

A CELEBRATION OF THE MINISTRY OF CHURCHWARDENS

Living the Mission of Jesus

'Do not worry'

2023

The Gathering

*The Churchwardens and their friends assemble
in the Nave.*

*The Area Dean welcomes the congregation,
gives out any notices, and announces the first hymn.*

Hymn: REJOICE, THE LORD IS KING

1. Rejoice! the Lord is King!
Your Lord and King adore;
Mortals, give thanks and sing;
And triumph evermore:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

2. 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, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

3. 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, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

4. He sits at God's right hand
Till all his foes submit,
And bow to his command,
And fall beneath his feet:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

5. Rejoice in glorious hope!
Jesus the Judge shall come,
And take His servants up
To their eternal home.
We soon shall hear th'archangel's voice;
The trump of God shall sound, rejoice! *(T: Gopsal)*

Archdeacon Blessed are you, creator God,
to you be praise and glory for ever.
As your Spirit moved over the face of the waters
bringing light and life to your creation,
pour out your Spirit on us today
that we may walk as children of light
and by your grace reveal your presence.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

Archdeacon Fear not, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name; you are mine.

All **Fear not, for I have redeemed you.**
I have called you by name; you are mine.

Archdeacon When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you.
When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned.

All **I have called you by name; you are mine.**

Archdeacon Glory to the Father and to the Son
 and to the Holy Spirit.

All **Fear not, for I have redeemed you.**

I have called you by name; you are mine.

(Common Worship, Morning Prayer, Thursday)

The Word

Sit for the Reading: **Philippians 4.4–9**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

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

The Archdeacon's Charge

Hymn: COME, HOLY SPIRIT, COME

1. Come, Holy Spirit, come!
Inflame our souls with love,
Transforming ev'ry heart and home
With wisdom from above.
O let us not despise
The humble path Christ trod,
But choose, to shame the worldly-wise,
The foolishness of God.

2. Come with the gift to heal
The wounds of guilt and fear,
And to oppression's face reveal
The kingdom drawing near.
Where chaos longs to reign,
Descend, O holy Dove,
And free us all to work again
The miracles of love.

3. Spirit of truth, arise;
Inspire the prophet's voice:
Expose to scorn the tyrant's lies,
And bid the poor rejoice.
O Spirit, clear our sight,
All prejudice remove,
And help us to discern the right,
And covet only love.

4. Give us the tongues to speak,
In ev'ry time and place,
To rich and poor, to strong and weak,
The word of love and grace.
Enable us to hear
The words that others bring,
Interpreting with open ear
The special song they sing.

5. Come, Holy Spirit, dance
Within our hearts today,
Our earthbound spirits to entrance,
Our mortal fears allay.
And teach us to desire,
All other things above,
That self-consuming holy fire,
The perfect gift of love!

*Words Michael Forster (b. 1946) Copyright @ Kevin Mayhew Ltd, CCL Licence No.
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The Registrar

The Promise & Admission

Churchwardens only stand

The Registrar My brothers and sisters in Christ: first it is our duty and joy to give praise to Almighty God, to thank him for calling us to serve him and for his blessings upon our parishes and Diocese.

Let us seek his grace and guidance in the discharge of the responsibilities entrusted to us, that we may be good stewards in the administration of our Church, its people, buildings and fabric, wise in counsel, effective in co-operating with clergy and laity, and zealous in forwarding the witness and service of the Church. In the name of Jesus Christ, and in the power of the Spirit, may we glorify the Father in word and deed, and ever promote the well-being of his people.

Archdeacon My brothers and sisters, whom God has called to serve in the Office and with the duties of Churchwarden.

Will you care for the churches of your parish, their grounds and contents?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you care for God's people in your parish?

Will you have special care for the clergy and their families?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you work with the Bishop, with your clergy and other ministers, with the PCC and all the people of God of your parish in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you strive to fashion your own life according to the Gospel of Christ?

Will you be faithful in personal prayer and public worship?

With the help of God, I will.

Almighty God, who has given you the will to undertake all these things, give you also the strength to perform them; that he may complete that work which he has begun in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Churchwardens **I solemnly and sincerely declare before God and his people that I will faithfully and diligently discharge the duties of the Office of Churchwarden for the Parish for which I have been chosen during the period of my appointment.**

Archdeacon I admit you to the Office of Churchwarden and confirm you in your role to serve your Parish, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us offer our lives and work afresh to our Heavenly Father, as we pray:

Churchwardens **Look upon our lives, O Lord our God, and make them yours. In the power of the Holy Spirit may we walk in your way, believe your word, and fulfil your commandments; may we faithfully worship you and serve our neighbour to the furtherance of your glorious kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

Hymn: FOR THE FRUITS OF HIS CREATION

1. For the fruits of his creation,
Thanks be to God.
For his gifts to every nation,
Thanks be to God.

For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
Silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safe keeping,
Thanks be to God.

2. In the just reward of labour,
God's will is done.

In the help we give our neighbour,
God's will is done.

In our world-wide task of caring
For the hungry and despairing,
In the harvests we are sharing
God's will is done.

3. For the harvests of his Spirit
Thanks be to God.

For the good we all inherit
Thanks be to God.

For the wonders that astound us,
For the truths that still confound us,
Most of all, that love has found us,
Thanks be to God.

(T: Ar Hyd y Nos)

The Prayers: Led by the Parish Priest

Gracious God, fountain of all wisdom,
we pray for all your Church;
for Bishops Debbie and David, for all Christian leaders
and for those who teach and guard the faith.
Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

You have given your Holy Spirit to the Church
to lead us into all truth; bless our Deaneries
with the Spirit's grace and presence;
keep us steadfast in faith and united in hope,
that in all we do we may manifest your glory
and prepare the way of your kingdom.
Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for the leaders of the nations,
and for those in authority under them.
Give them the gift of your wisdom,
and a right discernment in all things.
Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for our communities;
for those who live and work there.
Grant us the gifts to discern where you are at work,
to speak your words of peace,
and to serve one another as Christ serves us.
Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for those bowed down with grief, adversity,
fear or sickness, especially
May your living Word bring comfort and healing
to all those in need.
Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer

Eternal God and Father,
you create and redeem us by the power of your love:
guide and strengthen us by your Spirit,
that we may give ourselves in love and service
to one another and to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Joining our prayers with all of God's people,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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.**

Closing Notices

Hymn: LORD, TODAY YOUR VOICE IS CALLING

1. Lord, today your voice is calling,
Lifting thoughts to things above;
Life is wonderful, enthralling,
Touched by your unfailing love.
Suddenly I see the beauty
Often hidden from my gaze,
So I come, not out of duty,
But with glad and grateful praise.

2. Lord, I sometimes fail to value
All your blessing as I should.
Slow to make the time to thank you,
Blind to so much that is good.
Days are lived in such a hurry
There's no time to stop and stare,
Joy is crushed by weight of worry,
Happiness obscured by care.

3. Lord, today I come rejoicing,
Vowed to waste your gifts no more;
Bringing praise and gladly voicing
What I should have voiced before.
Pouring out my adoration,
Scarcely knowing where to start,
With a song of exultation,
Lord, I thank you from the heart.

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Mayhew, 2008.) (87 87 D, (Ode to Freedom))*

*Remain standing for **The Conclusion***

All **Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church
is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful
people; that in our vocation and ministry
we may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your Name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The Blessing

Archdeacon God the Holy Trinity
make you strong in faith and love,
defend you on every side,
and guide you in truth and peace;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

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