

Christ Church

High Harrogate



Matthew 14 : 22 - 33

A Parish service for when we're
UNITED but APART

for the

**Tenth Sunday
after Trinity**

9th August 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

God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ
to save us from our sins,
to be our advocate in heaven,
and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments
and to live in love and peace with all.

- 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.**



Let your merciful ears, O Lord,
be open to the prayers of your humble servants ;
and that they may obtain their petitions
make them to ask such things as shall please you ;
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 37 : 1 - 4, 12 - 28

Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. ²This is the story of the family of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers ; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives ; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. ³Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age ; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. ⁴But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him. ... ¹²Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. ¹³And Israel said to Joseph, 'Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem ? Come, I will send you to them.' He answered, 'Here I am.' ¹⁴So he said to him, 'Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock ; and bring word back to me.' So he sent him from the valley of Hebron. He came to Shechem, ¹⁵and a man found him wandering in the fields ; the man asked him, 'What are you seeking ?' ¹⁶'I am seeking my brothers,' he said ; 'tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock.' ¹⁷The man said, 'They have gone away, for I heard them say, "Let us go to Dothan." ' So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. ¹⁸They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. ¹⁹They said to one another, 'Here comes this dreamer. ²⁰Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits ; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams.' ²¹But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, 'Let us not take his life.' ²²Reuben said to them, 'Shed no blood ; throw him into this pit here in

the wilderness, but lay no hand on him' - that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. ²³So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore ; ²⁴and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty ; there was no water in it. ²⁵Then they sat down to eat ; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. ²⁶Then Judah said to his brothers, 'What profit is there if we kill our brother and conceal his blood ? ²⁷Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.' And his brothers agreed. ²⁸When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

New Revised Standard Version

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading

- *Romans 10 : 5 - 15*

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that 'the person who does these things will live by them.' But the righteousness that comes from faith says, 'Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven ?" ' (that is, to bring Christ down) 'or "Who will descend into the abyss ?" ' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say ? 'The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim) ; because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek ; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed ? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard ? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him ? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent ? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news !'

New Revised Standard Version

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

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

**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 14 : 22 - 33



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

Immediately after feeding the crowd with the five loaves and two fish, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.' Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

New Revised Standard Version

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.



If I was to give these scribbles a title, it might be :

'God moves in mysterious ways'

or

'Hindsight is a wonderful thing'

or

'I am with you always'

or

'Failure is not an option'

Knowing what comes later, - with a glorious recovery, redemption, Great Office, momentous saving of life - not to mention his dreams coming to truth, and hit musical (!) _ it is easy to gloss over that what we read here of Joseph is horrific. Reuben does his best to counter the jealous and frustrated pack-mentality of his brothers ; Joseph at Best aware of some violent practical joke as he is stripped and thrown into an open pit _ only, on finally being hauled out, to find himself_ sold as a slave by his own brothers. Eight words we mostly struggle to comprehend.

A prayer we were offered the other day spoke of :

"the violence of the proud and the despair of the weak"

- whilst in no way wishing to diminish what it was saying, there are of course times when the actions and emotions are flipped, or at least shared :

- the Violent are also Despairing

and those who feel Weak _ can very violently lash out.

--- Such is rather the way of human history and community as we struggle to find our way 'back' to the perfection we perceive possible-and-lost, or maybe yet to be attained. How we seek to attain it _ 'that' _ makes history.

Did God throw Joseph into the pit, or clamp him in chains _ in order to place him where needed for events in Egypt ? Or, did God walk with him _ use the unhelpful favouritism of a father, and the jealousy of siblings, to turn even greater events into a salvation that was good ?

- Maybe our answer to that, shapes whether we can hold faith, or not.

'Failure is not an option' : Paradise, the Patriarchs, a Chosen People (to Herald and Proclaim), the Prophets, Law, Nation, Kings ; the Messiah, the Spirit _ it would appear God could have given-up a long time ago. How often do we cast ourselves as having messed-up ? Maybe made a mistake which we fear _ even if we cover it over and seek to move on, seeking to forget ? Raising our head so high so as not to see _ that we run the risk of pride, 'stiff-necked' as God in observation might say ?

Peter seemingly didn't fall into that category, perhaps a little too Un-self-assured for that ; too used to looking down in the company of those who might present as his 'betters', that he also naturally looks down when walking on waves. It would be hard not to _ and would the one with confidence Not to look, ever have had the freedom to put that confidence in Christ ?

Did Jesus set Peter up to fail, calling him to get out of the boat when surely he'd only humiliate himself ? Or, was there Joy that Peter would try _ indeed would see the possibility, no need 'to be afraid' ? _ it was Peter that suggested the walk - ?

- Perhaps how we answer that, affects where we feel our faith : touching our head ? - warming our heart ? - stirring our gut ?

It takes all sorts to make the world turn : that would seem to be true. It takes those _ whom we don't understand, can't get along with, struggle to comprehend or even accept. We suffer wounds from each other _ which we seek to overcome, shrug-

off, or heal in various ways _ and the effects are as those of the proverbial butterfly's motion of its wings.

But God has not, and does not, give up.

Whispers wisdom, in a wealth of ways and voices.

Gives opportunity.

Blesses endeavour.

Shelters or accompanies in storm.

- even when we do not see.
- even when we will not see.

We may not always see, til after. Our path may seem painfully twisted _ we , at times, may feel horribly alone : all of these have a real truth ____ but so may be the presence of God, to turn the wounds and impossibilities of life, to Good _ and therein is Hope _ to offer, and receive.

Amen.

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.**

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 :
by name : Peter Dobson, Geoffrey Parker ;
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=1K72HxaCaQw>



**The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.**

*And I will trust in you alone.
And I will trust in you alone,
for your endless mercy follows me,
your goodness will lead me home.*

**He guides my ways in righteousness,
and he anoints my head with oil,
and my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on his pure delights.**

And I will ...

**And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
for you are with me, and your rod and staff
are the comfort I need to know.**

And I will ...

Words & Music : Stuart Townend (c)1996 Thankyou Music

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 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.