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# The Church of Christ the Cornerstone

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*Baptist Union, Anglican, Methodist, Roman Catholic & United Reformed Churches in partnership*

## Online Service Sheet

### Evensong for the 73rd Anniversary of the NHS 6.00 pm Sunday, 11 July 2020

**Led by Revd Tim Norwood**

#### **Introit: Almighty and everlasting God**

Composed by Orlando Gibbons, published posthumously in 1641.

Almighty and everlasting God,  
mercifully look upon our infirmities  
and in all our dangers and necessities  
stretch forth thy right hand to help and defend us,  
through Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

#### **Welcome**

#### **Hymn: O for a thousand tongues to sing**

O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my dear Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of his grace!

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,  
that bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the power of cancelled sin,  
he sets the prisoner free;  
his blood can make the foulest clean;  
his blood availed for me.

He speaks; and, listening to his voice,  
new life the dead receive,  
the mournful broken hearts rejoice,  
the humble poor believe.

Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,  
your loosened tongues employ;  
ye blind, behold your Saviour come;  
and leap, ye lame, for joy!

My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim  
and spread through all the earth abroad  
the honours of the name.

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

CCL31580

tune Richmond. Thomas Haweis (1734–1820)

## Preface and Confession

Dearly beloved brethren, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloak them before the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent, and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, by his infinite goodness and mercy. And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we most chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy Word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul. Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present to accompany me with a pure heart and humble voice unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying with me:

**Almighty and most merciful Father,  
we have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep.  
We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.  
We have offended against thy holy laws.  
We have left undone those things which we ought to have done,  
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done,  
and there is no health in us.  
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us miserable offenders;  
spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults;  
restore thou them that are penitent,  
according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord.  
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,  
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,  
to the glory of thy holy Name.**

**Amen**

## Absolution

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness, and live; and hath given power, and commandment, to his Ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins. He pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel. Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him, which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure, and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

## Preces and responses

O Lord, open thou our lips  
**And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.**  
O God, make speed to save us,  
**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

**Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now and ever shall be,  
world without end.**

**Amen**

Praise ye the Lord.  
**The Lord's name be praised.**

## **Psalm 146**

- <sup>1</sup> *Praise the Lord, O my soul  
while I live will I praise the Lord  
Yea as long as I have any being  
I will sing praises to my God.*
- <sup>2</sup> *Put not your trust in princes  
nor in any child of man  
for there is no help in them*
- <sup>3</sup> *When the breath of man goeth forth  
he will turn again to his earth  
and then all his thoughts perish*
- <sup>4</sup> *Blessed is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help  
and whose hope is in the Lord his God*
- <sup>5</sup> *Who made heaven and earth  
the sea and all that therein is  
who keepeth his promise for ever*
- <sup>6</sup> *Who helpeth them to right that suffer wrong  
and feedeth the hungry*
- <sup>7</sup> *The Lord looseth men out of prison  
the Lord giveth sight to the blind*
- <sup>8</sup> *The Lord helpeth them that are fallen  
the Lord careth for the righteous;*
- <sup>9</sup> *he Lord careth for the strangers  
He defendeth the father-less and widow  
As for the ungodly he turneth it upside down*
- <sup>10</sup> *The Lord they God O Sion shall be King for evermore  
and throughout all generations*

*Glory be to the Father  
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning  
is now and ever shall be,  
World without end.*

**Amen**

*Chant in A by James Turle from the Worcester Psalter pointed*

## Psalm 147

<sup>1</sup> O praise the Lord  
for it is a good thing to sing praises unto our God  
Yea, a joyful and pleasant thing it is to be thankful

<sup>2</sup> The Lord doth build up Jerusalem  
and gather together the outcasts of Israel

<sup>3</sup> He healeth those that are broken in heart  
and giveth medicine to heal their sickness

<sup>4</sup> He telleth the number of the stars  
and calleth them all by their names

<sup>5</sup> Great is our Lord, and great is his power  
Yea, and his wisdom is infinite

<sup>6</sup> The Lord setteth up the meek  
and bringeth the ungodly down to the ground

<sup>7</sup> O sing unto the Lord with thanksgiving  
sing praises upon the harp unto our God

<sup>8</sup> Who covereth the heaven with clouds  
and prepareth rain for the earth  
and maketh the grass to grow upon the mountains  
and herb for the use of men

<sup>9</sup> Who giveth fodder unto the cattle  
and feedeth the young ravens that call upon him

<sup>10</sup> He hath no pleasure in the strength of an horse  
neither delighteth he in any man's legs

<sup>11</sup> But the Lord's delight is in them that fear him  
and put their trust in his mercy

<sup>12</sup> Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem  
praise thy God, O Sion.

Glory be to the Father  
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning  
is now and ever shall be,  
World without end.

Amen

Chant in E by Joseph Barnby from the Worcester Psalter pointed

## Bible readings

### Isaiah 55

**Read by Margaret Goodall**

<sup>1</sup> Come, all you who are thirsty, to the waters!  
And you who have no money, come, buy and eat!  
Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup> Why do you spend money for what is not bread?  
And spend your labour for that which does not satisfy?

*Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,  
and let your soul delight itself in fatness.*

*<sup>3</sup>Incline your ear and come to me;  
hear, and your soul will live.  
And I will cut an everlasting covenant with you,  
like the reliable covenant promises I made to David.*

*<sup>4</sup>Behold, I have given him for a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander to the peoples.*

*<sup>5</sup>Behold, you will call a nation that you do not know,  
and a nation that did not know you will run to you,  
because of Yahweh your God and for the Holy One of Israel;  
for he has glorified you.*

*<sup>6</sup>Seek Yahweh while he may be found;  
call on him while he is near.*

*<sup>7</sup>Let the wicked person forsake his way  
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;  
and let him return to Yahweh,  
and he will have mercy on him;  
and let him return to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*

*<sup>8</sup>“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways,”  
says Yahweh.*

*<sup>9</sup>“For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways,  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

*<sup>10</sup>For as the rain and the snow comes down from heaven  
and does not return there,  
but waters the earth  
and makes it bring forth and bud  
and gives seed to the sower  
and bread to the eater,*

*<sup>11</sup>so will my word be that goes forth out of my mouth;  
it will not return to me void,  
but it will accomplish what I please,  
and it will prosper in the thing I sent it to do.*

*<sup>12</sup>For you will go out with joy  
and be led forth with peace;  
the mountains and the hills will break forth into singing before you,  
and all the trees of the fields will clap their hands.*

*<sup>13</sup> Instead of the thorn will come up the fir tree,  
and instead of the brier will come up the myrtle tree;  
and it will be to Yahweh for a name,  
for an everlasting sign that will not be cut off.”*

## **Magnificat**

**<sup>1</sup> My soul doth magnify the Lord:  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.**

**<sup>2</sup> For he hath regarded:  
the lowliness of his handmaiden.**

<sup>3</sup> For behold, from henceforth:  
all generations shall call me blessèd.  
<sup>4</sup> For he that is mighty hath magnified me:  
and holy is his Name.  
<sup>5</sup> And his mercy is on them that fear him:  
throughout all generations.  
<sup>6</sup> He hath shewed strength with his arm:  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
<sup>7</sup> He hath put down the mighty from their seat:  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.  
<sup>8</sup> He hath filled the hungry with good things:  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.  
<sup>9</sup> He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:  
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Luke 1: 46–55

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be:  
world without end.

Amen

## Luke 10: 1–9

Read by Richard May-Miller

<sup>1</sup> Now after these things the Lord appointed 72 others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every city and place where he himself was about to go.

<sup>2</sup> And he said to them, *'The harvest indeed is abundant, but the laborers are few. Therefore, implore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.*

<sup>3</sup> *Go! Pay attention; I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.*

<sup>4</sup> *Carry no purse, no traveling-bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road.*

<sup>5</sup> *And into whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace be to this house."*

<sup>6</sup> *And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest on him, but if not, it will return to you again.*

<sup>7</sup> *And stay in that same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the labourer is worthy of his hire. Do not go from house to house.*

<sup>8</sup> *And into whatever city you enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you,*

<sup>9</sup> *and heal the sick that are in it, and say to them, "The Kingdom of God has drawn near to you."*

REV

## Nunc dimittis

<sup>1</sup> Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:  
according to thy word.

<sup>2</sup> For mine eyes have seen:  
thy salvation;

<sup>3</sup> Which thou hast prepared: Israel.  
before the face of all people;

<sup>4</sup> To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:  
and to be the glory of thy people;

Luke 2: 29–32

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be:  
world without end.**

**Amen**

## **The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth:  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic Church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

**Amen**

## **Preces and responses**

The Lord be with you.  
**And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.  
**Christ, have mercy upon us.**  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Our Father, which 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 them that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.**

**Amen**

○ Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.  
**And grant us thy salvation.**  
○ Lord, save the Queen.  
**And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.  
**And make thy chosen people joyful.**

O Lord, save thy people.  
**And bless thine inheritance.**

Give peace in our time, O Lord.  
**Because there is none other that fighteth for us,  
but only thou, O God.**

O God, make clean our hearts within us.  
**And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

**Amen**

## **Anthem: Os justi**

Os justi metabitur sapientiam  
et lingua ejus loquetur judicium.  
Lex Dei eius in corde ipsius  
et non supplantabuntur gressus ejus.  
Alleluia

### *Translation*

The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom  
and his tongue speaks what is just.  
The law of his God is in his heart  
and his feet do not falter.  
Alleluia

## **Intercessions**

Heavenly father on this the feast of Saint Luke we remember all those who are involved in healing in all sorts of forms: those who work to heal the body, the mind or the spirit. We pray particularly for the NHS and for all those who work on the front line particularly during the Coronavirus epidemic; for those who sometimes put their own lives on the line for the sake of others. We also pray for those who work for the healing of people's minds at a time when many of us are under more pressure than ever before. Lord grant to your people the gifts and the calling to heal and work for the healing of others and help us all in the ways that we speak and act and pray to become agents of healing and peace and reconciliation.

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

On this feast of St Luke we pray for all those who are historians who take a record of the things that they see and pass it on to others; for those who are bearing witness to the things they see in the news and in the world around them. And so we pray not only for those who make records of things long gone, we also pray for people who tell the stories of today, help us to proclaim truth and not attempt to obscure the truth behind slogans and false promises. Help us as a community to be people who value the truth and the quest for the truth.

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

And on this day we pray for people, both here in Milton Keynes and across the world who suffer in body, mind or spirit. We pray for those whose health is under threat but also for those whose livelihood, whose employment, whose ability to eat or provide for their family has been put at risk by the pandemic and the consequences of it. Lord we pray for healing, not only for individuals but also for communities, for justice and for reconciliation. Lord pour out your spirit upon us and all your people so



that we would know your blessings, respond to your call and seek your kingdom both in the age to come and in the places where we find ourselves

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

And so, Lord, we offer ourselves to you. We may not be physicians or healers or historians or journalists, but we are people who you call. So grant us healing and hope but also purpose, help us to serve you, not just in the church but also in the world amongst the people you call us to love.

**Merciful father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son our saviour, Jesus Christ.**

**Amen**

## **Hymn: Christ's is the world in which we move**

**Christ's is the world in which we move,  
Christ's are the folk we're summoned to love,  
Christ's is the voice which calls us to care,  
and Christ is the one who meets us here.**

*To the lost Christ shows his face;  
to the unloved he gives his embrace;  
to those who cry in pain or disgrace,  
Christ makes, with his friends, a touching place.*

**Feel for the people we most avoid,  
strange or bereaved or never employed;  
feel for the women, and feel for the men  
who feel that their living is all in vain.**

*To the lost Christ shows his face;  
to the unloved he gives his embrace;  
to those who cry in pain or disgrace,  
Christ makes, with his friends, a touching place.*

**Feel for the parents who've lost their child,  
feel for the women whom men have defiled,  
feel for the baby for whom there's no breast,  
and feel for the weary who find no rest.**

*To the lost Christ shows his face;  
to the unloved he gives his embrace;  
to those who cry in pain or disgrace,  
Christ makes, with his friends, a touching place.*

**Feel for the lives by life confused,  
riddled with doubt, in loving abused;  
feel for the lonely heart, conscious of sin,  
which longs to be pure but fears to begin.**

*To the lost Christ shows his face;  
to the unloved he gives his embrace;  
to those who cry in pain or disgrace,  
Christ makes, with his friends, a touching place.*

*John L. Bell & Graham Maule, The Iona Community (1989)  
CCL31580*

# Address

## By Revd Tim Norwood

In this service we are remembering Luke, who Paul referred to as the beloved physician. We don't know much about him, but one of the great stories is that he was some kind of physician or healer. And so today is always a good occasion on which to remember those who work in healing professions: those who are doctors, nurses, carers in all sorts of ways. And at this time, as we are still facing the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, it is particularly good to remember those who are called to heal.

Luke was also a historian. He was someone whose job was to record the things that first of all Jesus did, the gospel stories that he received from others, but then later to record the stories and events that impacted the early church and particularly Paul (with whom he travelled on many occasions and knew to the end of Paul's life).

Luke is a very interesting character for us to remember as we contemplate the world around us at this time. Luke as a physician, as a healer, reminds us of our call as Christians, as God's people, to be agents of healing in this world, and his role as a historian reminds us of the importance of taking truth seriously. We live in a world where often we're told we live in a post-truth world, where fake news can have more impact than the truth that might exist behind it. But we are called to keep seeking for the reality that exists beyond the headlines. And it's with these true two poles of the physician (the healer) and the truth seeker that I think we come to celebrate Luke this evening.

There is this one tradition which may or may not be true that Luke was one of the group of seventy who were sent out by Jesus to travel the lengths and the breadths of the country: visiting different towns, visiting different houses – which of course would not be allowed at this point in 2020 – although he did stay in houses and not move around. There is this tradition that Luke may have been one of those seventy who was sent who experienced what God could do and came back rejoicing. That may or may not be true, but it is an important story again for us – a reminder that Jesus doesn't just send a few people, but he sends us all out to seek the Kingdom. It is the call of the church to proclaim the fact that the Kingdom of Heaven is near; it's coming near each day. It reveals itself in every sign of love, in every sign of hope. Whenever we engage in the healing work of Christ, the Kingdom is coming near. Whenever we discover the truth behind the lies, the Kingdom is coming near. And each day we are called to be its agents, and to be and to proclaim the truth of the Kingdom: not just in words but also in action. So in the midst of the pandemic, in the midst of lock-down, in the midst of a rapidly changing world, Luke shines a light on the people that we are called to be. So may we be people of the Gospel; people of the Kingdom; people of the Truth; people of healing and hope in a broken world.

## Hymn: We have a gospel to proclaim

**We have a gospel to proclaim,  
good news for all throughout the earth;  
the gospel of a Saviour's name:  
we sing his glory, tell his worth.**

**Tell of his birth at Bethlehem  
not in a royal house or hall  
but in a stable dark and dim,  
the Word made flesh, a light for all.**

**Tell of his death at Calvary,  
hated by those he came to save,  
in lonely suffering on the cross;  
for all he loved his life he gave.**

**Tell of that glorious Easter morn:  
empty the tomb, for he was free.  
He broke the power of death and hell  
that we might share his victory.**

**Tell of his reign at God's right hand,  
by all creation glorified.  
He sends his Spirit on his church  
to live for him, the Lamb who died.  
Now we rejoice to name him King:  
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.  
This gospel-message we proclaim:  
we sing his glory, tell his worth.**

*Edward J. Burns (b. 1938)  
CCL31580*

## **Blessing**

The peace of God which passes all understanding  
keep your hearts and mind 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 with you and remain you always.

**Amen**

## **Sung Blessing: Go forth into the world in peace**

Go forth into the world in peace;  
be of good courage;  
be of good courage. (*Twice*)  
Hold fast that which is good;  
render to no one evil for evil;  
strengthen the faint hearted;  
support the weak;  
help the afflicted;  
honour all people;  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit  
and he blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost  
be among you and remain with you for ever.

**Amen**

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