

Christ Church

High Harrogate



Luke 10:1-9

As Parish service for when we're
UNITED but APART

for the

Twentieth Sunday
after Trinity

St Luke the Evangelist

18th October 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

As we prepare to meet Christ in the
Word, fellowship and prayer,
let us confess our sins
in penitence and faith.

- 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.

The Collect



Almighty God, you called Luke the physician,
whose praise is in the gospel,
to be an evangelist and physician of the soul :
by the grace of the Spirit
and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel,
give your Church the same love and power to heal ;
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

Isaiah 35 : 3 - 6



Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

4

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear !
Here is your God. He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.'

5

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped ;

6

then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert.

New Revised Standard Version

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading - 2 Timothy 4 : 5 - 17



As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully. ⁶As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing. ⁹Do your best to come to me soon, ¹⁰for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica ; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry. ¹²I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. ¹³When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. ¹⁴Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm ; the Lord will pay him back for his deeds. ¹⁵You also must beware of him, for he strongly opposed our message. ¹⁶At my first defence no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them ! ¹⁷But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth.

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=REq9XrlGOwk>



**When I needed a neighbour,
were you there, were you there ?
When I needed a neighbour, were you there ?
*And the creed and the colour
and the name won't matter,
Were you there ?***

**I was hungry and thirsty,
were you there, were you there ?
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there ?
*And the . . .***

**I was cold, I was naked,
were you there, were you there ?
I was cold, I was naked, were you there ?
*And the . . .***

**When I needed a shelter,
were you there, were you there ?
When I needed a shelter, were you there ?
*And the . . .***

**When I needed a healer,
were you there, were you there ?
When I needed a healer, were you there ?
*And the . . .***

**Wherever you travel,
I'll be there, I'll be there.
Wherever you travel, I'll be there.
*And the creed and the colour
and the name won't matter,
I'll be there.***

Words : Sydney Carter Tune : Neighbour

The Gospel Reading

Luke 10:1-9



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

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. ² He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few ; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. ³ Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. ⁴ Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals ; and greet no one on the road. ⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house !" ⁶ And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person ; but if not, it will return to you. ⁷ Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. ⁸ Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you ; ⁹ cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you."

NRSV

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ

The Sermon

The Revd Caroline Taylor (Curate)



We have changed from the liturgical colour green to red. This is because today is the Feast of St Luke the Evangelist, and it gives me a wonderful opportunity to reflect on St Luke, his gifts, and what he can teach us about evangelism.

Now, I suspect that for many of us the word evangelism evokes a mixture of emotions, anything ranging from excitement to fear, and somewhere in between! If we had time to hear from everyone this morning, I am sure there would be joyful stories of helping others come to faith, alongside more uncomfortable stories of trying to share your faith and feeling embarrassed, snubbed, or ignored.

The truth is that the reason you are sitting here in church today, or listening or reading online, is most likely because someone else, directly or indirectly, shared their faith with you.

Think for a moment: who first told you about Jesus? Who first invited you to church?

Perhaps it was through school, through family, through a friend, or even through something you heard online or in the media.

However it happened, someone played a part in bringing the good news of Jesus into your life.

And that reminds us of something very important: if sharing the good news is vital to the spread of the Gospel throughout the world, how can we, as ordinary men and women, feel inspired and equipped for that task?

The first thing to remember is that we are not meant to do it alone.

We are a gathered community. Regularly we come together to pray, worship, hear God's word, receive Holy Communion, and encourage one another in faith.

This is not simply a lovely thing to do; it is essential to who we are.

When we gather, we are reminded of our identity as disciples of Jesus, known and loved by the Father, redeemed by the Son, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Together we are renewed and recreated as we discover afresh our part in God's greater story.

But gathering is only half of the story.

At the end of our service comes the sending out.

We all know the words:

"Go in peace to love and serve the Lord."

And we respond:

"In the name of Christ. Amen."

Then off we go.

Many of us head first to the Parish Centre for refreshments, conversation, and friendship. But before long we scatter. We return to our homes, our workplaces, our families, and our communities.

We go as Christ's ambassadors, called to be salt and light in the places where God has put us.

So let me ask you a question:

Where will you be at this time tomorrow?

At work?

With family?

In the supermarket?

At a medical appointment?

On the bus?

At the gym?

And then imagine someone asks that familiar question:

"What did you do at the weekend?"

Suddenly we begin listing all the enjoyable things we have done while quietly debating whether to mention that we also went to church!

As a new Christian over thirty years ago, I often felt nervous about mentioning church, worrying about what people might think. Yet some wonderful conversations followed, and I discovered colleagues who were Christians too. That was a great encouragement.

Sharing our faith does not need to be complicated. Jesus sent out the seventy disciples to travel light. We are not expected to have all the answers; we simply go trusting that God goes with us.

A simple prayer such as, "Lord, let me be your hands, your feet, and your voice today," can open opportunities we never expected.

Sometimes our role is to speak.

Sometimes it is to listen.

Sometimes it is simply to be present.

But in all these things, God is at work.

Of course, following Christ also brings hardship and opposition.

Both of today's readings remind us of this reality.

Jesus warns the disciples that they may encounter rejection. He tells them that there will be places where their message is not welcomed.

His instruction is simple: shake the dust from your feet and move on.

When we experience rejection, it does not mean we have failed. It may simply not be the right time. Our task is faithfulness; the outcome belongs to God.

What speaks particularly powerfully to me in today's readings is the importance of companionship, compassion, and care among believers.

In his second letter to Timothy, Paul writes honestly about the difficulties he has faced. He speaks of people abandoning him. He describes the loneliness of imprisonment as he awaits his fate.

And yet amid those painful words comes a beautiful and moving statement:

"Only Luke is with me."

Luke remained faithful, offering friendship, loyalty, and support when others had gone.

Paul even asks Timothy to come quickly and bring his cloak before winter. It is such a human detail. The great apostle is cold. He needs companionship. He needs practical help.

And Luke is there.

That is evangelism too.

Luke did not only proclaim the Gospel; he lived it.

As a physician he cared for people. As a companion he encouraged people. As a faithful friend he stood beside those who were suffering.

His witness was not confined to words.

It was expressed through presence, kindness, and service.

As we celebrate the Feast of St Luke today, we give thanks for all his gifts: his skill as a writer, his care as a physician, his faithfulness as a companion, and his calling as an evangelist.

Through the Gospel that bears his name, millions of people across the centuries have come to know Jesus Christ.

Yet Luke's example reminds us that every Christian has a part to play in God's mission.

Most of us will never write a Gospel or preach to thousands.

But all of us can bear witness to the difference Jesus has made in our lives.

All of us can show compassion.

All of us can offer friendship.

All of us can speak a word of hope when the opportunity arises.

All of us can point others towards Christ.

So as we leave this place today, may we do so with confidence.

We go as people who are known and loved by God.

We go strengthened by Word and Sacrament.

We go empowered by the Holy Spirit.

And we go into the very places where God has already called and placed us.

Whether at work, at home, in the supermarket, at the gym, on the bus, or among friends and family, may we be ready to share something of the hope that is within us.

And may we do so not in our own strength, but in the strength of the Lord who sent out the seventy disciples and who still goes before us today.

Amen.

Revd Caroline Taylor

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 _

O God, the creator and preserver of all,
we pray for people in every place and every kind of need ;
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,
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 ;
as we remember by name :
John Gentle ; Miguel Pascual ; June Hassell ; Alan Manship ;
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.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iwZvfVJD1vQ>

The King of love my Shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never ;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine for ever.



Where streams of living water flow
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow
with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with thee, dear Lord, beside me ;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight ;
thy unction, grace bestoweth :
and O what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth !

And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never ;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house for ever.

*Words : H W Baker (1821-1877)
from Psalm 23
Tune : Dominus Regit Me*

The Dismissal

The Blessing



May the God of hope
fill us with all joy and peace in believing ;
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.
He has reconciled us to God
in one body by the cross.
We meet in his name and share his 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. Amen.