

Christ Church

High Harrogate



Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

A Parish service for when we're
UNITED but APART



on

FIRST SUNDAY
after TRINITY

7th June 2026

Welcome to Christ Church, praying and united, with the whole Church of God ; may this bring a blessing upon your home, as also upon the needs of loved ones and the world,

We build upon all that we have shared and shared still, as now we rejoice in our renewal in Christ's grace, gather as the Church, and unite in fellowship, proclamation and prayer from the place of our own homes.

Be it 8am or 10am or other _ still, maybe, the wisdom to quieten our mobile phone  and be very much in prayer .

Please sit very comfortably.

Please feel free to sing ; and maybe to speak some parts of this prayer time out-loud _ you may find it surprisingly helpful.

Please, above all, simply know that we are all together ; and as we pray where we are now, so do many many more, across the town, across these towns, and across the world,

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Matthew

The Greeting

In welcome of one-another, near or far -

The Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
the Love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all.

[And also with you.]

Prayers of Penitence

As we prepare to meet Christ in word and prayer,
let us call to mind and confess our sins
in penitence and faith.

- Silence is kept for a short time, in Confession and Prayer.



**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.**

In sharing and receiving the Absolution of God :

May Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon us,
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and keep us in life eternal ;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



O God,
the strength of all those who put their trust in you,
mercifully accept our prayers and,
because through the weakness of our mortal nature
we can do no good thing without you,
grant us the help of your grace,
that in the keeping of your commandments
we may please you both in will and deed ;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word



The First Reading - Genesis 12:1 – 9

Now the LORD said to Abram, ‘Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse ; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’ ⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him ; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran ; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷Then the LORD appeared to Abram, and said, ‘To your offspring I will give this land.’ So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east ; and there he built an altar to the LORD and invoked the name of the LORD. ⁹And Abram journeyed on by stages towards the Negeb.

New Revised Standard Version

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading - *Romans 4 : 13 – end*

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath ; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations') - in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' ²³Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

New Revised Standard Version

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6mCHBLJTzac>

**Ye that know the Lord is gracious,
ye for whom a corner-stone
stands, of God elect and precious,
laid that ye may build thereon,
see that on that sure foundation
ye a living temple raise,
towers that may tell forth salvation,
walls that may re-echo praise.**



**Living stones, by God appointed
each to his allotted place,
kings and priests, by God anointed,
shall ye not declare his grace ?
Ye, a royal generation,
tell the tidings of your birth,
tidings of a new creation
to an old and weary earth.**

**Tell the praise of him who called you
out of darkness into light,
broke the fetters that enthralled you,
gave you freedom, peace and sight :
tell the tale of sins forgiven,
strength renewed and hope restored,
till the earth, in tune with heaven,
praise and magnify the Lord.**

*Words : C A Alington (1872-1955)
Tune : Hyfrydol*

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 9 : 9 - 13, 18 - 26



The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth ; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him. ¹⁰And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners ?' ¹²But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.' ... ¹⁸While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, 'My daughter has just died ; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.' ¹⁹And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. ²⁰Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, ²¹for she said to herself, 'If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.' ²²Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, 'Take heart, daughter ; your faith has made you well.' And instantly the woman was made well. ²³When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute-players and the crowd making a commotion, ²⁴he said, 'Go away ; for the girl is not dead but sleeping.' And they laughed at him. ²⁵But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. ²⁶And the report of this spread throughout that district.

New Revised Standard Version

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.



Three long readings, so I try to be very brief — because it is not only the possible Content of these — but also the Context in which we receive them that feeds or blesses us — our Prayer and our Communion.

We are at the very start of what is almost disparagingly called 'Ordinary Time' — entered into last week — depicted in Green — and, after Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter — crowned with Pentecost --- This is the season to grow.

So where do we start ?

In effect, from the beginning

- A call to Abram almost before promise has been made. After the 'over-arching' stories of Genesis 1 - 11, the Call to One — and Their response, and that of those with them. Setting a true 'diamond' into the rough of all this action and burgeoning trust —

"and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

- There, the beginning of gift and grace and godly purpose.

It, and the further example and action of Abram - Abraham is of course picked-up by Paul ; the purpose perhaps kept till near the close :

"Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead ... raised for our justification."

- He stands and offers a Signpost to point back, and to point forward ____ a New beginning, from regret, or mistake, or sin, or failure, or sorrow _ redeemed and justified. _

- A healing ; and in uncharacteristically abrupt telling, Matthew recalls in Christ multiple occasions of mixed varieties of Healing : the despised, the sick, the outcast, the seemingly dead _ and their community and their world.

"in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

- New beginnings, new beginnings, new beginnings, new beginnings : all sorts, all opportunities, all situations - deliberately. Our turn. Ours to choose, ours to Follow _ again and again and again _ even when we've tried countless times before _ _ so, has everyone else _ and Their life stories show, in lives like ours, it can be done. Time to grow.

Amen.

Revd Matthew Evans

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried ;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again ;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers of Intercession

As children and pilgrims of a loving God who always listens to our cries, we are invited to come before God, in all that we are, and with all the prayer we need make.

You may wish to use these, or other, prayers as part of this time. Bringing before God all that is your concern ; not least in prayer for our families, loved ones, those who are sick, those providing care, the Church and people of God - knowing all is held by God.

A particular focus this week of prayers for the creation - - -

God our Father, 

You never cease the work you have begun
and prosper with your blessing
creation and human endeavour.

Help us to be good neighbours to those
with whom we share our world today, and those
who will inherit the world of generations to come.
Make us wise and faithful stewards of your creation,
living lightly on the Earth
so that it continues to blossom and flourish now
and in the future ;
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord :
Lord, in thy mercy - hear our prayer.

God of creation, send a blessing upon us -

- upon the rich earth send a blessing, O Lord.

Let the earth be fruitful
and its resources be hallowed ;
let the ground flourish, and so us upon it :
We ask in faith -

We ask you to bless us, good Lord.

- upon the produce of the earth send a blessing, O Lord.

Guide us into a sustainable, bountiful future,
and give us the will and purpose
to share the fruits of the world
even as we learn to delight in the Fruit of your Spirit :

We ask in faith -

We ask you to bless us, good Lord.

- upon the seas and waters send a blessing, O Lord.
Teach us to cherish the water,
and to conserve the lakes, rivers and seas ;
may they be a reminder and renewal of baptism to us,
a symbol of your grace, given in creation :

We ask in faith -

We ask you to bless us, good Lord.

- upon those who cry out, send a blessing, O Lord ;
those in anguish, and loss and pain,
those in fear, and trouble, and oppression,
those in sickness _

bles, we pray, those who work for healing
and for care ;

bles friendships and families,
bles those who are apart, and
those who need peace :

We ask in faith -

We ask you to bless us, good Lord.

- upon aid agencies send a blessing, O Lord.
Where the earth is parched and the well has run dry ;
Where war brings want, and people go hungry ;
Where the poor cry for bread,
and in the cry for justice -

Give hearts to care, hands and words to heal,
wisdom and conviction to lead to righteousness and
generous peace :

We ask in faith -

We ask you to bless us, good Lord.

- upon those who mourn, send a blessing O Lord ;
bring the comfort of your truth
and promise ;
bring your grace through word for friend or stranger :
hear us as we pray for those who mourn,
remembering by name - Sybil Movley, Peter Evans, and
Kathleen Hulme :

We ask in faith -

We ask you to bless us, good Lord.

We pray for our beloved planet,
scarred by conflict and natural disaster: by us -
bring healing to its lands and cleansing to its waters;
bring justice to its peoples and peace to its nations;
bring life for today and hope for the future.

God of all Eternity,
ignite in us, your people, the faith to believe that
by you we will heal our broken world, and
grow in us the perseverance
to keep praying and living towards that day when
your creation will once again flourish and be free.

We ask in faith -
We ask you to bless us, good Lord.

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in times of uncertainty or distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us
from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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.

The Dismissal

To sing, to hum, to read, to listen.

CLICK below to hear Louise from our Choir lead us

Hymn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0qDXqLgrgpg>

**Blest are the pure in heart,
for they shall see our God,
the secret of the Lord is theirs,
their soul is Christ's abode.**



**The Lord, who left the heavens
our life and peace to bring,
to dwell in lowliness with men,
their pattern and their King ;**

**Still to the lowly soul
he doth himself impart,
and for his dwelling and his throne
chooseth the pure in heart.**

**Lord, we thy presence seek ;
may ours this blessing be ;
give us a pure and lowly heart,
a temple meet for thee.**

*Words: John Keble (1792-1866)
Tune: Franconia*

The Blessing



May the God of all grace,
who called us to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus,
establish, strengthen and settle us in the faith ;
and so may the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always.
Amen.

The Peace

As we are the body of Christ,
so in the one Spirit we were
all baptised into one body.
So then, let us pursue all that makes for peace
and builds up our common life.

*Please look to your ROOM and HOME _
--- please look from your WINDOW ---*

In our place, heart and home, and to all the world :

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
{ - and also with you. Alleluia }

The Dismissal

In truth let us go into this day in peace ;
and may we love and serve the Lord
in the name of Christ. Amen. Amen. Amen.

Thank you for joining in this prayer.

We are apart, but we are not alone.