

Christ Church

High Harrogate



Matthew 13 : 1 - 9, 18 - 23

A Parish service for when we're
UNITED but APART

for the

**Sixth Sunday
after Trinity**

12th July 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.**



Merciful God,
you have prepared for those who love you
such good things as pass our understanding :
pour into our hearts such love toward you
that we, loving you in all things and above all things,
may obtain your promises,
which exceed all that we can desire ;
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 25 : 19 - end*

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son : Abraham was the father of Isaac, ²⁰and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. ²¹Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren ; and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. ²²The children struggled together within her; and she said, 'If it is to be this way, why do I live ?' So she went to inquire of the LORD. ²³And the LORD said to her, 'Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided ; one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger.' ²⁴When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. ²⁵The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle ; so they named him Esau. ²⁶Afterwards his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel ; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. ²⁷When the boys grew up, Esau was a skilful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. ²⁸Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game ; but Rebekah loved Jacob. ²⁹Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. ³⁰Esau said to

Jacob, 'Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished !' (Therefore he was called Edom.) ³¹Jacob said, 'First sell me your birthright.' ³²Esau said, 'I am about to die ; of what use is a birthright to me ?' ³³Jacob said, 'Swear to me first.' So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. ³⁴Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright. NRSV

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading - *Romans 8 : 1 - 11*

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do : by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God ; it does not submit to God's law - indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh ; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you. NRSV

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

<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*

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 13 : 1 - 9, 18 - 23



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

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying : ‘Listen ! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched ; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen !’ . . . ‘Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart ; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy ; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.’

New Revised Standard Version

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.



How to fit these readings together ____ ?

The Old Testament ____ Boil it down ; forget for a moment that it is Scripture ; (surely) it becomes the story of a family : hopes and frustrations, fears, joy, challenge, anxiety and worry, blessing, celebration, individuality and achievement, favouritism (?) or just 'natural connections' (?), half-told story where we are left to guess or wonder because actually it's not all for us to know, some is simply private and personal, and family ; the seeming joking, tom-foolery, games-of-siblings (my brother once tried to unscrew my foot, but that's for another time) ____ but that all then comes to a point where all of this is revealed as a path, a trajectory, it sets characters and ____ - to some extent - relationships.

- A similar observation is made in our New Testament reading from St Paul's struggling, unpicking thoughts. - Though remember, with Each of these there is Always opportunity for change, Always choice ____ and, by the hundreds of pages and accounts of Scripture ____ Always the presence of God - to whom to turn or draw near : whilst we have breath, thought, action ____ it is Never that we are 'beyond the pale', cast out and a 'done-deal' ____ never.

But the Gospel takes a different angle, and from it I take a different aspect of Truth.

I'm the whole field

____ and I suggest many or most of us are. In the 'whole' of our life

In terms of some things in my life I'm fully and only 'the path', where excellent wisdoms fall ____ but are gone before I know it ____ - so much so, I cannot even tell what those wisdoms were or are.

In other ways I'm a good bit of rocky ground : all sorts of fads, which are dismissed as 'fads' because I think, 'Yes, *I'll do that* _ !' _ I probably buy some of the stuff required _ and it never comes out of the box. The sunshine of daily life or apathy, burns it away.

Other things go a little further _ before they are choked : the better 'work-friend-family-life' balance mentioned last week ; the healthy lifestyle, fitness and food ; the sending of birthday cards on time _ rather than the buying of the card, seeing the date approaching, watching the date go by, and then realising it's rather too late now to send it. - Choked away, despite good good intentions, by the things which Do, or I Choose, or I Allow to smother such wisdom.

But there are some things where I grow. Maybe 100, maybe 60, maybe 30, maybe 20, maybe 10 _ but grow, all grow, and good stuff ___ and I, We, do need to recognise and see these. Just because maybe they seem 'easy' to us, does not mean they are not remarkable ; and does not mean they are not blessed _ or from a relationship with the divine.

We're presented with different images & approaches to life ; we are, constantly, in Scripture. Today, for me, this came out rather more starkly or clearly. Our life in a unity _ some striving, some rejoicing, some wildly succeeding, some a bit of everything-and-all. In none of this are we alone. Christ sat and watched and told of what he saw ; One Thing of what he saw was the place, blessing and interest of God in it all _ whether running-with ; or at times patiently, deliberately, unfailingly walking-with whilst also calling us back or away, '*Come here, come this way*'. Or, sitting, until on 'this-that-or-the-other' we're ready - under his prompting and grace - to 'try that again'. I live my Life with God, and I try to grow.

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,
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 :
Martha Squires

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

CLICK below to hear Louise from our Choir lead us

Hymn

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KqE7P_9267Y

Breathe on me, breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.



Breathe on me, breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will,
to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me
glows with the fire divine.

Breathe on me, breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.

Words : Edwin Hatch (1835-1889)
Tune : Trentham

The Blessing



May God, who in Christ
gives us a spring of water
 welling up to eternal life,
perfect in us the image of his glory ;
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.