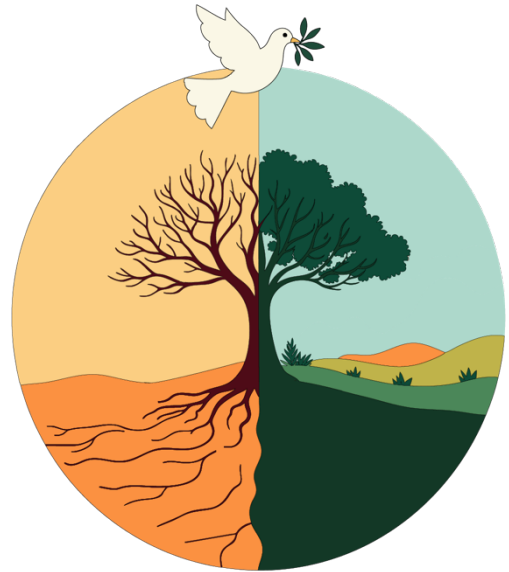


Christ Church

High Harrogate



Garden of Peace

Isaiah 32:14-18

Season of Creation :

Luke 17:5-10



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

Sixteenth Sunday
after Trinity &
Dedication Sunday

5th October 2025

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.]

Peace to this house
 from God our heavenly Father.
Peace to this house
 from God the Son, who is our peace.
Peace to this house
 from God the Holy Spirit, giver of life.
Peace to God
- whom heaven cannot contain,
- whose glory is in all the earth,
from whom,
 in hallowed places of worship and
 in the homes of Christ's people
pour forth the gifts of his grace
 in the people of his Church
 the living stones of faithful praise.
Blessed be God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

We are a temple of God's indwelling Holy Spirit,
yet we have grieved him.
The temple that we are does not belong to us,
but was bought at the price of Christ's precious blood.
So we come, in sorrow yet with confidence,
to ask forgiveness of our Father in heaven.

- Silence is kept for a short time, in Confession and Prayer.



All Zeal for your house has eaten me up
and the taunts of those who taunt you
have fallen upon me.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.



I would rather stand at the threshold
of the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of ungodliness.
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy

The Lord will defend you going out and
your coming in
from this time forward for evermore.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy

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 Lord, we beseech you
mercifully to hear the prayers
of your people who call upon you ;
and grant that they may both
perceive and know
what things they ought to do,
and also may have
grace and power faithfully to fulfil them;
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

Lamentations 1 : 1 - 6



How lonely sits the city that once was full of people ! How like a widow she has become, she that was great among the nations ! She that was a princess among the provinces has become a vassal. ²She weeps bitterly in the night, with tears on her cheeks ; among all her lovers she has no one to comfort her ; all her friends have dealt treacherously with her, they have become her enemies. ³Judah has gone into exile with suffering and hard servitude ; she lives now among the nations, and finds no resting-place ; her pursuers have all overtaken her in the midst of her distress. ⁴The roads to Zion mourn, for no one comes to the festivals ; all her gates are desolate, her priests groan ; her young girls grieve, and her lot is bitter. ⁵Her foes have become the masters, her enemies prosper, because the LORD has made her suffer for the multitude of her transgressions ; her children have gone away, captives before the foe. ⁶From daughter Zion has departed all her majesty. Her princes have become like stags that find no pasture ; they fled without strength before the pursuer. *NRSV*

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading

- 2 Timothy 1 : 1 - 14



Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, ²To Timothy, my beloved child : Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. ³I am grateful to God - whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did - when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. ⁶For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands ; ⁷for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. ⁸Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, ⁹who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, ¹²and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. ¹³Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

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=ZCU181Ap42Y>

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art,
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.



Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord,
be thou my great Father, and I thy true son,
be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight,
be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might,
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower,
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
be thou my inheritance now and always,
be thou and thou only the first in my heart,
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys after victory is won,
great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

*Words : Irish c 8th century Tr Mary Byrne (1880-1931)
Versified by Eleanor Hull (1860-1935)
Music : Bob Chilcott*

The Gospel Reading
Luke 17:5 - 10



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

The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith !' ⁶The Lord replied, 'If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea", and it would obey you. ⁷Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from ploughing or tending sheep in the field, "Come here at once and take your place at the table"? ⁸Would you not rather say to him, "Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink"? ⁹Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded ? ¹⁰So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, "We are worthless slaves ; we have done only what we ought to have done !" '

New Revised Standard Version

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All Praise to you, O Christ



Lamentations, appropriately to its name, paints a picture only that is bad, sorrowful, heart-breaking ; a sense of falling and failing, end and pain. We might, from some observations or some measurements, or some critiques _ think that that is also true of Us - of the Christian Church, or at least of the Church of England. But if that is the fear, then we should go to the New Testament - there in every way for a reason - and most especially today to the Epistle, and I would highlight verses 7, 9, and 13-14 :

v.7 "for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline"

- he confronts the fear - or temptation - and he meets it in confidence with Power ; but he tempers the power with Love ; and guides them, all by Self-Discipline. It is pictorially like a 'Penrose Triangle' _ which you could follow on paper but in reality would be 'impossible' (which reminds of the : 'For God all things are possible') _ a shape which is held in tension, that would keep it strong and supporting and sustained.

Verse 9 :

"of God who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to Our Works but according to his own purpose and grace."

- Remember this is not about our power : - to proclaim that, or fear that, are only temptations : this is all about God's intention, purpose, power, grace and promise.

Verses 13-14 :

"Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from ME, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the good treasure entrusted to YOU, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in US."

Me, You, Us - the fellowship of God. Painted for us in the Trinity : a Revelation, made by us into a Doctrine, which keeps its own inherent blessed-tension _ supporting and sustaining and serving ____ with us in its middle, in its heart.

This is designated as Dedication Sunday ; we are to do our bit ; - and because of This * not lose heart ; because of each other, not lose heart _ remind each other not to lose heart.

If our enemies and pursuers (OT passage*) are those who wish the Church to crumple and fade _ We (from the New Testament, the very story of Christ) have every reason to do everything but [look around you, at the truth lived in each other] ; and we have in Christ _ one who exhibits not giving up, for the single reason that the call and promise and gift are true.

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 _

The risen Christ is in the midst of us.
We bring our prayers to him as Lord of his Church.
For the Church universal,
of which all our church buildings are a visible symbol,
Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

For our own congregation,
as we remember your presence and promise upon us,
Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

For this place, our home,
that we may be still and know here that you are God,
Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

For your blessings of the past
and your vision for our future,
Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

For a foretaste of your eternal kingdom,
and the crowning of our years with your goodness,
Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

For the blessings of grace,
and your care of creation,
Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

For the faith of those who have gone before us,
and all who now know the fullness of your peace :
Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

For the fellowship of your saints,
and our renewed life in baptism,
Lord, receive our thanks and 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.**

CLICK *below to hear Louise from our Choir lead us*

Hymn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Etzz2YGpm1Y>



Now thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom his world rejoices ;
who from our mother's arms
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours to-day.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us ;
and keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills,
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven,
the One eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore ;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

The Dismissal

The Blessing



May Christ, who has nourished us
with himself the living bread,
make us one in praise and love,
and raise us up at the last day ;
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

Peace to this and every house,
from God our heavenly Father.
Peace to this and every house,
from his Son who is our peace.
Peace to this and every house,
from the Holy Spirit, the life-giver -
may the Peace of the Lord be always with us :

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

In truth let us go into this day in peace ;
and may we love and serve the Lord
in the name of Christ. Amen. Amen. Amen.