



COMMUNITY WORSHIP HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday, 6th September 2020 13th Sunday after Trinity

COME TO WORSHIP

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

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:

Bless the Lord O my soul <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vSxocnIaNOA>

✠ THE PSALM FOR THE DAY IS PSALM 149

Praise the LORD.^[a] **Sing** to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of his faithful people. ² Let Israel **rejoice** in **their Maker**; let the people of Zion be **glad** in **their King**. ³ Let them **praise** his name with **dancing** and **make music** to him with tambourine and harp. ⁴ For the LORD **takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with victory**. ⁵ Let his **faithful people rejoice** in this honour and **sing** for joy on their beds. ⁶ May the **praise** of God be in their mouths and **a double-edged sword in their hands,** ⁷ **to inflict vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples,** ⁸ **to bind their kings with fetters, their nobles with shackles of iron,** ⁹ **to carry out the sentence written against them** – this is the glory of all his **faithful people**. **Praise the LORD.**

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

He's got the whole world in his hands

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

✘ INTRODUCTION TO CONFESSION

God so loved the world that he gave us his only Son Jesus Christ
to save us from our sins,
to be our advocate in heaven,
and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments
and to live in love and peace with all.

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

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon *you*,
pardon and deliver *you* from all *your* sins,
confirm and strengthen *you* in all goodness, and keep *you* in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

Gloria, in Excelsis Deo (Taize) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uicBdKwA1hA>

✘ COLLECT

Almighty God, you search us and know us:
may we rely on you in strength and rest on you in weakness,
now and in all our days; 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 12.1-14

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, ² 'This month is to be for you **the first month, the first month of your year.** ³ Tell the whole community of Israel that on **the tenth day** of this month each man is to take a lamb^[a] for his family, one for each household. ⁴ If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbour, having taken into account the number of people there are. **You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what**

each person will eat. ⁵ The animals you choose must be **year-old males without defect**, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. ⁶ Take care of them until **the fourteenth day** of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. ⁷ **Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the door-frames of the houses** where they eat the lambs. ⁸ **That same night** they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. ⁹ Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water, but roast it over a fire – with the head, legs and internal organs. ¹⁰ Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. ¹¹ **This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD's Passover.** ¹² **'On that same night** I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will **bring judgment** on all the gods of Egypt. **I am the LORD.** ¹³ **The blood will be a sign** for you on the houses where you are, **and when I see the blood, I will pass over you.** No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt. ¹⁴ **'This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD – a lasting ordinance.**

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

✠ **NEW TESTAMENT READING** **Romans 13.8-14**

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt **to love one another**, for **whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.** ⁹ The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not covet,'^[a] and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: **'Love your neighbour as yourself.'**^[b] ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbour. **Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law.** ¹¹ And do this, **understanding the present time**: the hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹² **The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside** the deeds of darkness and put on **the armour of light.** ¹³ Let us behave **decently**, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴ **Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ**, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.^[c]

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

🎵 **GOSPEL HYMN** Let there be love shared among us

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZYQZPHABY8>

✠ Jesus Christ is the Light of the world: **a light no darkness can quench.**

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

✠ THE GOSPEL Matthew 18.15-20

¹⁵ **'If your brother or sister^[a] sins,^[b]** go and point out their fault, **just between the two of you.** If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ **But if they will not** listen, take one or two others along, so that "every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses."^[c] ¹⁷ **If they still refuse** to listen, tell it to the church; **and if they refuse to listen** even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. ¹⁸ **Truly I tell you,** whatever you bind on earth will be^[d] bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be^[e] loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ **Again, truly I tell you** that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ **For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.'**

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



Sermon Elements of Renewal

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

INTRODUCTION

We begin a new time, new academic year, new year at school and we welcome a new worker in our church, Daleen Bakker, a Ministry Experience Scheme Intern who is due to be with us for this academic year. As we come into a fresh cycle I would like to think with you about elements of renewal. What do we need as life moves forward?

1. We need an attitude of Praise & Thankfulness Psalm 149

The phrase translated Praise the Lord is really *Hallelu Yah*. In our part of the world we are rich. Our brothers and sisters in other parts of the world often don't have our luxuries, but my experience is that they are so often full of gratitude for what they do have.

In this Psalm we are told to **praise**, we are told to **sing**, we are told to **rejoice**, we are told to **be glad ... even to dance and make music ...** it seems to be this is how God's **faithful people** (a phrase used twice) are expected to behave.

How do we get there? I believe it is to do with focus. Here the focus is in God as our **Maker** and our **King**, it is a God who **takes delight** in us. The correct focus enables a life of thanksgiving and praise. This is transformative.

2. We need a sense of Expectancy Exodus 12:1-14.

For the people of Israel this was to be a completely fresh start. It was to be the first month of all months. God was bringing a completely new experience ... it was to be

called the Passover. Our Old Testament reading tells us about it. God was going to set his people free in a most dynamic way.

As we go into this new season I believe we need a sense of Expectancy ... this is to be a Fresh Start with God. God invites us to travel with him. That really is the purpose of Holy Communion. It is a reminder, an entering into the story of and a celebration of God calling us into freedom as a community. We remind ourselves in our rhythm every Maundy Thursday, the day before Good Friday, but we enter into this each time we celebrate Holy Communion. In the liturgy (which means the work of the people because a service with liturgy is a dynamic of minister and people), in the liturgy of Maundy Thursday we say:

*Tonight we begin the Great Three Days of our Lord's passion, death and resurrection, the journey from the supper table to the cross, from the cross to Easter dawn. We are followers in his way, encountering his life. **This is the night** when Christ the Lamb of God gave himself into the hands of those who would betray him.*

***This is the night** when Christ gathered with his disciples in the upper room.*

***This is the night** when Christ our Lord gave us this holy feast, that as we break the bread and drink the cup we may here proclaim his holy sacrifice, and come at the last to his table in heaven.*

***This is the night** when Christ took a towel and washed the disciples' feet, showing us how to honour and serve one another in love.*

This is the night** for watching and prayer. We give ourselves freely to the demands of these great days, confident that those who die in Christ will surely live with him. This first liturgy of the Three Days has no ending; it continues with the worship of Good Friday and concludes with the Vigil of Easter. **Together the Three Days proclaim the mystery of our faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

This expectancy transforms our present.

3. We need a Commitment to Community Romans 13:8-14

The story of the Passover we read in Exodus talks about sharing with our neighbour. Thinking of the other is love. It is not necessarily feeling love ... it is *doing* love. Our reading in Romans tells us that loving one another is the fulfilment of the law. If we love as God would have us love, we will not commit adultery, we will not murder, we will not steal, we will not covet. I was sent a cartoon of Moses with the ten commandments and the 10th one, instead of saying, *You shall not covet your neighbour's wife* said, *You shall not Covid your neighbour's life* ... wearing a mask in these days is a matter of law ... but it is also a demonstration of love, a concern for our neighbour. When we live love ... we are showing that, as verse 14 puts it, we are clothed with our Lord Jesus Christ. Years ago I remember reading a story of a Japanese student who said that someone built a bridge into my life, over which walked Jesus. Let us in love be bridge builders. Life is to be lived ... and love is central to that.

4. We need a Confidence in Christ Matthew 18:15-20

Some things to note in the text here:

1. The authority of the community is clearly anticipated – the New Testament knows nothing about a completely individualistic faith
2. There was a Rabbinic statement that ‘If two sit together and words of the Law (are) between them, the Shekinah (God’s presence) rests between them’. Mishnah *Aboth* 3:2. But now the ‘divine presence’ is Jesus [RT France]
3. *symphoneo* to produce a sound together – it is the word for ‘agree’ in v19
4. Only place *ekklesia* (the called out ones) used in Gospels

Back to our theme, we need a confidence in Christ. Our Gospel reading finishes with the words: *20 For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.*’ If we had an intimate sense that Christ was with us, would we act the way we do? Would we hurt other people? Would we refuse to forgive others? Would we not rather live in openness and integrity? But the reality is that when we gather together ... even two of us ... Christ is there.

Virtual life does not take God by surprise and I suspect that when we meet together virtually, he is there. He said to his disciples that he would be with them to the very end of the age. Living with Christ in our midst leads to a life of love, warmth, genuineness and commitment. He is committed to us, and if we are committed to him, we are to be committed to all who he is committed to ... so we are to be committed to each other. We Will work for unity, we WILL want our community to show the love and presence of Christ.

FINALE

Elements of Renewal

1. We need an attitude of Praise & Thankfulness Psalm 149
2. We need a sense of Expectancy Exodus 12:1-14.
3. We need a Commitment to Community Romans 13:8-14
4. We need a Confidence in Christ Matthew 18:15-20

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)

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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:
hear the prayers of your children who cry out of any trouble,
and to every distressed soul grant mercy, relief and refreshment,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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✠ INTRODUCTION TO THE PEACE

Blessed are the peacemakers: they shall be called children of God.
We meet in the name of Christ and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace. *All may exchange a sign of peace*

🎵 **OFFERTORY HYMN Brother, sister let me serve you**

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

✠ RECEIVING BREAD AND WINE

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this bread to set before you,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this wine to set before you,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER (A) – *The great prayer of praise and thanksgiving.*

The Lord is here. **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For he is your living Word; through him you have created all things from the beginning, and formed us in your own image.

Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin, giving him to be born of a woman and to die upon the cross; you raised him from the dead and exalted him to your right hand on high.

Through him you have sent upon us your holy and life-giving Spirit, and made us a people for your own possession.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and *saying*:

**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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; 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.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

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.

The Agnus Dei may be said or sung

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

God our creator, you feed your children with the true manna,
the living bread from heaven:
let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage
until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more;
through 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 When I needed a neighbour were you there

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fExR7eOhJ00>

Closing

✠ Draw your Church together, O God,
into one great company of disciples,
together following our Lord Jesus Christ
into every walk of life,
together serving him in his mission to the world,
and together witnessing to his love
on every continent and island.

Amen.

Blessing

✠ The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
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.

