

Christ Church

High Harrogate



Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

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



for the

**Eighth Sunday
after Trinity**

21st July 2024

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 Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence,
through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past,
and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
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.



Almighty Lord and everlasting God,
we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern
both our hearts and bodies
in the ways of your laws
and the works of your commandments ;
that through your most mighty protection,
both here and ever,
we may be preserved in body and soul ;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
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

Jeremiah 23 : 1 - 6



Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. Therefore, thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people : It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD. The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called : 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

New Revised Standard Version

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading

Ephesians 2 : 11 - 22



Remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called 'the uncircumcision' by those who are called 'the circumcision' - a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands - remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace ; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

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=kPC1IsminDo>

To be in your presence,
to sit at your feet,
where your love surrounds me,
and makes me complete.



*This is my desire,
O Lord,
this is my desire.
This is my desire.
O Lord,
this is my desire.*

To rest in your presence,
not rushing away,
to cherish each moment,
here I would stay.

*This is my desire,
O Lord,
this is my desire.
This is my desire.
O Lord,
this is my desire.*

Words & music : Noel Richards

The Gospel Reading

Mark 6 : 30 - 34, 53 - 56



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

The apostles returned from their mission. They gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognised them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. ... When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognised him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the market-places, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak ; and all who touched it were healed.

New Revised Standard Version

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Revd Matthew Evans (Vicar)



Two weeks ago we had in our reading an expression of Healing ; last week, God, faithful in the midst of absolute trial and challenge, with the beheading of John the Baptist ; this week, here [*] ___ almost nothing happens.

The Gospel begins with excitement ; the sharing of news and experience _ but even that telling and sharing has the feel

of a joyful tiredness — one who doesn't *want* to stop, but would quite welcome the invitation to do so - - "*Well, maybe I'll just take five minutes ...*" - that sort of thing _ and we have :

"Jesus said to them, 'Come away, to a deserted place, all by yourselves, and rest a while'."

- An invitation to refreshment and to renewal. "Come away" ~ ~ . To hear those as words of God to you, and to me - whether for _ a time, a Sunday morning, daily prayer, or just a moment. A loving voice and action ; _ a welcoming hand or embrace _____ when we need it _ when we need it but do not realise we need it _ or when we need it but can't give ourself permission to allow it : let our Lord God say, "Come away _ Stop _ Pause _ "

You might look at the text, and say - "*But they don't get away _ the crowds follow _ they clamour around, they're there ahead of them even as, in time, they arrive in another place . . .*" _____

Yes, but look also, that's it's Jesus who then deals with that crowd, the clamour, those around. In accordance with his own prayer recorded elsewhere, he doesn't take us 'out' of this world, but joins us 'in' it - - in the very busy-ness of our lives, its stresses, its strains, its clamour, it's beauty, and its excitement - and he has compassion, he teaches and he heals _____ having first looked and said, "*Come away _ rest a while _ take my yoke upon you _ learn from me*" ~ and more.

- We have no big event in the Gospel today, no major happening, even whilst we know such things are going on in the world all around us _ in fact here several huge actions have been deliberately removed, held away in verses 35 - 52 _ which will come to us soon, separately, in their own time. This is deliberately a gap. We're deliberately left with the stuff which perhaps we'd usually barely notice : some incidental detail, links in the story but no more.

We look simply to the detail, and it is full.

We look to the detail and we find God is still there ____
Calling, attending, teaching, leading ~ compassion in action
The presence of God in reality _ the big, the great, the terrifying,
the small - reality ; and again, our reality. Every moment -
every and any life, town, home, place or need ___ not just
the big, nor the great, nor just the supposedly 'notable' moments
_ but all, all ; and not just in the planned, but in the incidental
moments of Living. God, in Christ, is present, deliberately, and
is inviting _ when necessary, and when appropriate, and when
wise _ *“Come away” - just you, for a moment, Come away*
_ I'll take care of that _ Come with me. - The big events
? They'll come soon enough, I'll be there, I truly will _ For
now, come with me : I'm with you now.'

[God in -] the loving detail [of life].

Simple. Beautiful and, we find, True.

In all the prayer we make - planned, and incidental - we
simply enter into that understanding and awareness of Life _
and it blesses, and inspires, and strengthens us, just in that
'moment', and in those things far beyond our control. God.

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 ;
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,
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 :
Peter Taylor, Gillian Mills, Margaret Honeysett, Jean Fish :
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 Hymn

CLICK below to hear Louise from our Choir lead us

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=REq9XrlGOwk>



**When I needed a neighbour,
were you there, were you there ?
When I needed a neighbour, were you there ?
*And the creed and the colour
and the name won't matter,
Were you there ?***

**I was hungry and thirsty,
were you there, were you there ?
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there ?
*And the . . .***

**I was cold, I was naked,
were you there, were you there ?
I was cold, I was naked, were you there ?
*And the . . .***

**When I needed a shelter,
were you there, were you there ?
When I needed a shelter, were you there ?
*And the . . .***

**When I needed a healer,
were you there, were you there ?
When I needed a healer, were you there ?
*And the . . .***

**Wherever you travel,
I'll be there, I'll be there.
Wherever you travel, I'll be there.
*And the creed and the colour
and the name won't matter,
I'll be there.***

Words : Sydney Carter Tune : Neighbour

The Blessing



Christ the good shepherd,
who laid down his life for the sheep,
draw us and all who hear his voice,
to be one flock within one fold ;
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.