

# ST PETER & ST PAUL'S CHURCH, AYLESFORD



## A Service of the Word with Holy Communion

To whom can we go?

Trinity 12  
22nd August 2021

Welcome and Gathering

Call to Worship

God offers us hospitality.  
God's welcome is generous.  
God is here among us, meeting with us  
in our worship and in our fellowship.  
God longs to meet our needs  
as we come with hands open  
and arms outstretched.

A Gathering Prayer

**Welcoming God,  
we come to you with open hearts  
and with open hands.  
We come with our faith and hope,  
and with our doubts and fears.  
Send your Holy Spirit to work among us,  
filling us and changing us  
to become more like Jesus. Amen.**

Hymn

How shall I sing that majesty  
which angels do admire?  
Let dust in dust and silence lie;  
sing, sing, ye heavenly choir.  
Thousands of thousands stand around  
thy throne, O God most high;  
ten thousand times ten thousand sound  
thy praise; but who am I?

Thy brightness unto them appears,  
whilst I thy footsteps trace;  
a sound of God comes to my ears,  
but they behold thy face.  
They sing, because thou art their Sun;  
Lord, send a beam on me;  
for where heaven is but once begun  
there alleluias be.

How great a being, Lord, is thine,  
which doth all beings keep!  
Thy knowledge is the only line  
to sound so vast a deep.  
Thou art a sea without a shore,  
a sun without a sphere;  
thy time is now and evermore,  
thy place is everywhere.

*John Mason*

Prayer of Confession

When we turn away from you, O God,  
and go our own way:  
**forgive us, and turn us back to you.**

When the way ahead is not clear,  
when everything feels too much  
and we turn our backs on you:  
**forgive us, and turn us back to you.**

When we make wrong decisions  
and our actions hurt others:  
**forgive us, and turn us back to you.**

When we want to give up because it's  
too hard:  
**forgive us, and turn us back to you.**

When we cannot see beyond ourselves  
and act selfishly:

**forgive us, and turn us back to you.**

When we do not put you and others first:  
**forgive us, and turn us back to you.**

Turn us back to you, O God.

**Amen.**

#### Assurance of Forgiveness

God of mercy, despite going our own way  
and not following you, despite our doubts  
and fears of your presence, you are there.  
You lead us gently, you reach out your  
healing arms and you forgive us. **Amen.**

#### Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Thank you, Lord, for your unfailing love  
and forgiveness. Thank you that even  
with all our doubts and fears and worries  
about the journey ahead, you are there  
by our side.**

**Where else can we turn? To whom shall  
we go?**

**Thank you that you are our rock and  
our salvation, our strength and our high  
tower. Thank you that as we choose to  
go on this journey with you, as we make  
decisions and plans, you are there, gently  
leading and guiding, always present.**

**Praise you, Lord, for your constant love  
and faithfulness.**

**Amen.**

#### The Collect

**God of constant mercy, who sent your  
Son to save us: remind us of your  
goodness, increase your grace within us,  
that our thankfulness may grow, through  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading

Joshua 24.1-2a, 14-18

Then Joshua assembled all the tribes of  
Israel at Shechem. He summoned the  
elders, leaders, judges and officials of  
Israel, and they presented themselves  
before God. Joshua said to all the people,  
“Now fear the Lord and serve him with  
all faithfulness. Throw away the gods  
your ancestors worshipped beyond the  
Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve  
the Lord. But if serving the Lord seems  
undesirable to you, then choose for  
yourselves this day whom you will serve,  
whether the gods your ancestors served  
beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of  
the Amorites, in whose land you are  
living. But as for me and my household,  
we will serve the Lord.” Then the people  
answered, “Far be it from us to forsake  
the Lord to serve other gods! It was the  
Lord our God himself who brought us  
and our parents up out of Egypt, from  
that land of slavery, and performed those  
great signs before our eyes. He protected  
us on our entire journey and among all  
the nations through which we traveled.  
And the Lord drove out before us all the  
nations, including the Amorites, who lived  
in the land. We too will serve the Lord,  
because he is our God.”

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 34.15-22

O, taste and see that He is good  
Blessed is he who trusts in Him  
O, taste and see that He is good  
He is good, good to me

The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous  
And His ears listen for their cry  
The face of the Lord is against the wicked  
Their legacy will fade away

When the saints cry out, the Lord hears  
He saves them out of all their trials  
He's near to the broken-hearted  
And saves the crushed in spirit  
Many are the afflictions of His faithful ones  
But the Lord delivers them out of all,  
He preserves their bones  
Not even one is broken

But sin will slay the wicked ones  
Those who hate the saints will be  
condemned

The Lord redeems His servants' souls  
And none of them will be condemned

O, taste and see that He is good  
Blessed is he who trusts in Him  
O, taste and see that He is good  
He is good, good to me  
He is good, good to me

*The Psalms Project*

### Gospel Reading

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

John 6.56-69

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my  
blood remains in me, and I in them. Just  
as the living Father sent me and I live  
because of the Father, so the one who  
feeds on me will live because of me. This  
is the bread that came down from  
heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and  
died, but whoever feeds on this bread will  
live forever." He said this while teaching in  
the synagogue in Capernaum.

On hearing it, many of his disciples said,  
"This is a hard teaching. Who can accept  
it?" Aware that his disciples were  
grumbling about this, Jesus said to them,

"Does this offend you? Then what if you  
see the Son of Man ascend to where he  
was before! The Spirit gives life; the flesh  
counts for nothing. The words I have  
spoken to you - they are full of the Spirit  
and life. Yet there are some of you who  
do not believe." For Jesus had known  
from the beginning which of them did not  
believe and who would betray him. He  
went on to say, "This is why I told you that  
no one can come to me unless the Father  
has enabled them." From this time many  
of his disciples turned back and no longer  
followed him. "You do not want to leave  
too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve.  
Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to  
whom shall we go? You have the words of  
eternal life. We have come to believe and  
to know that you are the Holy One of God."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### Sermon

#### Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

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

## Prayers of Intercession

### *Response*

Lord, who shall we turn to but you:  
**for you have the words of eternal life.**

### *And at the end*

Lord, who shall we turn to but you:  
**for you have the words of eternal life.**  
**Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### The Peace

The words I have spoken to you - they are  
full of the Spirit and life. *John 6.63*

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

### Hymn

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You  
To receive the food of Your Holy Word.  
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;  
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,  
That the light of Christ might be seen today  
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.  
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us  
All Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience,  
Holy reverence, true humility;  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes  
In the radiance of Your purity.  
Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see  
Your majestic love and authority.  
Words of pow'r that can never fail—  
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;  
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans  
for us—  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time  
That will echo down through eternity.  
*Cont ...*

And by grace we'll stand on Your promises,  
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.  
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built  
And the earth is filled with Your glory.

*Keith Getty and Stuart Townend.*

### 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 never-ending hymn 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.**

... one God, 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

God of all mercy, in this Eucharist you  
have set aside our sins and given us your  
healing: grant that we who are made  
whole in Christ may bring that healing to  
this broken world, in the name of Jesus  
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### Sending

#### News and Notices

#### Hymn

We sing a love that sets all people free,  
that blows like wind, that burns like  
scorching flame,  
enfolds the earth, springs up like water  
clear:  
come, living love, live in our hearts today.

We sing a love that seeks another's good,  
that longs to serve and not to count the cost,  
a love that, yielding, finds itself made new:  
come, caring love, live in our hearts today.

We sing a love, unflinching, unafraid  
to be itself, despite another's wrath,  
a love that stands alone and undismayed:  
come, strengthening love, live in our  
hearts today.

We sing a love that, wandering, will not rest  
until it finds its way, its home, its source,  
through joy and sadness pressing on  
refreshed:  
come, pilgrim love, live in our hearts today.

We sing the Holy Spirit, full of love,  
who seeks out scars of ancient bitterness,  
brings to our wounds the healing grace of  
Christ:  
come, radiant love, live in our hearts today.

*June Boyce-Tillman*

#### A sending out prayer and blessing

Lord Jesus Christ,  
to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life,  
and we have come to believe and know  
that you are the Holy One of God.  
Go with us into your world.

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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