



Chet Valley Churches

Informal Communion
5th July 2020

Welcome

The paschal candle is lit in silence.

The president says

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Praise God for the victory of light over darkness.

Praise God for Christ's victory over death.

Please take your service sheets home with you and recycle them there. Please stay and chat outside afterwards if you would like.

Gathering

We gather together this morning
though not by ourselves.

We gather together in the embrace of God
Who holds our griefs, fears and hopes.

We gather together in the embrace of God
Who walks with us into a new and uncertain future.

We gather together in the embrace of God
Who lights our path along the way.



Collect

○ God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal; grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:16-19; 25-end

“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’”

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Reflection

In our reflection today there will be some words and then a time of silence to think about what has been said.

It's a funny old world, isn't it? When people can't join in with dancing. When they can't mourn together. When they complain because people have gathered together to eat. What are we to make of it? Are we weary of the place we find ourselves?

Pause

I think maybe we are all weary and burdened. Burdened by the toll of lockdown – not able to see or hug people we love, not being able to go out and about as we would normally. Burdened by the sadness of so many deaths, both here and across the world, for which families cannot grieve as they usually would. Burdened as we see people becoming poorer as others gain. Burdened by worry over the future as businesses fold and people are made redundant. Burdened as we watch world leaders making selfish choices and we feel powerless.

Pause

Jesus promises us refreshment and ease from those heavy burdens. We may rest in him.

🎵 *Music: Let Your Living Water* <https://youtu.be/t2UvQlnP27c>

Let your living water flow over my soul,
Let your Holy Spirit come and take control,
Of every situation that has troubled my mind,
All my cares and burdens onto you I roll.

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus. Father, Father, Father. Spirit, Spirit, Spirit.

Come now Holy Spirit and take control,
Hold me in your loving arms and make me whole,
Wipe away all doubt and fear and take my pride,
Draw me to your love and keep me by your side.

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus. Father, Father, Father. Spirit, Spirit, Spirit.

Give your life to Jesus, let Him fill your soul,
Let Him take you in His arms and make you whole,
As you give your life to Him, He'll set you free,
You will live and reign with Him eternally.

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus. Father, Father, Father. Spirit, Spirit, Spirit.

Let your living water flow over my soul,
Let your Holy Spirit come and take control,
Of every situation that has troubled my mind,
All my cares and burdens onto you I roll.

Pause

And yet we are burdened by more than just these external things. We are burdened by the way we treat the natural world that we are just a part of; burdened by the way we sometimes see ourselves; burdened by the way that we sometimes see other people; burdened by the things that we do.

Pause

We are burdened by our sinfulness and so we come in confession to God.

Confession

Holy risk-taker, wonderful God, You create us out of your deep,
exuberant love and in great hope.
More than that, you make us in your own image;
We are humbled and enlivened by your faith in us.
Praise to your Name beyond all names.



But as we struggle to discover and perfect your image in ourselves, we struggle too to be rid of burdens which get in the way:

burdens of guilt, fear, despair,
burdens of anger, resentment, prejudice

Jesus Christ, perfection of God's image; as both judge and friend, we acknowledge our burdens to you, hiding none because you already know them.

Silence

**Forgive us where we have wrongly burdened others.
Help us to forgive those who have wrongly burdened us.
Release us from all that harms us;
help us to turn again—and again—
from selfishness to selflessness,
so that we grow in wisdom and maturity
towards the day when we become
perfect bearers of God's image. Amen**

You are free.

The grace of God through Jesus makes you free.

Accept the grace of God.

Your sins are forgiven.

You are free.

Amen



Prayers [Using tea lights]

Loving God, you know all that burdens our hearts and minds even when we cannot find the words that we need for our prayers.

Today we light a candle for all those who have been forgotten across our world.

Loving God, **Bring them your light.**

Today we light a candle for all those who are sick in body, mind or spirit.

Loving God, **Bring them your light.**

Today we light a candle for all those who mourn.

Loving God, **Bring them your light.**

Today we light a candle for all those who despair for the future.

Loving God, **Bring them your light.**

We make our prayers in the name of the living God in whom we live and move and have our being. **Amen**

The Peace

Christ, who extends welcome and hospitality to all who wish to enter his kingdom, welcomes us now.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*All now make **a sign** of peace to one another*

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;

in your love you made us for yourself. When we turned away you did not reject us, but came to meet us in your Son.

**You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life
that we might live in him and he in us.

**He opened his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends he took bread,
and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to them, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.



**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you this sacrifice of praise
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

**Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

God's holy gifts for God's holy people

**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

We share communion. During communion we hear:

Nada te Turbe [Let Nothing Disturb You] <https://youtu.be/Pop65vCB6Oo>

*Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you,
he who has God nothing lacks: God alone suffices.
Everything passes, but God remains,
with patience all is possible.*

Mon Ame se Repose [My Soul Finds Rest] <https://youtu.be/rnqAej3yFw8>

*In God alone my soul can find rest and peace
In God my peace and joy
Only in God my soul can find its rest
Find its rest and peace.*



Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, comfort of the afflicted
and healer of the broken,
you have fed us at the table of life and hope:
teach us the ways of gentleness and peace,
that all the world may acknowledge
the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessing

May the everlasting Father himself take you in his own generous clasp;
In his own generous arm.
May the everlasting Father shield you East and West wherever you go.

And the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with you and those whom you love
now and for evermore. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ **Thanks be to God.**