



Chet Valley Churches



Holy Communion

Sunday after Ascension

29th May 2022

The Greeting and Welcome

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
The Lord be with you, **and also with you.**
Alleluia, Christ is risen. **He is risen indeed, Alleluia.**

♪ Hymn: *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

**Crown him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon his throne;
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
All music but its own:
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.**

**Crown him the Lord of love!
Behold his hands and side,
Rich wounds yet visible above
In beauty glorified:
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his burning eye
At mysteries so bright.**

**Crown Him the Lord of peace,
Whose power a sceptre sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease,
Absorbed in prayer and praise:
His reign shall know no end, and round his pierced feet
Fair flowers of Paradise extend
Their fragrance ever sweet.**

**Crown him the Lord of years,
The Potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
Ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;
Thy praise shall never, never fail
Throughout eternity.**

Confession

Let us confess our sins to Almighty God.

**Father, we have sinned
against heaven and against you.
We are not worthy to be called your children.
We turn to you again.
Have mercy on us, bring us back to yourself
as those who once were dead
but now have life through Christ our Lord. Amen.**



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.**


Gloria in Excelsis

Gloria,   gloria, in excelsis Deo; (x2)

**Lord God, Heavenly King, peace you bring to us;
We worship you, we give you thanks,
We sing our song of praise.**

Gloria,   gloria, in excelsis Deo; (x2)

**Jesus, Saviour of all, Lord God, Lamb of God,
You take away our sins,
O Lord, have mercy on us all.**

Gloria,   gloria, in excelsis Deo; (x2)

**At the Father's right hand, Lord receive our prayer,
For you alone are the Holy One,
And you alone are the Lord.**

Gloria,   gloria, in excelsis Deo; (x2)

**Glory, Father and Son, Glory, Holy Spirit,
To you we raise our hands up high,
We glorify your name.**

Gloria,   gloria, in excelsis Deo; (x2)

The Collect

Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Reading: Acts 16:16-34

One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, 'These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation.' She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, 'I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.' And it came out that very hour.

But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market-place before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, 'These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.' The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, 'Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.' The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' They answered, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you

will be saved, you and your household.' They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

For the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

🎵 **Hymn: *All Hail the Power of Jesu's Name***

**All hail the power of Jesu's name;
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem
To crown him, crown him, crown him,
Crown him Lord of all.**



**Crown him, ye morning stars of light,
Who fixed this floating ball;
Now hail the Strength of Israel's might,
And crown him Lord of all.**

**Crown him, ye martyrs of your God,
Who from his altar call;
Praise him whose way of pain ye trod,
And crown him Lord of all.**

**Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget
The wormwood and the gall,
Go spread your trophies at his feet,
And crown him Lord of all.**

**Let every tribe and every tongue
To him their hearts enthral,
Lift high the universal song
And crown him Lord of all.**

📖 **Gospel Reading: *John 17:20-26***

Alleluia, alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people and kindle in them the fire of your love. **Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

(Jesus said:) ‘I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

‘Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.’

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

Talk [Rev David]

What are we waiting for?

Many years ago I remember needing to go for a medical to a doctor I hadn't previously seen. I can't for the life of me remember why I needed it, possibly it was because I'd been appointed to a new job with the company I worked for. However suffice to say that I was duly examined and thankfully passed medically okay. Just before finishing the doctor asked me if I took part in any sports. At the time I had stopped playing football but was still interested in the game and so I said that I was thinking of taking up refereeing. His response was, "What are you waiting for? Get on and do it."

Today we are in that period between the Ascension and Pentecost. A period of limbo for the disciples. Jesus had told them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. I wonder how many of them fully appreciated what it was that they were waiting for! Waiting isn't always easy. There's a natural tendency to be wanting to do something. And that doing is usually something that seems to have a tangible result. Like fishing, perhaps?

But this waiting is more a case of being ready and expectant. One never knows when something will happen, one must be prepared to act. How

does one do that well one way is to spend the time in prayer. Of course, each day will have its material needs but it must also contain the opportunity for the discipline of prayer.

This year the Archbishop of Canterbury has provided two resources through “Thy Kingdom Come” to help us wait. There is a small booklet providing reflections on I Peter for the nine days—novena—up until Pentecost and also a Prayer Journal. Both enable us to wait with anticipation for the coming of the Father’s Promise.

A hint of what that promise might be is given in the reading from John’s gospel, yet there it is still rather cryptic.

In our reading from Acts we see it more clearly as we read of Paul and Silas’s experience whilst in jail in Philippi. I can’t imagine what it was like for them to be thrown into prison having been accused of disturbing the peace. but there they are at midnight praying and singing hymns. I doubt that the other prisoners had any choice but to listen to them—having said that—following the earthquake despite their fetters being unfastened we’re told that none escaped. Rather Paul is able to say to the jailer, “Do not harm yourself for we are all here.” That assurance, that realisation, prompts the jailer to ask, “What must I do to be saved?”

Whilst he wasn’t aware of it until, that is what the jailer was waiting for—salvation. That it was what Paul and Silas were waiting for at that moment—to offer him salvation through belief in the Lord Jesus Christ. What are we waiting for? Yes, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit which comes when we wait expectantly and obediently.

The Confession of Faith

Let us declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Christ died for our sins
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he was buried; he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;
afterwards he appeared to his followers,
and to all the apostles:
this we have received, and this we believe. Amen.**

The Intercessions

Waiting can be frustrating—waiting for transport that doesn't turn up; waiting for a much-needed delivery; waiting for the right conditions for an activity to take place. Or it can be exciting—looking forward to something good or amazing. Today in our prayers we turn to God, waiting and listening as we pray for others and also for ourselves.

Lord we pray for the world—a world where people are still at risk of imprisonment for their faith. We pray for all who are at risk, not only those for whom the risks are huge, but also those who face day to day ridicule because they are Christians.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As a church we are often better at doing things than waiting for guidance. Lord, we pray for the church worldwide as well as in our own country, that those who lead and those who follow will be ready to listen to you and to grow closer to you in prayer and worship.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Waiting is something you have to do a lot if you're ill. We pray for those we know who are ill, and for those who look after them, that they might know God's care and loving presence.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Finally we pray for ourselves and for our place. We pray for our community and for the people around us. We pray for the concerns on our own hearts, and for the assurance to know that God is with us.

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, "Peace be with you."

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

Alleluia

The peace of the Lord be always with you; **and also with you.**



♪ Hymn: Lord Enthroned in Heavenly Splendour

Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,
First-begotten from the dead,
Thou alone, our strong defender,
Liftest up thy people's head.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Jesu, true and living bread!

Here our humblest homage pay we;
Here in loving reverence bow;
Here for faith's discernment pray we,
Lest we fail to know thee now.
Alleluia, Alleluia, thou art here, we ask not how.

Though the lowliest form doth veil thee
As of old in Bethlehem,
Here as there thine angels hail thee,
Branch and flower of Jesse's stem.
Alleluia, Alleluia, we in worship join with them.

Paschal Lamb, thine offering, finished
Once for all when thou wast slain,
In its fullness undiminished
Shall for evermore remain,
Alleluia, Alleluia, cleansing souls from every stain.

Life-imparting heavenly manna,
Stricken rock with streaming side,
Heaven and earth with loud hosanna
Worship thee, the Lamb who died,
Alleluia, Alleluia, risen, ascended, glorified!

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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.



Blessed are you, Lord God, our light and our salvation; to you be glory and praise for ever. From the beginning you have created all things and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.

In the fullness of time you made us in your image, the crown of all creation. You give us breath and speech, that with angels and archangels and all the powers of heaven we may find a voice to sing your praise:

**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.**

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord. As a mother tenderly gathers her children, you embraced a people as your own. When they turned away and rebelled your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary, to be the living bread, in whom all our hungers are satisfied. He offered his life for sinners, and with a love stronger than death he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died, he came to supper with his friends and, taking bread, he 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.

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 and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death
rising you restored our life
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Father, we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; we remember his dying and rising in glory, and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you these gifts of your creation; may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son. As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence, form us in the likeness of Christ, and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Bring us at the last with all the saints to the vision of that eternal splendour for which you have created us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whom,

with whom, and in whom, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup
will have eternal life, says the Lord.

**You are the bread of life, Lord Jesus,
and you will raise us up at the last day.**

The Giving of Communion

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!



Prayer after Communion

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ, has sent us
into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this
mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

♪ **Hymn: Rejoice the Lord is King**

**Rejoice, the Lord is King, your God and King adore;
Mortals, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore:**

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

**Jesus, the Saviour, reigns, the God of truth and love;
When he had purged our stains, he took his seat above:**

Lift up your heart...

**His kingdom cannot fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given:**

Lift up your heart...

**He sits at God's right hand 'til all his foes submit,
And bow to his command, and fall beneath his feet:**

Lift up your heart...

**Rejoice in glorious hope; Jesus the judge shall come,
And take his servants up to their eternal home:**

**We soon shall hear the archangel's voice;
the trump of God shall sound: rejoice!**

The Blessing

God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us the victory, give us joy and peace in our faith; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you, and those whom you love, now and always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

