other.

*In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.*

### THE APOSTLES' CREED –

*(If you are able, please stand)*

*This is what we believe.*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*(Please sit)*

### PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*O Lord, hear my prayer may be sung*

*These responses may be used:*

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer** or Lord, hear us **Lord, graciously hear us.**

*At the end:*

**Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Minister** Almighty and everlasting God,  
the comfort of the sad, the strength of those who suffer:



**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
[Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.]**

**Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.**

**In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.**

Great is the mystery of faith

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.  
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

**Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom**

all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

### **THE COMMUNION**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

### **GIVING OF COMMUNION**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world,  
blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

The body of Christ broken for you; the blood of Christ shed for you

### **✠ POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Lord God, the source of truth and love,  
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,

united in prayer and the breaking of bread,  
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son  
Jesus Christ.**

**Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out  
in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

**FINAL HYMN**

**In my life Lord be glorified** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e5bpU3hzMXs>

***Blessing***

✠ The Lord bless *you* and watch over *you*,  
the Lord make his face shine upon *you*  
and be gracious to *you*,  
the Lord look kindly on *you*  
and give *you* peace;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

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