

Family Service, Sunday 28th April 2024

Greeting & Invitation to Worship

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

The Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

Let us rejoice and shout for joy, giving God the glory.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Faithful one, whose word is life: come with saving power to free our praise, inspire our prayer and shape our lives for the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn: 34 O Worship The King

**1 O worship the King all-glorious above,
O gratefully sing his power and his love:
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendour and girded with praise.**

**2 O tell of his might and sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.**

**3 The earth with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, thy power hath founded of old,
hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree,
and round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.**

**4 Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.**

**5 Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail.
Thy mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!**

**6 O measureless Might, ineffable Love,
while angels delight to hymn thee above!
Thy ransomed creation, though feeble their lays,
with true adoration shall sing to thy praise.**

Collect of the Day:

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: Grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. **Amen**

The First Reading: 1 John 4: 7-21

A Reading from the First Letter of John:

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: 525 Let There Be Love Shared Among Us

1 Let there be love shared among us

Let there be love in our eyes

May now Your love sweep this nation.

Cause us O Lord to arise

Give us a fresh understanding

Of brotherly love that is real,

Let there be love shared among us,

Let there be love

The Gospel Reading: John 15: 1-8

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to John:

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Children's Talk

Hymn: 482 Jesus Bids Us Shine

**1 Jesus bids us shine, with a pure clear light,
Like a little candle burning in the night;
In this world of darkness, so we must shine,
You in your small corner, and I in mine.**

**2 Jesus bids us shine, first of all for Him
Well He sees and knows it if our light is dim;
He looks down from Heaven to see us shine
You in your small corner, and I in mine.**

**3 Jesus bids us shine, then, for all around,
Many kinds of darkness in this world abound;
Sin and want and sorrow, so we must shine,
You in your small corner and I in mine.**

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God the Father,
God almighty, by whose plan
earth and heaven sprang to being,
all created things began.**

**We believe in Christ the Saviour,
Son of God in human frame,
virgin-born, the child of Mary
upon whom the Spirit came.**

**Christ, who on the cross forsaken,
like a lamb to slaughter led,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
he descended to the dead.
We believe in Jesus risen,
heaven's king to rule and reign,
to the Father's side ascended
till as judge he comes again.**

**We believe in God the Spirit;
in one Church, below, above:
saints of God in one communion,
one in holiness and love.
So by faith, our sins forgiven,
Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend,
we shall rise with him in glory
to the life that knows no end**

Prayers of Penitence

We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden, to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

Absolution

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life: through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers and Thanksgivings

The Lord's Prayer

We sum up all our prayers and praises in the words our Saviour Christ has taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven: hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn: 373 To God Be The Glory

1 To God be the glory! Great things He has done!
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice;
O, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory; great things He has done.*

2 O, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

3 Great things He has taught us, great things He has done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our rapture when Jesus we see.

Dismissal

As we leave this place may we bring:

To a troubled world

Peace from Christ.

To a searching world

Love from Christ.

To a waiting world

Hope from Christ.

May God's hand lead us, God's eyes watch over us, God's ears hear our prayers, God's arms protect us and hold us close, God's word encourage us and God's love fill our hearts. And the blessing of God Almighty: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you this day and always. **Amen.**