

# ST PETER & ST PAUL'S CHURCH, AYLESFORD



## A Service of the Word with Holy Communion

The greatest?

Trinity 16  
19th September 2021

Welcome and Gathering

Call to Worship

At this time, in this place,  
let us worship God –  
with open ears ready to listen  
and hearts ready to receive,  
minds willing to be challenged  
and attitudes given to God.  
Come, we worship God as one.

A Gathering Prayer

**Loving, gracious God,  
who does not put us in order –  
greatest to least,  
best to worst,  
loved most to loved least,  
or any other order:  
be with us as we spend time  
with one another and with you.**

**Help us to listen to you as you speak  
to us and challenge us, love us and  
encourage us. Amen.**

Hymn

From heaven you came helpless babe  
Entered our world, your glory veiled  
Not to be served but to serve  
And give your life that we might live

*This is our God, The Servant King  
He calls us now to follow him  
To bring our lives as a daily offering  
Of worship to The Servant King*

There in the garden of tears  
My heavy load he chose to bear  
His heart with sorrow was torn  
'Yet not my will but yours,' he said

*This is our God ...*

Come see his hands and his feet  
The scars that speak of sacrifice  
Hands that flung stars into space  
To cruel nails surrendered

*This is our God ...*

So let us learn how to serve,  
and in our lives enthrone him;  
each other's needs to prefer,  
for it is Christ we're serving.

*This is our God ...*

*Graham Kendrick © Thank You Music Ltd.,  
Make Way Music.*

Prayer of Confession

Jesus said: 'Anyone who wants to be first  
must be last.'

Lord, for the times I've put myself first,  
or argued with people, because I think I  
know better than them or that I am better  
than them ...

**Lord, forgive me.**

For the times when I don't want to be a servant because I think I'm capable of greater things ...

**Lord, forgive me.**

When I don't recognise Christ in those around me because I'm too busy looking out for myself ...

**Lord, forgive me.**

When I don't understand what people mean, perhaps not understanding their feelings of fear or inadequacy ...

**Lord, forgive me.**

When I jostle for position, rather than being happy where you want me ...

**Lord, forgive me, and teach me my rightful place in you. Amen.**

#### Assurance of Forgiveness

You challenge us, Lord, when we do wrong. You get us to focus by using questions, even though you know the answers. Your image is present in each one of us. When we confess our sins, you are always there to forgive us. We sit now, humbly in your presence. Forgiven. Acknowledging that you are the greatest.

**Amen.**

#### Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Thank you, Lord, that we can always find our place in you.**

**Thank you that we belong to you, and no one can take that away from us. We are secure in your love. We need never be afraid to ask you anything.**

**Thank you for the people who bless us.**

**Thank you for the times we can meet blessing with blessing. Amen.**

#### The Collect

**Lord of creation, whose glory is around and within us: open our eyes to your wonders, that we may serve you with reverence and know your peace at our lives' end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### The Liturgy of the Word

##### First Reading

Jeremiah 11.18-20

Because the Lord revealed their plot to me, I knew it, for at that time he showed me what they were doing. I had been like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter; I did not realise that they had plotted against me, saying, "Let us destroy the tree and its fruit; let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name be remembered no more." But you, Lord Almighty, who judge righteously and test the heart and mind, let me see your vengeance on them, for to you I have committed my cause.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

##### Gospel Reading

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Mark 9.30-37

They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest. Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all." He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

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.**

#### Reflective Song

All I am, I lay it down,  
for you, my God and friend;  
take my life into your hands -  
here I am to send.

Search my heart, and you will find  
willingness to serve,  
for your cross has covered me  
with grace I don't deserve.

O Lord, lead me on.  
O Lord, lead me on.  
O Lord, lead me on.  
O Lord, lead me on.

*Words & Music © Adam Howard / RESOUND-  
worship.org, Administered by The Jubilate Group*

#### Prayers of Intercession

*Response*  
Jesus, Lord of love,  
**in your mercy, hear us.**

*And at the end*  
Jesus, Lord of love,  
**in your mercy, hear us. Amen.**

#### The Liturgy of the Sacrament

#### The Peace

Blessed are the peacemakers:  
they shall be called children of God.

*Matthew 5.19*

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

#### Hymn

All heaven declares  
The glory of the risen Lord  
Who can compare  
With the beauty of the Lord  
Forever He will be  
The Lamb upon the throne  
I gladly bow my knee  
And worship Him alone

I will proclaim  
The glory of the risen Lord  
Who once was slain  
To reconcile man to God

Forever You will be  
The Lamb upon the throne  
I gladly bow my knee  
And worship You alone

*Richards Noel William/Richards Patricia Lilian.*  
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#### 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.**

... singing the hymn of your eternal 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.**

... ever 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

Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law: grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our neighbours as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

#### Sending

#### News and Notices

## Hymn

God of grace and God of glory,  
on your people pour your pow'r.  
Crown your ancient church's story,  
bring its bud to glorious flow'r.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us  
scorn the Christ, assail his ways;  
from the fears that long have bound us,  
free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the living of these days.

Save us from weak resignation  
to the evils we deplore.  
Let the gift of your salvation  
be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
serving you whom we adore.

God of grace and God of glory,  
on your people pour your pow'r.  
Crown your ancient church's story,  
bring its bud to glorious flow'r.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the facing of this hour.

*Harry Emerson Fosdick*

## A sending out prayer and blessing

Lord, Jesus, may we go out into the  
world to serve, to shine with your love,  
listen with your ears and speak words of  
kindness and hope to everyone we meet –  
in your name.

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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