

Christ Church

High Harrogate



Luke 17:11 - 19

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

on the

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY

after **TRINITY**

Harvest Thanksgiving

27th 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 -

Come, let us celebrate in thanks.

Let us come as guests,
and to one another, hosts.

Come, be we lame, blind, crippled, poor,
be we rich, fearful, faithful or seeking -
come quickly.
and follow the example of the Lord.

Today we celebrate again this meeting with our Lord.
Today we renew our commitment to His Kingdom.
From today again, we work and pray that
nobody will stay hungry.

In the faith of Christ,
let us Come.

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 with Christ
in faithfulness and prayer,
let us confess
our wastefulness of creation,
our forgetfulness of all we are given
and of the needs of our neighbour ;
and let us renew our place
as wise stewards
of God's creation :

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



**All Creator God, we confess that we have
not honoured and obeyed you.**

We have

**broken our relationships with one another,
abused your fragile creation,
wounded your love
and marred your holy image in us.**

**We are sorry and ashamed
and repent of all our sins.**

**Father, forgive us. Lead us from apathy to love.
Strengthen us as stewards of your precious gifts
and of your glorious creation,
for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
who died for us.**

Amen.

In sharing and receiving the Absolution of God :

May Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ
has given us a kingdom that cannot be shaken :
forgive us our sins, open our eyes to his truth,
strengthen us to do his will
and lead us in the full joy of his kingdom.

Amen.

The Collect



Eternal God,
you crown the year with your goodness
and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season :
grant that we may
use them to your glory,
for the relief of those in need
and for our own well-being ;
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 - *Deuteronomy 8:7-18*

For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, ⁸a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, ⁹a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. ¹⁰You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you. ¹¹Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. ¹²When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, ¹³and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, ¹⁴then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, ¹⁵who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid waste-land with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, ¹⁶and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. ¹⁷Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gained me this wealth.' ¹⁸But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

New Revised Standard Version

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading - *2 Corinthians 9 : 6 - end*

The point is this : the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. ⁹As it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor ; his righteousness endures for ever.' ¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us ; ¹²for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. ¹³Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, ¹⁴while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift !

New Revised Standard Version

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

CLICK below to hear our **CHOIR** lead us. SORRY that the sound quality is not all we want it to be, but please use your imagination and your memory. **Hymn**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m2_C4QUvajY

We plough the fields, and scatter -
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God's almighty hand ;
he sends the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine,
and soft refreshing rain :



*All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above,
then thank the Lord,
O thank the Lord, for all his love.*

He only is the Maker
of all things near and far,
he paints the wayside flower,
he lights the evening star.
The winds and waves obey him,
by him the birds are fed ;
much more to us, his children,
he gives our daily bread : *All good gifts . . .*

We thank thee then O Father,
for all things bright and good ;
the seed-time and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer
for all thy love imparts,
but that which thou desirest,
our humble, thankful hearts : *All good gifts . . .*

*Words : Matthias Claudius 1740 – 1815, tr. Jane Campbell 1817 – 78
Tune : Wir Pflügen*

The Gospel Reading - Luke 17:11-19



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

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹³they called out, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!' ¹⁴When he saw them, he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Then Jesus asked, 'Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they?' ¹⁸Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' ¹⁹Then he said to him, 'Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.'

New Revised Standard Version

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Revd Caroline Taylor (Curate)



A couple of weeks ago we celebrated the start of the Season of Creation at our monthly All Age service. Those of you who came to the service may remember that the theme for this year is 'Living Water' based on the prophet Ezekiel's vision of God's life-giving water flowing from his throne. It's a picture of a river that grows deeper, restoring barren land, reviving waters, and bringing flourishing wherever it flows. You may recall me using a beautiful piece of blue material to help us visualise this water, flowing from his temple as the source of all things. We considered God's invitation to come and receive the refreshing of his Holy Spirit, to enable our vocation and task of caring for all that God has made and provided for us.

As part of the activity, I invited those present to take a paper leaf and write a creation-themed prayer and place them on the material. Your prayers were incredibly heartfelt and varied.

Here are just a few examples:

There were prayers about enjoying creation; about doing more to help offset the impact of climate change.

Many of you wrote about being mindful and thoughtful of the wondrous gifts given by God.

Some of you declared, 'A call to love life!' I was delighted that a few people had drawn a smiley face on their leaf!

There was also a deep appreciation of the variety of abundant life in the world.

The call to live an abundant life is deeply rooted in the Bible. In the reading from Deuteronomy, we recount the story of the next generation of Israelites camped on the East bank of the Jordan, as Moses prepares them to own the promised land. It is also a time for them to recount the mistakes of their forefathers and reinstate themselves to their covenant with God. Moses tells them of what God has done for them and reminds them that obeying God's laws brings blessing and disobeying them brings hardship. Today, we hear specifically the call for them to not forget where prosperity comes from. So, on the one hand, they are to enter the land and enjoy its abundance, but they must remember that it is the Lord their God who is the giver of every good gift.

This is a message that also speaks so powerfully to us today. We live in a culture that often celebrates the idols of self-sufficiency,

achievement, and consumerism. We can easily begin to think of the world around us merely as a resource to be used, consumed, or controlled. Yet the Bible invites us to see creation differently. The earth is not simply ours; it is God's gift to us. The water we drink, the food we eat, the beauty we enjoy, and the life that surrounds us all come from the generosity of our Creator. Therefore, as Christians, it is our calling is to remember God, the giver of all good things to us.

Gratitude also lies at the heart of all of today's readings. In the Gospel, Jesus heals ten lepers, but only one returns to give thanks. Significantly, that one is a Samaritan, an outsider. Having received the gift of healing, he turns back, praises God, and falls at Jesus' feet in thanksgiving. It is striking that all ten receive the blessing, but only the one recognises the giver. In many ways, this echoes the warning to Israel in Deuteronomy, that the danger lies not in their ability to receive God's gifts; the danger lies in their forgetting the source, the Lord their God.

The theme of gratitude is picked up again in our reading from 2 Corinthians. Writing to the church in Corinth, Paul encourages believers to give generously to those in need. He reminds them that God provides abundantly. This is not simply about giving more, but Paul wants them to see that God's gifts are given so that they may become a blessing to others. God's blessings were never meant to stop with us. We are not called to stockpile all that he's given us, but like the vision of God's flowing stream of his generosity, we are created to allow that flow to bless us and bless others through us.

This is why I was so encouraged by the prayers written on the leaves. They reflected hearts that recognise this truth. There was gratitude for the richness and diversity of life. There was joy in the beauty of creation. There was an awareness of the precious gifts

God has entrusted us, and perhaps most importantly, there was a desire to love and cherish creation and the life that God has given.

As the Season of Creation draws to a close next Sunday, the danger remains that, in the busyness and distractions of life, we will take for granted the beauty, diversity, and abundance of God's creation, failing to notice the countless blessings that surround us each day. The Samaritan teaches us that the deepest miracle was not simply that he was healed, but that he recognised the source of his healing and returned in worship and thanksgiving. The Season of Creation calls us to that same recognition: to see the world not merely as resources, but as a gift from the hand of a loving Creator; to respond with gratitude; and then filled with thanksgiving, to become channels of God's life-giving generosity, care, and renewal.

For the river in Ezekiel's vision still flows from the presence of God, bringing healing wherever it goes. As we receive the living water of Christ and are refreshed by his Spirit, may that life flow through us, bringing hope rather than despair, and generosity where there is need. Above all, let us be people who are mindful of the suffering and damage to the world's resources, climate, and ecosystems, and be prepared to do something about it.

For God's purpose is not simply that we admire creation, but that we participate in his work of renewing it. The God who created all things is also the God who, through his Son, Jesus Christ, is reconciling all things to himself. One day, the river of life will flow through the new creation, and all things will be made new. Until that day, may we live as grateful and thankful stewards of God's gifts, as faithful witnesses to his kingdom, and as living signs of the renewal yet to come.

Amen.

The Revd Caroline Taylor

The Creed

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come.**

**We believe in God the Father, who created all things :
for by his will they were created and have their being.**

**We believe in God the Son who was slain,
for with his blood he purchased us for God
from every tribe and language,
from every people and nation.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit.
The Spirit and the Bride say 'Come'.
Even so, come Lord Jesus !
Amen.**

The Prayers of Intercession

As children and pilgrims of a loving God who always
listens to our cries, we are invited to come before God, in
all that we are, and with all the prayer we need make.

Let us pray to God,
the Lord of the harvest,
that he will bring to fruition
all that he desires for his creation.



Under Christ may we all give thanks for the good gifts of
creation and God's grace in our life, and still may our gaze be
ever only upon God ; help us to show the way of salvation
and the promise of glory.
Lord in your mercy - Hear our prayer.

Give light to those who walk in the darkness of fears, of worry,
and of threat ; bring peace and freedom to the anxious ; bless
each our labours, and bring fruitful harvests - which nourish the
world and feeds our daily bread.

Lord in your mercy - Hear our prayer.

Lead us and guide us to bring hope to the those around us ;
to bless the creation upon which we walk and from which we
receive ; to bless and be blessed in the common good of your
kingdom.

Lord in your mercy - Hear our prayer.

May your compassion be great upon those whose harvests fail,
those who are sick, those who are hungry or without their daily
needs ; hear the prayers of our heart for those in all need.

Lord in your mercy - hear our prayer.

Receive into your kingdom without fear, those who have fulfilled
their days on earth, and bless with peace, hope and comfort
those 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.

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.

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

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

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



The Blessing



May God our creator,
who clothes the lilies of the field and
feeds the birds of the air,
bestow on us his care
and increase the harvest of our righteousness ;
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

Christ is our peace.
We live under his name
and we share his peace ;
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.

Thank you for joining in this prayer.