

Morning Worship, 31 October, 10.30am

Holy Communion, led by Rev Emma Cusack.

Watch live or at a time convenient to you on YouTube: youtu.be/tA4TijXfyLA

or join on Zoom: bit.ly/2J5jvY8

To join the service through Zoom on your landline phone, dial **020 3481 5240**, listen to the announcement and when prompted, enter the meeting ID **874 6773 6490** followed by #; just # on its own when asked for your Participant ID; and when prompted, the passcode **702336** followed by #.

You will then be connected to the service – simply hang up at the end or whenever you wish to leave.

Welcome & Prayer for the Church Family

Call to Worship

(Eph 2:10, GNB)

God has made us what we are, and in our union with Christ Jesus he has created us for a life of good deeds, which he has already prepared for us to do.

Opening prayer

(Pickard)

We thank you, God!

We want to tell the world what you have done, your wonderful works.

We praise you, God!

We remember our beginnings and celebrate belonging together in your world.

We trust you, God!

You are still our help.

We go forward in faith,

remembering all you have done. **Amen**

Hymn: Singing the Faith 6

Father, we love you,
we worship and adore you:
glorify your name
in all the earth.
Glorify your name,
glorify your name,
glorify your name,
in all the earth.

Jesus, we love you,
we worship and adore you:
glorify your name
in all the earth.
Glorify your name,
glorify your name,
glorify your name,
in all the earth.

Spirit, we love you,
we worship and adore you:
glorify your name
in all the earth.
Glorify your name,
glorify your name,
glorify your name,
in all the earth.

Donna Adkins

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Prayer of Confession

(Roots)

Lord God, we confess that we struggle to love others.
Sometimes we don't even recognise who our neighbour is,
never mind knowing how to love them.

Encourage us in your ways, O Lord.

We confess that we don't always realise
that to show love to others,
first we have to learn to love ourselves.
Sometimes we haven't a clue how to do that.
We may have an ideal in our head of what love is,
then get cross with ourselves when we fall short.

Encourage us in your ways, O Lord.

We confess that we have the idea that love is
this great dramatic gesture or action,
when sometimes it can be as small as a touch of a fingertip.

Encourage us in your ways, O Lord. Amen.

Assurance of forgiveness

(Roots)

The God of all heaven and earth
looks upon us now with love.
He wraps us tightly in his arms.
His love pardons us, enfolds us,
emboldens us to accept that our sins are forgiven,
and we can go into the world to reveal his love.
Praise be to God. **Amen.**

Readings: Deuteronomy 6: 1-9

(NIV)

These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door-frames of your houses and on your gates.

Mark 12: 28-34

(NIV)

The greatest commandment

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, 'Of all the commandments, which is the most important?'

'The most important one,' answered Jesus, 'is this: "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." The second is this: "Love your neighbour as yourself." There is no commandment greater than these.'

'Well said, teacher,' the man replied. 'You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.'

When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And from then on no-one dared ask him any more questions.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 59

Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining:
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us;
set us free by the truth you now bring us:
shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,
fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze,
set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word,
Lord, and let there be light!*

Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
from the shadows into your radiance;
by the blood I may enter your brightness:
search me, try me, consume all my darkness:
shine on me, shine on me.

As we gaze on your kingly brightness
so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory:
mirrored here, may our lives tell your story:
shine on me, shine on me.

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Reflection

Prayers of Intercession

(Roots)

As the leaders of nations meet in Glasgow to agree goals to combat change, we pray that there may be commitment by all countries to work together, and join forces with civil society, companies and people, on the frontline of climate change, to inspire and lead climate action. We pray that those who meet in Glasgow may have the wisdom and vision to treasure, protect and love the world which you created and which you entrusted to our care.

God of love, may we love our world, each other and you.

As Coronavirus cases continue to increase, and as many are concerned about the impact of the virus on their lives and their mental health, we pray that you will inspire the leaders of all nations to take appropriate actions to protect all people. We thank you for the vaccination programme, and we pray for all who are delivering the boosters, health professionals and volunteers alike. May research be accurate and helpful; may decisions be carefully thought out and wise; may the response be wholehearted. We pray for those whose mental health has been affected in any way; those suffering now with the virus; and those caring for them.

God of love, may we love our world, each other and you.

We pray for peace throughout the world. We remember especially the people of Sudan, where the Sovereign Council that was overseeing the transition to democracy has been dissolved and heavily armed soldiers deployed in the capital. We pray for Afghanistan where more than half the population – about 22.8 million people – face acute food insecurity, while over three million children under five could suffer acute malnutrition.

God of love, may we love our world, each other and you.

We pray for our church and for other churches and places of worship in our community. May we enable people to encounter God, work together to build community, serve those in need and share your love widely. Help us to build each other up as we seek to strengthen your kingdom among us.

God of love, may we love our world, each other and you.

We bring into your love all for whom we are especially concerned today, naming them in our hearts or picturing them in our minds. We pray for the sick and those who are worried, for the lonely and any who feel isolated, for the sorrowful and those who are recently bereaved, for ourselves, our families and friends.

God of love, may we love our world, each other and you.

Jesus said, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength; and you shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

God of love, may we love our world, each other and you.

In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving for Offering

The Lord's Prayer

**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 forever.
Amen.**

The Peace

May the peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

We share a sign of peace with one another.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 30

Jesus, stand among us
at the meeting of our lives,
be our sweet agreement
at the meeting of our eyes.

*O Jesus, we love you,
so we gather here,
join our hearts in unity
and take away our fear.*

So to you we're gathering
out of each and ev'ry land,
Christ the love between us
at the joining of our hands.

Jesus, stand among us
at the breaking of the bread;
join us as one body
as we worship you, our Head.

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HOLY COMMUNION

(WGRG)

The Invitation

This is the table,
not of the Church but of the Lord.
It is to be made ready
for those who love him
and who want to love him more.

So come,
you who have much faith
and you who have little;
you who have been here often
and you who have not been for a long time;
you who have tried to follow
and you who have failed.

Come,
not because it is I who invite you:
it is our Lord.
It is his will that those who want him
should meet him here.

Eucharistic Prayer of Thanksgiving

You prepare a table for us;
offering not just bread, not just wine,
but your very self
so that we may be filled, forgiven,
healed, blessed and made new again.
You are worth all our pain and all our praise.

So, in gratitude
we join our voice
to those of the Church
on earth and in heaven.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord;
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,
hosanna in the highest.
Blessèd is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord God,
as we come to share
the richness of your table,
we cannot forget
the rawness of the earth.

We cannot take bread
and forget those who are hungry.
Your world is one world,
and we are stewards of its nourishment.

**Lord, put our prosperity
at the service of the poor.**

We cannot take wine
and forget those who are thirsty.
The ground and the rootless,
the earth and its weary people
cry out for justice.

**Lord put our fullness
at the service of the empty**

We cannot hear your words of peace
and forget the world at war.

**Show us quickly Lord,
how to turn weapons
into welcome signs
and the lust for power
into a desire for peace.**

We cannot celebrate
the feast of your family
and forget our divisions.

**Lord heal your church
in every brokenness.**

Our hands are empty,
our hearts are sometimes full
of wrong things.

We are not fit to gather up the crumbs
from under your table.

**But with you is mercy
and the power to change us.**

So, as we do in this place
what you did in an upstairs room,
send down your Holy Spirit
on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine
that they may become for us your body,
healing, forgiving,
and making us whole;

**And that we may become
for you,
your body,
loving and caring in the world
until your kingdom comes.**

Amen

Among friends,
gathered round a table,
Jesus took bread, broke it and said,
'This is my body, it is broken for you.'
And later he took the cup of wine and said
'This is the new relationship with God,
made possible because of my death.
Take this – all of you – to remember me'

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

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

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

Look, here is your Lord coming to you
in bread and wine.
These are the gifts of God
for the people of God. **Amen**

Sharing of the Bread and Wine

A steward will direct you to the front to receive Communion.

*Please approach the altar rail from the centre aisle
and return to your seats via the side aisles.*

*All are welcome to receive Communion. If you do not wish to receive,
you may approach the front for a blessing, or simply stay in your seat.*

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray together:

**Lord Jesus Christ,
you have put your life in our hands;
now we put our lives into yours.**

**Take us,
renew and remake us.
What we have been is past;
what we shall be, through you,
still awaits us.**

**Lead us on.
Take us with you.**

Amen.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 503

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.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast,
let us all in thee inherit,
let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning,
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith as its beginning.
Set our hearts at liberty.

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.

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,
'til in heaven we take our place,
'til we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Closing prayer

(1 Pet 4: 10-11, CEV)

Each of you has been blessed with one of God's many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others. So use your gift well. If you have the gift of speaking, preach God's message. If you have the gift of helping others, do it with the strength that God supplies. Everything should be done in a way that will bring honour to God because of Jesus Christ, who is glorious and powerful forever. Amen.

Blessing

May the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with you now and forever. Amen

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