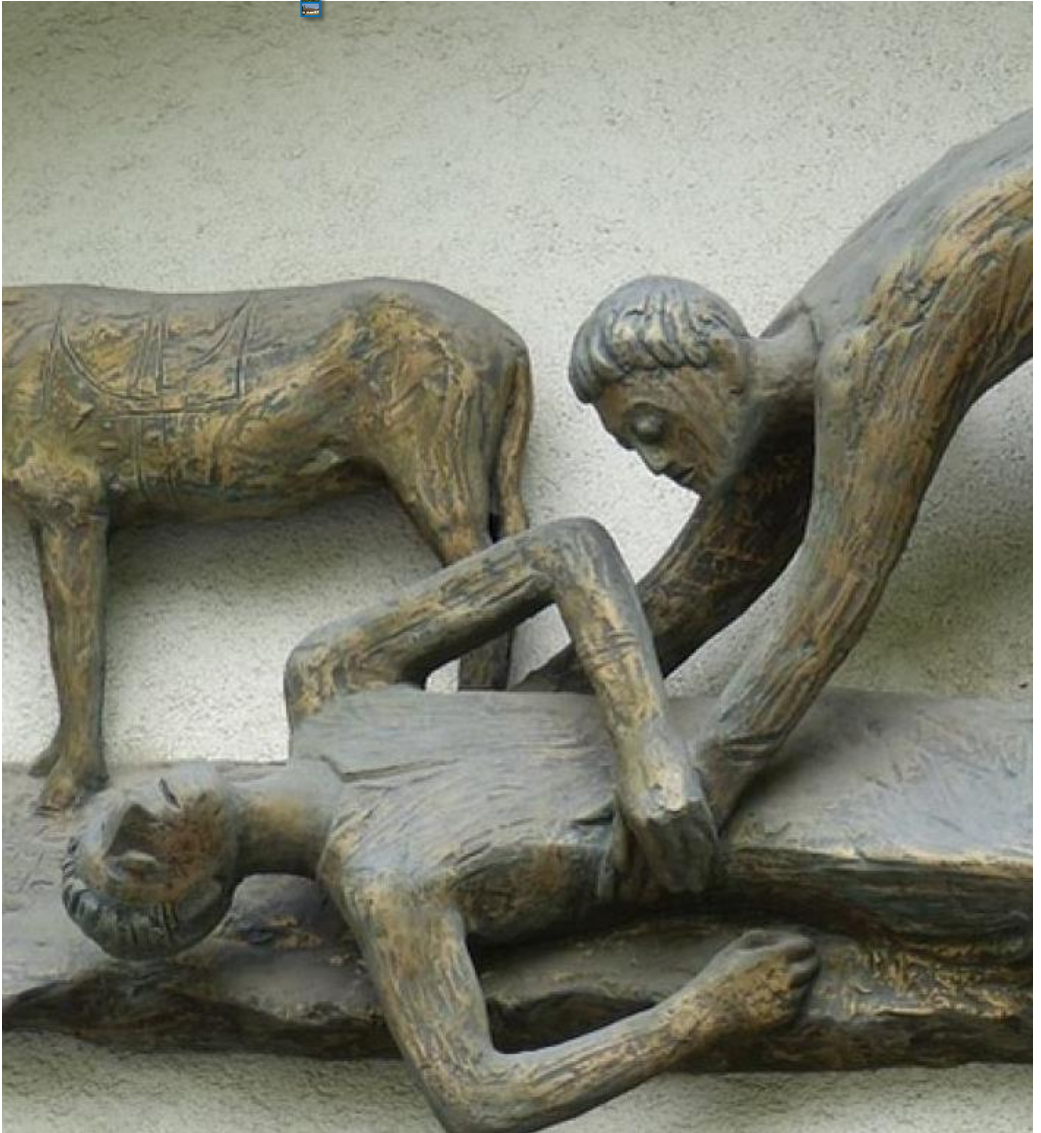




**Chet Valley Churches**



**Morning Worship**  
**Fourth Sunday of Trinity**  
**10<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

## Greeting and Welcome

We come together to worship and praise God, to ask forgiveness of our sins and to hear the Good News of Jesus.

**Lord, direct our thoughts, teach us to pray, lift up our hearts to worship you in Spirit and in truth, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### **Hymn: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;  
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:  
Come ye who hear, brothers and sisters draw near,  
Praise him in glad adoration.**

**Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth:  
Hast thou not seen all that is needful hath been  
Granted in what he ordaineth?**

**Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work, and defend thee;  
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;  
Ponder anew all the Almighty can do,  
He who with love doth befriend thee.**

**Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!  
Let the Amen sound from his people again:  
Gladly for ay we adore him.**

### **Prayer of Adoration**

Father we thank you for all you have given us. We thank you for the changing beauty of the world, the beauties of cloud and sunshine, night and day. We thank you for the talents and powers you have given to people, and for all the good use to which they have been put. We thank you for showing your love to all, for teaching us to love one another, and for all the love that we receive each day. Most of all we thank you for Jesus: for his life of love, for his teaching and example, for his death on the cross, for new life he has brought us, and for all that we enjoy because of his perfect love. Father, Son and Holy Spirit, three persons in one eternity of love, we thank you, and will thank you, for ever. **Amen.**

## Prayer of Confession and Declaration of Forgiveness

Every day we do things that are not pleasing to God,  
so let us now acknowledge and confess our sins to God.

**Loving God, we have sinned against you in what we have thought,  
said and done. We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

**We are truly sorry and turn away from what is wrong.**

**Forgive us for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May Almighty God, who sent His son into the world to save sinners, bring us  
pardon and peace, now and for ever. **Amen.**

God offers us the strength and power to live for Him through his Holy Spirit.  
So let us hold on firmly to the hope we profess, because we can trust God to  
keep his promise.

### ♪ **Hymn: I Will Offer Up My Life**

**I will offer up my life in spirit and truth,  
Pouring out the oil of love as my worship to you.  
In surrender I must give my every part.  
Lord, receive the sacrifice of a broken heart.**



***Jesus, what can I give, what can I bring to so faithful a friend,  
To so loving a King? Saviour, what can be said, what can be sung,  
As the praise of your name, for the things you have done?  
O my words could not tell, not even in part,  
Of the debt of love that is owed by this thankful heart.***

**You deserve my every breath for you've paid the great cost.  
Giving up your life to death, even death on a cross.  
You took all my shame away, there defeated my sin,  
Opened up the gates of heaven and have beckoned me in.**

***Jesus, what can I give...***

***Jesus, what can I give...***

### 📖 **Reading: Luke 10:25-37**

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind';

and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'" "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?" In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

"Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

### 🎵 **Hymn: Brother, Sister Let Me Serve You**

**Brother, sister, let me serve you; let me be as Christ to you;  
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey, and companions on the road;  
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow, 'til we've seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,  
Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.**

**Brother, sister, let me serve you; let me be as Christ to you;  
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.**

### 📖 **Reading: Colossians 1:1-14**

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to God's holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ: Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people—the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

## Talk [Nina]

Today's readings are an interesting match. There's the story of the Good Samaritan which is familiar to most of us, where the unexpected person gives help to a man in need. It's a story we can learn from, because it's all about giving without strings attached, and we need to hold on to that thought. But that's not what I want to focus on today—I'd like to think about our reading from Colossians.

Did you notice the bit at the beginning of that reading? Paul says of the people in Colossae "We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you." Not "if we pray for you", but "when we pray for you". Paul has heard of their faith and love and therefore as a natural consequence he prays for them. For him, prayer is the obvious thing to do.

I remember a conversation I had some years ago with my husband's mother. She said she didn't sleep very well now that she was pushing ninety, but that it meant she could deal with her prayer list which was getting longer and longer and needed a lot of time. When she died we knew we had lost someone who prayed regularly for all the people in her family, in her church and in her circle of friends. Insomniacs have a great ministry!

But to come back to the reading from Colossians, Paul explains why this bunch of believers are in his prayers: It's, "because we have heard of your faith in Christ

Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people". He wants to encourage them and help their faith to grow so that it will bear fruit and he does that by sending them a letter, but more significantly by praying for them.

So far so good, but let's see how that squares up with our own situation. For a start, who do you currently have on your prayer list? Is it family members and special friends? That would be a good place to start, because praying for people we know well enables us to focus our prayers. But are there other people you might pray for? For instance, do you ever pray round the congregation in your church? (That's quite an interesting thought when we come to an online congregation, but the principle's the same.) We can work our way round the folk worshipping with us, but eventually we may hit a problem. What happens when you get to someone you find really annoying? How might you sensibly pray for them?

A wise person once talked to me about praying for people who irritate you. She explained that it might not be easy to do, but that praying for them has the effect of altering your relationship for the better. Which it does! It may not change anyone's personality, but it brings God's love for both of you into the situation and so benefits everyone.

So how should we pray? Looking back at Paul's letter, he says, "We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way". (He says a lot of other things too because he's quite wordy, but that's the essence of the whole thing.) It's a challenge, but at the bottom of it is a simple instruction.

Unpacking Paul's instruction, we can therefore pray: "Please God, fill this person with the knowledge of your will so that he or she may live a life worthy of you and please you in every way." Whether we're worshipping together or individually online, we can pray that prayer for one person or many people.

So who might *you* support and encourage through prayer?

## **Affirmation of Faith**

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.**

## **The Peace of God**

We are all one in Christ Jesus. We belong to Him through faith,  
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace. Let us share God's peace with  
those who are with us and those who are far away.

♪ **Hymn: *Father Hear the Prayer We Offer***

**Father, hear the prayer we offer: not for ease that prayer shall be,  
But for strength that we may ever Live our lives courageously.**

**Not for ever in green pastures do we ask our way to be;  
But the steep and rugged pathway may we tread rejoicingly.**

**Not for ever by still waters would we idly rest and stay;  
But would smite the living fountains from the rocks along our way.**

**Be our strength in hours of weakness,  
In our wanderings be our guide;  
Through endeavour, failure, danger, father, be thou at our side.**

## **🙏 Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

One of the first things we teach small children is to say thank-you and please,  
and our heavenly Father wants us to say them too. Father God we have so  
much to say thank-you for... our lives... our homes... our loved ones... our  
hope for the future. Help us to be grateful for the small, everyday things in our  
lives as well as the big special ones.

We thank you for all those who are worshipping online today. We pray that  
all who log on to this service will know God's presence wherever they may  
be. We pray for one another, that God will hold this scattered congregation in  
his loving hands.

We pray for all in authority whether on a small scale or a large one, that  
justice and good decisions may prevail and that communities may flourish. We  
pray for our locality, praying for our friends and neighbours and for those who  
serve the community in so many ways. We pray for those who are in need, in

particular those known to us. We pray that they may know your loving care and that we may offer support in whatever way we can.

We bring our prayers to our heavenly Father, and in faith and trust 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.**

### 🎵 **Hymn: Teach Me to Dance**

**Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.  
Teach me to move in the power of your Spirit.  
Teach me to walk in the light of your presence.  
Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.**

**Teach me to love with your heart of compassion.  
Teach me to trust in the word of your promise.  
Teach me to hope in the day of your coming.  
Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.**



**You wrote the rhythm of life, created heaven and earth,  
In you is joy without measure. So, like a child in your sight,  
I dance to see your delight. For I was made for your pleasure.**

**Let all my movements express a heart that loves to say 'yes',  
A will that leaps to obey you. Let all my energy blaze  
To see the joy in your face, let my whole being praise you.**

### 🙏 **Blessing and Dismissal**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the  
fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen**

May the blessing of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among  
us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

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