



Chet Valley Churches




Holy Communion

Ninth Sunday of Trinity

14th August 2022

Introduction, Greeting and Welcome

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

 **Hymn:** *How Deep the Father's Love For Us*

**How deep the Father's love for us;
How vast beyond all measure.
That he should give his only Son
To make a wretch his treasure.**

**How great the pain of searing loss;
The Father turns his face away,
As wounds which mar the chosen one
Bring many sons to glory.**

**Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon his shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.**

**It was my sin that held him there
Until it was accomplished.
His dying breath has brought me life;
I know that it is finished.**

**I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.**

**Why should I gain from his reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom.**

 **Prayers of Penitence**

Let us confess our sins, in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments
and to live in love and peace with 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 neighbour 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.**

Almighty God have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect

Gracious Father,
revive your church in our day,
and make her holy, strong and faithful,
for your glory's sake in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**



Reading: Hebrews 11:29-12:2

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, without us, be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

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

 **Hymn: *May the Mind of Christ My Saviour***

**May the mind of Christ my Saviour
Live in me from day to day,
By his love and power controlling
All I do and say.**

**May the word of God dwell richly
In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph
Only through his power.**

**May the peace of God my Father
Rule my life in everything,
That I may be calm to comfort
Sick and sorrowing.**

**May the love of Jesus fill me,
As the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self abasing:
This is victory.**

**May I run the race before me,
Strong and brave to face the foe,
Only looking unto Jesus
As I onward go.**

Gospel Reading: Luke 12:49-56

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
Glory to you O Lord.

Jesus said “I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on, five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.’

He also said to the crowds, ‘When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, “It is going to rain”; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, “There will be scorching heat”; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

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

Exploring the Word [Rev David]

The Closing Ceremony of the 2022 Commonwealth Games from Birmingham was held at the beginning of the week. During those Games many athletes have participated in a variety of sports and disciplines. Some involving teams and others being contested by individuals. The most basic of those sports I venture to suggest takes place on the athletics track where one person's speed or endurance is pitted against another in a head-to-head race. The image of a race is one used by several writers in the Bible. St Paul often uses it to describe the Christian life and so does the writer to the Hebrews. In our reading the writer - whoever it may have been - builds up the scene like a good commentator. Having talked of 'Faith' at the beginning of chapter 11 and then giving a whole catalogue of examples of those whose faith sustained them in life and in death. Recounting how faith brought about such amazing results; the writer now moves on to explore what - or who - it is that gives them this faith.

Firstly, we are reminded that like an athlete in an arena filled with the noise of the crowd echoing around, the participants are being watched. Been given support. It's as if, to change the picture somewhat, they are akin to the crowd at the Kop end at Anfield, the home of Liverpool football club, encouraging and sucking the ball into the opposition's net; so here in the arena of life, the crowd—a cloud of witnesses—are urging those participating in the race to carry on, they are as William Barclay has commented an inspiration to those undertaking the race. They have already run it and achieved their goal.

Secondly, we are exhorted that to run this race we need to get rid of anything that holds us back, weighs us down. In this race of life that would those things which separate us from God and each other - the sins that we have yet to acknowledge and seek forgiveness for.

Thirdly, and this is the point, we need to have a focus ahead of us, an example. That example and focus for this race is none other than Jesus himself who is the perfecter and pioneer of our faith. Jesus is both the goal of our race but also a companion on the way akin, one might say, to those who during para-Games run with partially sighted or blind competitors.

Remembering that faith is the assurance of things hoped for (Hebrews 11:1) here is the pinnacle of faith the pinnacle of what we should be hoping for to be in the presence of Jesus.

Affirmation of Faith

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen



Intercessions

In the power of the Spirit let us pray to our heavenly Father.

As we run the race of life, we bring the needs of others and of ourselves before God. We pray for the many countries of the world—small island nations and huge landmasses. We pray for those we know, whose needs are known to us, and for those about which we know little or nothing. We pray for harmony and collaboration and good governance.

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

We think about individuals, in particular those who struggle to make sense out of faith. We pray for people we know who find this difficult and for ourselves as we share our own faith journey. We pray for all who seek to share the love of Jesus with friends, family and the wider world.

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

We pray for those we know who are sad, or ill, or for whom life has been tough. We ask that they be carried by the knowledge of Jesus's love.

And as we pray for others, we pray also for ourselves. This is the prayer known as the Prayer of St Francis. It may be familiar to you.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.



Lord, we gather all our prayers together:
**Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

♪ Hymn: *Bless the Lord, O My Soul*

**Bless the Lord oh my soul.
Oh my soul,
Worship his holy name.
Sing like never before,
Oh my soul.
I'll worship your holy name.**

**The sun comes up,
It's a new day dawning.
It's time to sing your song again.
Whatever may pass
And whatever lies before me,
Let me be singing
When the evening comes.**

***Bless the Lord oh my soul, oh my soul
Worship his holy name. Sing like never before
Oh my soul, I'll worship your holy name.***

**You're rich in love
And you're slow to anger.
Your name is great
And your heart is kind.
For all your goodness
I will keep on singing.
Ten thousand reasons
For my heart to find.**

Bless the Lord oh my soul...

**And on that day
When my strength is failing;
The end draws near
And my time has come.
Still my soul will
Sing your praise unending,
Ten thousand years
And then forevermore.
Forevermore.**

Bless the Lord oh my soul...

Peace

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace.
If we live in the Spirit, let us walk in the Spirit.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

Preparation of the Table

Wise and gracious God, you spread a table before us;
nourish your people with the word of life and the bread of heaven. **Amen.**



Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.**

The Lord's Prayer

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.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world
Our Lord comes to us in bread and wine.
They are the gifts of God for the people of God.



The Communion

Prayer after Communion

**Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for all the benefits you have won
for us, for all the pains and insults you have borne for us.**

**Most merciful Redeemer, friend and brother, may we know you
more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly,
day by day. Amen.**

Hymn: *Fight the Good Fight*

**Fight the good fight with all thy might;
Christ is thy strength, and Christ thy right:
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Thy joy and crown eternally.**

**Run the straight race through God's good grace,
Lift up thine eyes, and seek his face;
Life with its path before us lies,
Christ is the way, and Christ the prize.**

**Cast care aside; upon thy Guide
Lean, and his mercy will provide;
Lean, and the trusting soul shall prove,
Christ is its life and Christ its love.**

**Faint not, nor fear, his arm is near;
He changeth not, and thou art dear;
Only believe, and thou shalt see
That Christ is all in all to thee.**

The Blessing

The peace of God which passes all understanding
keep our 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,
and those whom you love, now and always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

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

