

# ST PETER & ST PAUL'S CHURCH, AYLESFORD



## A Service of the Word with Holy Communion

Rushing and Resting

Trinity 7  
18th July 2021

Welcome and Gathering

Call to Worship

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Come away ... and rest a while.' Come into the Lord's presence now, away from the burdens and stresses of life. Come with open arms, and receive the rest that Jesus offers – to restore our souls, and equip us for whatever comes next.

Gathering Prayer

**O God, you are our shepherd. Your care and compassion were shown in the life of Jesus. We ask that, this very day, we may experience the rest you offer; the peace that can restore and revive us and enable us to live the promised abundant life. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

Hymn

Quiet now my soul  
Quiet now my soul  
There's peace, you can know  
Listen now and hear  
Listen now and hear  
Our God He is near

*Praise the Lord, O my soul  
Let all that's within me  
Praise the Lord,  
Praise the Lord Oh my soul*

Lay down at His feet  
Lay down at His feet  
Be still, just breathe  
Rest within His love  
Just rest within His love  
For He is enough

*Praise the Lord, O my soul  
Let all that's within me  
Praise the Lord,  
Praise the Lord Oh my soul*

For He's been good to us  
and His love endures

*Praise the Lord, O my soul  
Let all that's within me  
Praise the Lord,  
Praise the Lord Oh my soul  
Jamie Wolf and Summerlyn Sharpe*

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, you always make time for us; we are sorry that we don't always make time for you. When we are rushing around being busy, sometimes even when we are doing your work, we forget about you. We are sorry when we make our lives so full that there is no room left for you – no room to get away, to be in a quiet place with you.

**Forgive us, Lord, and help us not to hurry but to slow down, to make space for you to dwell within us. And in that dwelling place, may we seek what you want us to do and who you want us to spend time with. Help us to get the right balance, a right rhythm that is in tune with you. Amen.**

#### Assurance of forgiveness

Even though we have gone astray, you are our Shepherd – the one who brings us back to the fold. We are forgiven, and we are set free in the knowledge that you always make room for us. **Amen.**

#### Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Thank you, Lord, that you always had time for people. Even when you were tired and needed a rest, when the crowds gathered, your compassionate heart healed and restored all those who came to you.**

**Thank you that you are kind and caring and lavish your love upon us. Your self-giving love has set us free to be the people you have called us to be.**

**Thank you that you are present in the big and small things of our lives, in the ordinary and everyday times, and in the extraordinary and special times.**

**You never leave us or forsake us. Thank you, Lord, our Shepherd and King. Amen.**

#### The Collect

**Generous God, you give us gifts and make them grow: though our faith is small as mustard seed, make it grow to your glory and the flourishing of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading

#### Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### Hymn

Because the Lord is my shepherd,  
I have ev'rything I need.  
He lets me rest in the meadow  
and leads me to the quiet streams.  
He restores my soul and he leads me  
in the paths that are right:  
*Lord, you are my shepherd,  
you are my friend.  
I want to follow you always  
just to follow my friend.*

And when the road leads to darkness,  
I shall walk there unafraid.  
Even when death is close  
I have courage for your help is there.  
You are close beside me with comfort,  
you are guiding my way:  
*Refrain*

Your goodness always is with me  
and your mercy I know.  
Your loving kindness strengthens me  
always as I go through life.  
I shall dwell in your presence for ever,  
giving praise to your name.

*Refrain*

*Christopher Walker (b 1947)*

### Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Mark 6.30-34, 53-56

The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus. They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went - into villages, towns or countryside--they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### Sermon

#### Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God, Father,  
Son and Holy Spirit.

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.**

#### Prayers of Intercession

*Response*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

#### The Liturgy of the Sacrament

##### The Peace

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.  
Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

##### Hymn

Immortal Love for ever full,  
for ever flowing free,  
for ever shared, for ever whole,  
a never-ebbing sea.

Our outward lips confess the name  
all other names above;  
love only knoweth whence it came  
and comprehendeth love.

We may not climb the heavenly steeps  
to bring the Lord Christ down;  
in vain we search the lowest deeps,  
for him no depths can drown.

But warm, sweet, tender, even yet  
a present help is he;  
and faith has still its Olivet,  
and love its Galilee.

The healing of his seamless dress  
is by our beds of pain;  
we touch him in life's throng and press,  
and we are whole again.

Through Him the first fond prayers are said  
our lips of childhood frame;  
the last low whispers of our dead  
are burdened with his name.

Alone, O Love ineffable,  
thy saving name is given;  
to turn aside from thee is hell,  
to walk with thee is heaven.

*John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892)*

#### Offertory Prayer

Lord God, you who are able to do far  
more abundantly than all we ask or think;  
stir the power within us, that the gifts we  
give may be used to your glory. May our  
offering bless your church, your people,  
your creation. **Amen.**

#### The Eucharistic Prayer

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.**

... the praise of your glory.  
**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.**

Great is the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

... Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**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.**

#### Breaking of the Bread

I break this bread and take this cup so  
that we all share in the life of Christ.  
**God's gifts for all God's people.**

#### Invitation to Communion

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

## Giving of Communion

The body and blood of Christ.

**Amen.**

*Please wait to be guided by a sidesperson.  
There will be no words said at the altar.*

## Prayer after Communion

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live: may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## Sending

### News and Notices

### Hymn

Church of God, elect and glorious,  
holy nation, chosen race;  
called as God's own special people,  
royal priests and heirs of grace:  
know the purpose of your calling,  
show to all his mighty deeds;  
tell of love which knows no limits,  
grace which meets all human needs.

God has called you out of darkness  
into his most marvellous light;  
brought his truth to life within you,  
turned your blindness into sight.  
Let your light so shine around you  
that Gods name is glorified;  
and all find fresh hope and purpose  
in Christ Jesus crucified.

Once you were an alien people,  
strangers to God's heart of love;  
but he brought you home in mercy,  
citizens of heaven above.

Let his love flow out to others,  
let them feel a Father's care;  
that they too may know his welcome  
and his countless blessings share.

Church of God, elect and holy,  
be the people he intends;  
strong in faith and swift to answer  
each command your master sends:  
royal priests, fulfil your calling  
through your sacrifice and prayer;  
give your lives in joyful service-  
sing his praise, his love declare.

*James E Seddon*

## A sending out prayer and blessing

O God, in Scripture we read that you rested on the seventh day – after all the work of creation; and we read of Jesus' desire for his disciples to rest. As your followers, your disciples, now, and as we return to our busy lives, may we know the rest you offer every day of this week.

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you  
and with all those you love and miss,  
this day and always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord;  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

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