

Christ Church

High Harrogate



Matthew 9:35 - 10:8

A Parish service for when we're
UNITED but **APART**



for the

**Second Sunday
after Trinity**

14th 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.



**All 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 the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen.



Lord, you have taught us
that all our doings without love are nothing worth :
send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts
that most excellent gift of love,
the true bond of peace and of all virtues,
without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.
Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake,
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 18 : 1 - 15

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ²He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. ³He said, 'My lord, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on - since you have come to your servant.' So they said, 'Do as you have said.' ⁶And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, 'Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.' ⁷Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them ; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. ⁹They said to him, 'Where is your wife Sarah?' And he said, 'There, in the tent.' ¹⁰Then one said, 'I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.' And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him.

¹¹Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age ; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. ¹²So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, ‘After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure ?’ ¹³The LORD said to Abraham, ‘Why did Sarah laugh, and say, “Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old ?” ¹⁴Is anything too wonderful for the LORD ? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.’ ¹⁵But Sarah denied, saying, ‘I did not laugh’ ; for she was afraid. He said, ‘Oh yes, you did laugh.’

New Revised Standard Version

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading

Romans 5 : 1 - 8

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand ; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person - though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

New Revised Standard Version

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

CLICK below to hear Louise from our Choir lead us

Hymn

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_QrtLnpsnk



**Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain ;
love lives again, that with the dead has been :**

*Love is come again,
like wheat that springeth green.*

**In the grave they laid him, love whom men had slain,
thinking that never he would wake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen :**

Love is . . .

**Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain,
quick from the dead, my risen Lord is seen :**

Love is . . .

**When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
thy touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts, that dead and bare have been :**

Love is . . .

*Words : J M C Crum (1872-1958)
Tune : Noel Nouvelet*

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 9 : 35 - 10 : 8



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

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few ; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.' Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles : first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew ; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew ; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector ; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus ; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him. These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions : 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment ; give without payment.'

New Revised Standard Version

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Revd Matthew Evans (Vicar)



Very late to the party, I have been watching some of the 'House' television series. Set in a fictional US hospital it stars Hugh Laurie as 'an unconventional, misanthropic, cynical medical genius' of a doctor (Dr Gregory House), dependent himself upon painkillers. A new-old twist on an old and new scenario. I am not trying to sell it to you. So far I am enjoying it.

Dr House's repeated outlook seems to be - *'People lie to you.'*

So, Sarah, it would seem ; and of course she is not alone, she is in the very good company of (most of) us. Even when we don't 'mean' to ; even when we're not sure *why* we did (?!) ; even when we kick, or even hate, ourselves for it.

We have some flaws, and we have some wonders : and is it me, or do we tussle between the two most days of our life ? Sometimes it seems easy, sometimes it seems impossible ; sometimes we despair, sometimes we're on top of the world (perhaps always with the slight nagging thought, that it may all suddenly tumble back down _ 'snakes and ladders' I suppose).

Sarah laughed, and lied. In a perfectly understandable way. We can all argue the case for why she did so : but in the end, it doesn't change the truth that she did not need to lie. We can fully understand and defend why she did ; but we also know (with hindsight, third-party perspective, and all the rest) she did not Need to.

The whole episode here I always find both mystical and encouraging, and deeply uncomfortable. For Sarah, for Abraham, and us (or me, anyway).

People lie to you. We do, and we do not always know why, and we do not always seem to have control of it, and we in every which way seek healing.

Since Abraham (Abram), Sarah (Sarai) and before, we have been trying to find our way (back) to a perceived fullness and truth and beauty and perfection of all that we are and suspect or know ourselves able to be. Genesis 1-11 speak of it. Philosophies cast it around in deep or twisted thought. Anarchies and fatalisms recognise it by - conversely - trying to argue it does not exist - and yet it 'calls'. I can be someone. We can be Something. We have it in us, in our hands, in this extraordinary

and horrendously wounded world _ to live something wondrous : but all of these reveal a need for a healing. It is a yearning forward (and back), it is Not a something which we have Now. There is a need for healing (Our language is probably insufficient, but its simplicity can also speak truths).

Jesus went about : teaching, proclaiming, curing. I'm not comfortable casting 'super-powers' on to Christ - I see no need for us to do so - but he calls twelve - to steal a phrase - 'average Joes', whom we will see present a mixture of characters, opinions, energies, styles, problems and strengths ; and he 'gives them authority' and sends them out to proclaim, cleanse and cure. He had no 'superpower perception' of all that they were. He saw, and he called, and in ongoing response they lived and they learned. We know that life.

Teaching : is that healing by education, both from within and without ?

Proclaiming : is that healing by revealing and showing lived-trust in hope ?

Curing : is that healing by the relief of pain and need and hurt?

"Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment ; give without payment."

- Going, first, to the 'lost sheep', theirs is a mission to reconnect, re-inspire, and re-energise those who have an 'ancestral knowledge' of the 'call' as being from God ; to re-discover it as a personal call _ because it is through people that it is made alive.

We, have received the (same) gift of life without payment, and within it the same disturbing and encouraging sense of 'call'.

In the person of Christ, the person of Paul, the persons of the Twelve (all of them), we are all called to perceive a 'gift' within

- unique and also relatable - by which We can effect a part in the healing and the fulfilment and the ultimate glory of the world and life we know _ and know it can be-come.

We might laugh (Sarah), even in derision. But that laugh displays a hint of the desire for hope. We laugh, because we too - in a part however small, or battered, or hidden, or bruised - yearn for it to be true, and know it can be. We know it can be because we see it in others ; we see that same glint and terrified spark ; we hear it said _ and see enough lives and accounts of life (not least in Scripture, but even and also and rightly simply in Our world's days), which give oxygen to our hope - and bring a little healing.

We all have our flaws, we all have our failings, we all have our despairs, and bitter - or self - accusations : but we also All have glories, and Hopes. Trusting Ourselves to one-another, and One-another ourselves, we can find quite remarkable - and, when we think about it, entirely to be expected - healing. Ours, Theirs, Yours, All _ and World.

God's plan is ageless, and present, and active for you _ because it is enabled Through You _ and all whom you meet. Christ lived deliberately for you, also. Holding faith with God, who gives all - in all we have now, and in all that we yearn shall be - in a 'call' both within and from without ; to bless who we are, and enable us to become ; in a love which yearns for us to be full, and fulfilled. We are all 'called' to live, and by Christ we can make that life glorious for All.

Amen.

Revd Matthew Evans

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father ;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate ;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures ;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayers of Intercession

In the power of the Spirit, and in union with Christ,
let us pray to our Father _

O God, the creator and preserver of all,
we pray for people in every place and every kind of need ;
we pray for your grace, your wisdom, your inspiration and care;
make your ways known on earth,
your saving health among and for the nations.
Lord in your mercy - **hear our prayer.**

We pray for your Church ; guide and govern us by your Spirit,
teach and lead us that we and all who call upon your Name
may be led into the way of Truth, and hold the faith in –
unity of spirit, the bond of peace, in righteousness of life.
Lord in your mercy - **hear our prayer.**

We pray for, and commend into your goodness,
all those who are in any way afflicted or distressed -
those known to us and those known to you alone -
those in sickness of body, mind, or spirit :
comfort and relieve them in their need,
give them patience in their troubles,
bring good out of all afflictions,
bless, strengthen and encourage all who support and care.
Lord in your mercy - **hear our prayer.**

We remember in love and faithfulness
all who have gone before us in the peace of Christ,
among whom by name :

Peter Evans, and Kathleen Hulme ;
We give you praise for all your faithful ones,
we make our prayer with and for all who mourn.
Lord in your mercy - **hear our prayer.**

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

You may wish to sing, you may wish to hum, you may wish to read.
Together we pray, we hope and we rejoice. In the peculiarity of these
days, and in the faithful grace and arms of God.

CLICK below to hear Louise from our Choir lead us

Hymn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sk8ytbKc5Ss>

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Come unto me and rest ;
lay down, thou weary one, lay down
thy head upon my breast.”
I came to Jesus as I was,
weary, and worn, and sad ;
I found in him a resting-place,
and he has made me glad.



I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Behold, I freely give
the living waters, thirsty one ;
stoop down, and drink, and live.”
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream ;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“I am this dark world’s light ;
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
and all thy day be bright.”
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun ;
and in that light of life I’ll walk
till travelling days are done.

Words : Horatius Bonar (1808-1889)

Tune : Kingsfold

Tune : Duke Street

The Blessing



May the peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep our hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord ;
And 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

We are all one in Christ Jesus.
We belong to him through faith,
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

*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

So let us go into the day in peace ;
and may we love and serve the Lord
in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia ! Amen.