~AT HOME WORSHIP~

**Order of Service**

**Sunday 26th of June 2022**

**This Sunday’s theme**

Some things can't wait

## In our worship today on this Second Sunday after Trinity let us remember that the love of God for his people and for his church knows no limits. The Psalmist talks of God’s love reaching up to the heavens and his justice to the depth of the ocean, and yet he blesses us as individuals with the gifts of his Spirit so that his Church, his people might be a light in this place, to his glory.

## Call to worship

The time is now, the Lord is here!
He calls us in this moment.
Rejoice in the fullness of his love.

[Awake Awake Fling Off the Night (Deus Tuorum Militum) - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=83eOE-K2Xgs)

**Awake, awake: fling off the night**!

for God has sent a glorious light;

and we who live in Christ's new day

must works of darkness put away.

Awake and sing, with praises strong,

in psalm and hymn and Spirit-song.

Let love our words and works renew

with all that's good, and right, and true.

Let in the light; all sin expose

to Christ, whose life no darkness knows.

Before the cross expectant kneel,

that Christ may judge, and judging, heal.

Then rise, as children of the light.

Be neither proud, nor hide from sight.

Be careful how you live, and wise

to sift the truth from cunning lies.

Through Christ give thanks to God, and say

to other sleepers on the way:

"Awake, and rise up from the dead

 that Christ may shine on you instead!"

Father God, we bring our offering of worship and with it the service of our lives through this coming week. May we go from this place knowing that we have met with you and been blessed by your Spirit, to live and work to your glory. Amen

We are drawn to your feet in worship
Your creation facing its creator
Hearts laid bare by your light Humbly asking for your mercy.
We come to you as a people in need of assurance and forgiveness. We come to you as a people in need
of healing and wholeness. We come dependent upon your love.
Draw us close. Enfold us in your arms. Fill us with your Spirit
that we might reflect your light within this dark world, speak your Word with boldness and draw others to your feet.
We ask this through your dear Son Jesus Christ.
**Amen**

Living God whose Word became flesh in Jesus and whose Spirit of Truth speaks into our hearts all honour and glory and worship belong to you. As our praises pronounce your wonder may our lives overflow with love, that our words and deeds might tell of your goodness and declare your infinite grace. **Amen**.

**Confession**

Gracious God with gratitude and gladness we hear your promise of liberation: that in Christ we are forgiven and set free, and restored to serve you. Thanks be to you, Living God! **Amen.**

**Collect,** God of truth, help us to keep your law of love

and to walk in ways of wisdom, that we may find true life

in Jesus Christ your Son. **Amen.**

**Readings:** Galatians 5.1,13-25

**5**It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. **13**You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+5.13-25+&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29176a)]; rather, serve one another humbly in love. **14**For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbour as yourself.”[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+5.13-25+&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29177b)] **15**If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

**16**So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. **17**For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+5.13-25+&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29180c)] you want. **18**But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

**19**The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; **20**idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions **21**and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

**22**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23**gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. **24**Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. **25**Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

**Luke 9:51-62**

**51**As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. **52**And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; **53**but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. **54**When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, “Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+9%3A51-62&version=NIV#fen-NIV-25356a)]?” **55**But Jesus turned and rebuked them. **56**Then he and his disciples went to another village.

**The Cost of Following Jesus**

**57**As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.”

**58**Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”

**59**He said to another man, “Follow me.”

But he replied, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.”

**60**Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”

**61**Still another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.”

**62**Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”

Thought for the week

If you use a search engine you can find wonderful web pages such as ‘23 great excuses to avoid doing anything important’, or ‘19 excuses that are keeping you stuck’. Many of the suggestions will be familiar to us: ‘I don’t have time’; ‘I am not qualified’; ‘I don’t have the right equipment’. Some are just weird – for example: ‘I have to give the hamster a good washing’; or ‘I don’t go out on days that end with the letters ‘d’ ‘a’ and ‘y’’. Excuses can be great to use, but they are not so great if you are on the receiving end. We may enjoy putting things off, but we don’t enjoy it when other people delay doing what we want done… now.

In Luke 9 we read of two people making excuses to Jesus. One says he has to go and bury his father, while another wants to say his farewells to family and friends. Were they excuses or were they reasons? It may be that, in the particular circumstances of each case, Jesus knew that they were being unreasonable and that what they presented as an acceptable reason was actually simply a delaying tactic.

Jesus’ response is quick and clear. He will take no excuses. He appears to be saying ‘Follow me now or not at all.’ Sometimes an excuse conceals the truth that is ‘I will do this when I have nothing better to do’ or ‘I am going to put this at or near the bottom of my to do list.’

It helps if we understand Jesus’ urgency as being motivated by the need for prioritisation. Following Jesus should be a priority. It is too important to be put off. As a priority it demands a sense of urgency and a sense of focus. Jesus encourages his listeners to look to the future, to the kingdom that is to come rather than the past as represented by the dead or those who are being left behind. If the person ploughing does not focus on looking ahead, they are not concentrating and being a follower of Jesus requires total concentration.

This is both challenging and demanding but it is not achieved on our own. In Galatians (5.16), Paul commands that we ‘live by the Spirit’. This is both a command and a promise. If we live by the Spirit, the fruit of the Spirit will be evident in our lives. This not only encourages and enriches our lives, it also enables us to be faithful disciples who live in the present and look to the future. This relationship in the Spirit is achieved by following Jesus as a life priority with no excuses. In doing so, we are set free and the Spirit will guide and shape our discipleship.

God, help us not to waste our time
but to live for you each day.
God, help us to know what is urgent and important,
and to do it. **Amen.**

[From Heaven You Came Helpless Babe (The Servant King) (Singing the Faith 272 / StF 272) - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-IxT-2_jRg)

**From Heaven, You came helpless babe**
Entered our world, your glory veiled
Not to be served but to serve
And give Your life that we might live

This is our God, The Servant King
He calls us now to follow Him
To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to The Servant King

There in the garden of tears
My heavy load he chose to bear
His heart with sorrow was torn
"Yet not My will but Yours", He said

This is our God, The Servant King
……

Come see His hands and His feet
The scars that speak of sacrifice
Hands that flung stars into space
To cruel nails surrendered

This is our God, The Servant King
……..

So let us learn how to serve
And in our lives enthrone Him
Each other's needs to prefer
For it is Christ we're serving

This is our God, The Servant King
………

**Prayers**

Loving God,
we pray for those who have difficult decisions to make today:
at home, at school, at work, in the community, in government…
**Holy Spirit, help them.**
We pray for those suffering the consequences of bad choices:
those in prison, those burdened with guilt, those consumed by
regret…
**Holy Spirit, help them.**
We pray for those whose decisions are made for them:
the unwell, the elderly, those in places of oppression…
**Holy Spirit, help them.**
We pray for those who are paralysed by indecision:
the stressed, the fearful, those whose circumstances keep
changing...
**Holy Spirit, help them.**
We pray for those who, at this moment, are making desperate
choices:
whether to flee their homes, whether to go on living, whether
to tell the truth...
**Holy Spirit help them – and us.**
**Amen.**

Generous God, you have nourished us with your word. Take us, bless us and send us, that our lips be touched with the gentleness of your peace; that our hearts burn with your passion and integrity; that our lives declare the good news of your love for the whole creation, in the name of Christ, **Amen**

Faithful God whose Word does not return empty but accomplishes all that you purpose, may your blessings fall like rain to water the earth, nourishing seed for our food, and filling us with the abundance of your love, through Jesus Christ your living Word. **Amen.**

[Go Forth And Tell! - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XNyDd9qtuk0)

**Go forth and tell! O church of God, awake!**
God's saving news to all the nations take;
proclaim Christ Jesus, saviour, Lord, and king,
that all the world his worthy praise may sing.

Go forth and tell! God's love embraces all;
he will in grace respond to all who call:
how shall they call if they have never heard
the gracious invitation of his word?

Go forth and tell! O church of God, arise!
go in the strength which Christ your Lord supplies;
go till all nations his great name adore
and serve him, Lord and king for evermore

## The Blessing

This earth, full of your glory, praises your name through unspoken words of beauty and peace, reveals your love through hand of stranger and gift of grace. This earth, full of your glory, praises your provision through living water and food to eat, reveals your Word through daily blessings and breath of life. This earth, full of your glory, praises your name. As we feast on your Word of Life may the blessing of God, ever three and ever one, be upon us, now and always. **Amen.**