



SUNDAY SERVICE  
Listen and understand  
16th August 2020

## Gathering

### Words of welcome

### Opening Prayer

With open arms you welcome all who call on your name - who acknowledge you as Lord, and look to you in faith. No one stands outside the circle of your mercy and love. And so we come to offer you our worship - to declare that you are our God, and that we are your people, called and chosen by you from the very beginning.

**Through the presence of your Holy Spirit open our eyes to see you; open our minds to receive your truth, and our mouths to speak and sing your praise. For you alone are God - worthy of all praise and worship, now and to the end of time. Amen.**

## Hymn

From the sun's rising unto the sun's setting

*Graham Kendrick*

## Approach and confession

**We are here, Lord,  
ready to focus totally on you.  
Help us to be brave enough, like Peter,  
to ask the questions that we would like  
to ask, and open enough to hear your  
answer. Speak to us, Lord. We are  
listening.**

Lord God, as we come before you now, we open our hearts to you. Hear our confession and in your great mercy, forgive us.

### *Silence*

Sometimes we look as though we are listening to others. We may even make all the right noises! But we confess that our attention is often anywhere but where it is supposed to be.

**Forgive us, Lord, for missed opportunities.**

Sometimes we are too distracted by our own concerns. We care only for ourselves, and listen only to those who say what we want to hear.

**Forgive us, Lord, for missed opportunities.**

Sometimes we don't listen to people because we don't like them, or because they are different from us. Sometimes we have bad or unhelpful thoughts.

**Forgive us, Lord, for missed opportunities.**

Sometimes we don't listen to you, Lord, because we are too busy, or frightened about what you might say to us.

**Forgive us, Lord, for missed opportunities. Amen.**

## Absolution

May the God of love and power  
forgive us and free us from our sins,  
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,  
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## A prayer of thanksgiving and praise

**Living Lord,  
we praise you that you are a God who  
loves. You have given us a marvellous  
world, to live in and to share with all  
your people. You, O God, love everyone  
equally, and we thank you that we are  
each unique. We thank you that each  
one of us has so much to give – and to  
receive – from each other. Thank you for  
each new experience that you give us.  
Amen.**

## The Collect

**Lord of heaven and earth,  
as Jesus taught his disciples to be  
persistent in prayer, give us patience and  
courage never to lose hope, but always  
to bring our prayers before you; through  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Hymn

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.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows  
are more felt than up in heaven;  
there is no place where earth's failings  
have such kindly judgement given.

For the love of God is broader  
than the measure of one's mind;  
and the heart of the Eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.

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.

There is plentiful redemption  
in the blood that has been shed;  
there is joy for all the members  
in the sorrows of the Head.  
There is grace enough for thousands  
of new worlds as great as this;  
There is room for fresh creations  
in that upper home of bliss.

If our love were but more simple,  
we should take him at his word:  
and our lives would be all glorious  
in the joy of Christ our Lord.

*Frederick William Faber (1814-1863)*

## The Word

### Reading

Matthew 15.10-28

Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand. What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them." Then the disciples came to him and asked, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?" He replied, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit." Peter said, "Explain the parable to us." "Are you still so dull?" Jesus asked them. "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. For out of the heart come evil thoughts--murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what defile

a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them."

Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly." Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel." The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said. He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs." "Yes it is, Lord," she said. "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed at that moment.

## Reflection

## Response

### Affirmation of Faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

**We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**

## Hymn

Then I saw a new earth, a new heaven,  
And the first heaven and earth disappear.  
No more war, no more hate, no more  
hunger,  
No more thirst, no more loss, no more  
fear.

*In God alone my hope. In God alone my  
strength.*

*In God alone my shelter be, my home, my  
heart, my liberty.*

No more pain, no more death,  
No more weeping, earth and heaven are  
one on that day.

For I saw all our tears form a river,  
and I saw every tear wiped away.

Then let all who are thirsty find water  
Let it flow from the well of new life.  
And let all who are waiting in darkness  
Know that God will become their new  
light.

For the world of the past is behind us  
And the whole of creation is new.  
And a feast is prepared for all peoples,  
For God's promise is faithful and true.

*Bernadette Farrell*

## Prayers

*Response:*

We pray in faith,  
**hear us and answer our cry.**

## 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 for ever.  
**Amen.**

## Sending

### Notices and News

### Hymn

And can it be that I should gain  
an interest in the Saviour's blood?  
Died he for me, who caused his pain;  
for me, who him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! how can it be  
that thou, my God, should die for me?

'Tis mystery all! the Immortal dies;  
who can explore his strange design?  
In vain the first-born seraph tries  
to sound the depths of love divine.  
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore;  
let angel minds enquire no more.

He left his Father's throne above  
so free, so infinite his grace  
emptied himself of all that love,  
and bled for Adam's helpless race.  
'Tis mercy all! immense and free,  
for, O my God, it found out me!

Long my imprisoned spirit lay,  
fast bound in sin and nature's night:  
Mine eye diffused a quick'ning ray;  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light.  
My chains fell off, my heart was free;  
I rose, went forth and followed thee!

No condemnation now I dread;  
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!

Alive in him, my living head,  
and clothed in righteousness divine,  
bold I approach the eternal throne  
and claim the crown through Christ  
my own.

*Charles Wesley (1707 - 1788)*

### Blessing

We leave here today, renewed and  
strengthened in faith, ready to serve you  
Lord, and to find you in all the people we  
meet.

And the blessing of God almighty, the  
Father, the Son and and Holy Spirit, be  
with us, and those we love and miss, this  
day and always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to listen and to serve.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Please stay and chat with others if you  
would like to. We'll follow with a short  
spoken service of Holy Communion for  
those who would like it, in about 15  
minutes.

Scanning this QR  
(Quick Response)  
code with your  
mobile phone will  
take you straight to  
the giving page on  
the church website.



Copyright Acknowledgement  
(Where not already indicated above)

Some material included in this service is copyright:  
© The Archbishops' Council 2000.

Some material: © ROOTS for Churches Ltd  
(www.rootsontheweb.com) 2002-2020

CCLI 417757 and Streaming Licence 780413.