

Christ Church

High Harrogate



Matthew 15: 21 - 28

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

for the

**Eleventh Sunday
after Trinity**

16th 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.**



O God, you declare your almighty power
most chiefly in showing mercy and pity :
mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace,
that we, running the way of your commandments,
may receive your gracious promises,
and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure ;
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 45 : 1 - 15*

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, 'Send everyone away from me.' So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. ²And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. ³Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph. Is my father still alive ?' But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. ⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come closer to me.' And they came closer. He said, 'I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here ; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years ; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God ; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father

and say to him, “Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt ; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there - since there are five more years of famine to come - so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.” ¹²And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. ¹³You must tell my father how greatly I am honoured in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.’ ¹⁴Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them ; and after that his brothers talked with him.

New Revised Standard Version

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading - *Romans 11 : 1 - 2a, 29 - 32*

I ask, then, has God rejected his people ? By no means ! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ²God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. ... ²⁹for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

New Revised Standard Version

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJy9JEWx4xc>

**From heaven you came, helpless babe,
entered our world, your glory veiled ;
not to be served but to serve,
and give your life that we might live.**



*This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.*

**There In the garden of tears,
my heavy load he chose to bear ;
his heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will but yours,' he said.**

This is our God ...

**Come see his hands and his feet,
the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space
to cruel nails surrendered.**

This is our God ...

**So let us learn how to serve,
and in our lives enthrone him ;
each other's needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving.**

This is our God ...

Words and music: Graham Kendrick (b 1950)

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 15 : 21 - 28



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

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David ; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' ²⁴He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' ²⁶He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' ²⁷She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith ! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

New Revised Standard Version

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Revd Matthew Evans (Vicar)



I came to these readings, with one idea of where I was going to go.

As I read each one, each one presented a different idea.

Since last week, a number of people have commented on how there Are positive affects in having had to bring the altar-table forward to here : - a more gathered celebration, - greater chance to see the beauty of the work of the Frontal _ including its Latin inscription : *'ecce agnus dei qui tollit peccata mundi.'*

Two days ago in the weird world of Social Media with which I have a Love-Hate-Confused-and-Instructive relationship _ I saw a video of the actor Jim Carrey speaking of finding Life _ through Grace _ through suffering ;

Last Wednesday _ Arnold spoke of the challenge, struggle and exceptional beauty of Reconciliation ;

The Wednesday before that, Michael had This Gospel reading, and put it into the whole context of the Gospel Good News as accounted by St Matthew _ and then, therefore, given to us ;

And _ a brief leaflet, left for us in the Narthex by person or persons unknown _ encourages that we Hold and Live-in the Love of God _ a Gift freely received, and so to be freely given, closing with the words, *"God loves the world and each one of us immensely."*

Put All that together with All of this, and :

- Joseph creates an extraordinary reconciliation after events in his life no one could have foreseen. Which in truth are no more extraordinary than the things of your life - bigger on a world-stage maybe, but no more personal, no more challenging, no more complex. He interprets them now with an eye's-view through the Grace of God - and, with those with whom he thought he was at loggerheads, he finds joy, and Life. Arnold was right : reconciliation is almost impossibly hard, but perhaps easier when not done in Our strength alone.

There are many people who 'shout' in our lives ; and those who love us, in love for us, encourage us to send such voices away. The trouble is, I find, sometimes the loudest voice "shouting" in my life, is my own. Peace comes when, exactly like Christ, we Learn to _ accept in faith, receive in faith, greet the world in faith _ you see the Key word ? 'Faith' _ Not 'religious laws', they have a part to play but in time they will constrict and constrain to the point of harm and contradiction of the relationship of Grace upon which they are built : this Woman of Tyre or Sidon was beyond the rules, but fully in sight of the Love of God - in its gift, and in its call.

Interesting use of the word 'disobedient'. I think, let it mean more than 'being naughty' ; align it more to that sense of suffering. We're all Not Perfect ; sometimes that 'Not Perfection' has been characterised by our Gender at birth (you were born a woman, you're barred), by the colour of our skin, the nation from which we come, the association with ancestors of our past and Their actions, our Sexuality, our politics — we None of us - by understanding, by structures, be religions, by laws, or as individuals - get it right. We, and others, suffer for it.

But we can learn.

We can learn — from all Scripture, and by the moments where our hearts are warmed and the flaws of our perception are challenged — that we are all loved : black, white, rich, poor, male, female, '*Gentile*' and '*House of Israel*', every person, every make, every sexuality, every place — "*if God has given to them the same gift of grace in relationship he gave to us when we believe in Christ, who are we to stand in God's way*' (cf Acts 11:17). When the purpose, surely, of God's action in — Creation, Salvation, Sacrifice & Resurrection is, as learned by Christ, that this is for all ? It only makes sense if it is offered and open to All. The Kingdom of God can only be, when it is available to All.

We learn that from, and afresh in, each generation ; We do so now, in ours — that '*God loves the World and each One of us immensely.*"

With That, we have a Good news, a Gospel, to Receive, to Live, to Give, and to Proclaim — in all the complexity and exceptional beauty of You and of All ; therein we find : Mercy, Healing, Life, Salvation in All the world, For all the world, for You, for Me.

'Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin — pain, fear, guilt, wrongdoing, wounding, disobedience — of the world.'

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 : 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

Hymn

CLICK below to hear Louise from our Choir lead us

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7HTCNMphc_o

At the name of Jesus
every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him
King of glory now ;
'tis the Father's pleasure
we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning
was the mighty Word.

At his voice creation
sprang at once to sight,
all the angel faces,
all the hosts of light,
thrones and dominations,
stars upon their way,
all the heavenly orders,
in their great array.

In your hearts enthrone him ;
there let him subdue
all that is not holy,
all that is not true :
crown him as your Captain
in temptation's hour ;
let his will enfold you
in its light and power.

Surely, this Lord Jesus
shall return again,
with his Father's glory,
with his angel train ;
for all wreaths of empire
meet upon his brow,
and our hearts confess him
King of glory now.

Tune: Evelyns

Words: Caroline Noel (1817-1877)

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.