

Christ Church

High Harrogate



Matthew 16 : 21 - 28

A Parish service for when we're
UNITED but APART

for the

Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

30th September 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 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.**



Almighty God,
who called your Church to bear witness
that you were in Christ reconciling
the world to yourself :
help us to proclaim the good news of your love,
that all who hear it may be drawn to you ;
through him who was lifted up on the cross,
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 - *Exodus 3 : 1 - 15*

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian ; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush ; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' ⁴When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses !' And he said, 'Here I am.' ⁵Then he said, 'Come no closer ! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' ⁶He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. ⁷Then the LORD said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt ; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹The cry of the Israelites has now come to me ; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.' ¹¹But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt ?' ¹²He

said, 'I will be with you ; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you : when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.' ¹³But Moses said to God, 'If I come to the Israelites and say to them, "The God of your ancestors has sent me to you", and they ask me, "What is his name ?" what shall I say to them ?' ¹⁴God said to Moses, 'I am who I am.' He said further, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "I am has sent me to you." ' ¹⁵God also said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you" : This is my name for ever, and this my title for all generations.'

New Revised Standard Version

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading - *Romans 12 : 9 - 21*

Let love be genuine ; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good ; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection ; outdo one another in showing honour. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints ; extend hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you ; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another ; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly ; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God ; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' ²⁰No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them ; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink ; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

New Revised Standard Version

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LBnkP7e58S0>



**Come, Host of Heaven's high dwelling place,
Come, earth's disputed guest;
Find where we meet a welcome home,
Stay here and take your rest.**

**Surround these walls with faith and love
That through the nights and days,
When human tongues from speaking cease,
These stones may echo praise.**

**Bless and inspire those gathered here
With patience, hope and peace,
And all the joys that know the depth
In which all sorrows cease.**

**Here may the loser find his worth,
The stranger find a friend;
Here may the hopeless find their faith
And aimless find an end.**

**Build, from the human fabric, signs
Of how your kingdom thrives,
Of how the Holy Spirit changes life
By changing lives.**

**So, to the Lord whose care enfolds
The world held in his hands,
Be glory, honour, power and praise
For which this company stands.**

Words c. 1989 The Iona Community

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 16 : 21 - 28



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

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord ! This must never happen to you.' ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me ; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' ²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life ? Or what will they give in return for their life ? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

New Revised Standard Version

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.



These are quite lengthy readings - two of which quite possibly more familiar - but all of which could perhaps invite one very brief response :

Trust God.

Moses was about 80 years old at the time of these events, this Calling, and this Commission - my wife's Grandmother was 84 when she was baptised & confirmed - he'd been away from Egypt for decades, raising a family, tending his livestock, living A life : these is something in that of no such thing as being too late, for such a life choice as this. I can Well understand Moses' hesitancy - perhaps more-so for being His age, or the age I am now ___ none of that invincible bravado of youth ; but, the choice and call are undeniable ; and when asked for proof, back-up, evidence _ God provides the ultimate response, but also, seemingly, the most obscure and abstract :

"I am who I am ... say ... I am has sent me to you."

Leave that for one moment : St Paul _ we're used to his deep thought, or so we think ; we're used to him being controversial, argumentative, maybe demanding _ or so he sometimes appears _ though increasingly I think we should let him down from the pedestal We have placed him on. This is very Ordinary advice. But no less wise, and no less real :

"Let love be genuine ; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good ... rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering ... rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep _"

_ leave vengeance and retribution to God - he not only does it bigger and better, he also does it with finality. Our attempts only lead to tit-for-tat misery. And this is not some 'holier-than-thou' stained-glass unattainable beatific niceties _ this is genuine, helpful, effective advice ; right the way through to the doubly satisfying :

"if your enemies are hungry, feed them ; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads" _

- We do Good, and we feel good In and About ourselves.

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Trust God.

- Trust that God exists. It is that simple.

- Trust that God acts : we find and truth and ease when we follow His paths.

'Get behind me Satan.' - ? It may or may not truly be directed at Peter ; have we not all had moments where we're internally saying 'that' to something - even expressed in some One - where we See the paths and we have to Choose ?

Jesus' choice somewhere between birth and adulthood, was to Trust God. Trust the whole Premise of God, the Word of God _ through the Prophets and through his own moments of interpretation of truth in his day-to-day life. That if God is God, and God's promise is God's Promise _ then we have nothing to fear. Our days will still hold times of challenge or obstruction or learning, mishap or pain, but the promises stand, from the One who Is _ therefore _ we're held, we Cannot fall _ Everything is held in God's hand of Redemption, and even Death is held in Resurrection. Trust God, and we're held.

With that as our choice, we are unencumbered of having to hold our Own Life, or Self, Value or Worth together _ it's held by far greater hands than ours ; and We are free to embrace the whole world - we know it needs it ; find that we do so With God ; that God Is, and is unfailingly active.

Amen.

The 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.**

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 :
Geoffrey Parker ; Patricia Staynes ;
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=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 Blessing



May God the Father,
by whose glory
Christ was raised from the dead,
strengthen us
to walk with him
in his risen life ;
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.