



Chet Valley Churches



Benefice Holy Communion

30th August 2020

Welcome and Introduction

Gather us in, the lost and the lonely, the broken and breaking,
the tired and the aching, who long for nourishment,
found at your feast.

Gather us in.

The done and the doubting, the wishing and the wondering,
the puzzled and the pondering, who long for the company
found at your feast.

Gather us in.

We meet in the name of Jesus, Word made flesh,
Saviour of fallen humanity, Lover of all.
Come Lord Jesus.

Come Lord Jesus.

♪ *Hymn: All My Hope on God is Founded*

**All my hope on God is founded,
all my trust he shall renew;
he, my guide through changing order,
only good and only true:
God unknown, he alone
calls my heart to be his own.**

**Pride of man and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
all that human toil can fashion,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.**

**God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.**



**Still from Earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done;
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son:
hear Christ's call, one and all:
we who follow shall not fall.**

Confession

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

**Father eternal,
giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought,
in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love
and marred your image in us.**



**We are sorry and ashamed and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us, forgive us all that is past
and lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light. Amen.**

Absolution

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with heartfelt repentance and true faith turn to him: have mercy on *you*; pardon and deliver *you* from all *your* sins; confirm and strengthen *you* in all goodness; and bring *you* to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

We Praise God (*Gradually getting louder*)

The sun in the day shouts, **'Praise the Lord!'**
The moon at night shouts, **'Praise the Lord!'**
The stars in the sky shout, **'Praise the Lord!'**
Praise to the Lord—**Who made us!**

The hills and the trees shout, **'Praise the Lord!'**
The animals all shout, **'Praise the Lord!'**
The birds and bees shout, **'Praise the Lord!'**
Praise to the Lord—**Who made us!**



The angels in heaven shout, **'Praise the Lord!'**
All the world shouts **'Praise the Lord!'**
All of us here shout **'PRAISE THE LORD!'**
Praise to the Lord—**Who made us!**

The Collect

The president introduces a time of silence.

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of 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.**

Old Testament: Jeremiah 15:15-21

O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts.

I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

Therefore, thus says the Lord: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord.

I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

At the end the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

♪ Hymn: Thy Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. [x2]

**When I feel afraid and I think I've lost my way,
Still you're there right beside me.
Nothing will I fear as long as you are near.
Please be near me to the end.**

Thy Word is a lamp...

**I will not forget your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering.
Jesus be my guide and hold me to your side;
I will love you to the end.**

Thy Word is a lamp...

📖 Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:21-28

At the beginning the reader says:

Hear 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. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' 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.’

Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. 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?

‘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. 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.’

At the end the reader says:

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

Sermon: [Rev David]

If you turned to the person next to you, be that at home, in church or at a meeting, I wonder how well you would know them? Ok... they might be strangers in which case you wouldn't necessarily be expected to know much about them, but they may be family or long-standing friends yet what do you know about them. You may know when they were born, where they live, what they do to keep themselves occupied but, as our son used to say when he was very, very young: “What else?”

One of the great privileges that I have albeit often as part of a sad situation, is to visit families when someone has died. As I have sat with them I ask them about the person and out tumbles a whole host of information, some of it very mundane, some of it profound, all of it interesting and much of it a great surprise to others present who didn't know the half of it! and when it is relayed to a larger audience then the sense of surprise at what the person had done or was like becomes even greater.

In tidying up my mother and fathers affairs I have found papers, letters and photos which have given me a deeper insight into the things they did and what previous generations have done. Great uncles who have emigrated to South America, South Africa and Australia! But the facts about my parents, those whom I have known throughout my life, bring the greatest surprises.

No matter how well we know someone, there will always be something beyond our knowledge. R S Thomas, in his poem "Pilgrimages", a poem written about Bardsey the island of saints off the north-west tip of North Wales to which many have made pilgrimage over the centuries, writes these lines:

"Am I too late?
Were they too late also, those
first pilgrims? He is such a fast
God, always before us and
leaving as we arrive."

As soon as we believe that we are getting some understanding of who God is, God moves on ahead of us. As Archbishop Stephen Cottrell says, "confounding our conclusions, refusing to be pinned down."

Here in the Gospel reading Matthew has told us that Peter, speaking on behalf of the disciples, has declared that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God. then immediately, they having thought they'd gained some understanding are told that the Messiah, this Jesus, is going to undergo great suffering be handed over to the authorities and be killed. It isn't surprising that Peter is confused and challenges Jesus. Surely not? How can it be? Only for Jesus to rebuke him in the sternest of terms.

The passage from Jeremiah in some way echoes these feelings. Jeremiah accuses God of abandoning him. I'm sure Peter felt like that. Yet. In both instances God doesn't abandon those who seek to follow. Yes we need to be aware of the price that is inherent in the following. "Let them take up their cross and follow me," says Jesus. What that will mean to those who respond will of course vary. But as the passage in Matthew continues: "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." That's a promise.

God in Jesus goes ahead of us, prepares the Way for us, and whilst God is beyond our understanding there is enough that we can know which is sufficient to enable us to trust and follow where we are led.

Creed: We Say What We Believe

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

The world is weary and groaning, waiting with eager longing for the time that it will be made new again. There are so many things that we could pray for in the world at the moment: Darfur, Beirut, Yemen; the dispossessed in refugee camps and on the move; wildfires on the West Coast of America; places with spikes in coronavirus...

Pause

Let us pray.

We are using a response in our prayers today; when I say “Listen to us God”, please respond “And hear our cry”.

Listen to us God, **and hear our cry.**

We pray:

- For a world wearied by emptiness;
- For nations wearied by fear;
- For governments wearied by problems.

Pause

Listen to us God, **and hear our cry.**

We pray:

- For soldiers and civilians wearied by war;
- For young men wearied by killing;
- For women wearied by burying their dead.

Pause

Listen to us God, **and hear our cry.**

We pray:

- For men wearied by homelessness;
- For women and children wearied by hunger;
- For politicians wearied by empty promises.

Pause

Listen to us God, **and hear our cry.**

We pray:

- For the isolated wearied by loneliness;
- For the sick wearied by ill-health;
- For carers wearied by their burden.

Pause

Listen to us God, **and hear our cry.**

We pray:

- For churches wearied by decline;
- For minsters wearied by lack of confidence;
- For congregations wearied by present circumstances.

Pause

Listen to us God, **and hear our cry.**

Pause

You listen to us O God, and you hear our cry. **Amen.**



The Peace

The minister introduces the Peace.

Not an easy peace,
not an insignificant peace,
not a half-hearted peace,
but the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with us now.
Let us share it with each other in our hearts.

The president prepares bread and wine.

♪ Offertory Hymn: My Lord What Love Is This

**My Lord, what love is this that pays so dearly?
That I, the guilty one may go free!**

**Amazing love, O what sacrifice, the Son of God, given for me.
My debt he pays, and my death he dies
That I might live, that I might live.**

**And so they watched him die, despised, rejected
But oh, the blood he shed flowed for me!**

Amazing love...

**And now, this love of Christ shall flow like rivers.
Come wash your guilt away: live again!**

Amazing love...

Offertory Prayer

We offer our gifts money, talents and time to the Lord in the best way we can and say together:

Heavenly Father, let our gifts go where we cannot go, and help those whom we cannot reach.

**Through them let the unlearned be taught,
the hungry fed, the sick healed, and the lost found;
for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Remembrance

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.

You are worthy of our thanks and praise, Lord God of truth, for by the breath of your mouth you have spoken your word, and all things have come into being.

You fashioned us in your image and placed us in the garden of your delight. Though we chose the path of rebellion you would not abandon your own. Again and again you drew us into your covenant of grace.

You gave your people the law and taught us by your prophets to look for your reign of justice, mercy and peace. As we watch for the signs of your kingdom on earth, we echo the song of the angels in heaven, evermore praising you and saying:

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

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord God, you are the most holy one, enthroned in splendour and light, yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ you reveal the power of your love made perfect in our human weakness.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

Embracing our humanity, Jesus showed us the way of salvation; loving us to the end, he gave himself to death for us; dying for his own, he set us free from the bonds of sin, that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

On the night he gave up himself for us all he took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

Amen. Lord, we believe.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: "Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Amen. Lord, we believe.

Therefore we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross, we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb, we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high and we long for his coming in glory.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption, Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; form us into the likeness of Christ and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

Look with favour on your people and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts. Bless the earth, heal the sick, let the oppressed go free and fill your Church with power from on high.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth to feast with all your saints at the table in your kingdom, where the new creation is brought to perfection in Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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 Fraction

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 invites all to Communion.

This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord,
it is made ready for those who love Him
and who want to love Him more.

So, come, you who have much faith, and you who have little,
you who have been here often,
and you who have not been for a long time,
you who have tried to follow, and you who have failed.

Come, because it is not I who invite you: it is our Lord,
It is His will that those who want Him should meet Him here.

Come.

Show Me the Way of the Cross—Matt Redman

Show me the way of the cross once again,
Denying myself for the love that I've gained.
Everything's you now, everything's changed.
It's time you had my whole life.
You can have it all.

Yes, I resolve to give it all.
Some things must die, some things must live.
Not 'what can I gain,' but 'what can I give'.
If much is required when much is received,
Then you can have my whole life.
Jesus have it all.

I've given like a beggar but lived like the rich
And crafted myself a more comfortable cross.
Yet what I am called to is deeper than this;
It's time you had my whole life.
You can have it all.

Yes, I resolve to give it all.
Some things must die, some things must live.
Not “what can I gain,” but “what can I give”.
If much is required when much is received,
Then you can have my whole life.
Jesus have it all.

Have it all of me.
You can have it all.
Jesus, Have it all.



Prayers after Communion

Lord Jesus Christ, you have put your life into our hands:
now we put our lives into yours.

Take us, renew us, remake us.

What we have been is past:
what we shall be, through you, still awaits us. Lead us on.

Take us with you. Amen.

As we give ourselves to you.

Take us out to live as changed people.

Because we have shared the living bread
and cannot remain the same.

Ask much of us and expect much from us.

Enable much by us and encourage many through us.

So Lord, we may live to your praise and glory. Amen.

Notices and Announcements

♪ Final Hymn: *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
Thy justice, like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all life thou givest—to both great and small;
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
Then wither and perish—but naught changeth thee.**

**Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.**

We Share God's Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Depart

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

