**Pentecost 15 17 September 2017**

*The church is fitted with a hearing loop which covers the body of the church.*

*Hearing aid wearers are advised to switch their aid to T-setting.*

**THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD**

ORGAN PRELUDE

*The people stand for the entrance of the Bible.*

CALL TO WORSHIP (*inspired by Psalm 114*)

In the presence of our God, we offer to God our worship, our thanks and praises.

**We come: *“God of sea and sky, God of wind and stillness... we sing your praise...”***

In the presence of our God, we sing: “.*..All creation is the work of your hands”*

**We come to sing: “...*God of fire and rain, O God creator, we sing your praise*....”**

In the presence of our God, we proclaim: “...*From the rising of the sun to its setting,*

*We sing your praise. Day unto day and night unto night, we sing your praise...”*

**We come with prayers and praises: “...*You give life to all you touch, yours is the***

***life that no death overcomes, you alone can turn dark into light; we sing your praise*...”**  
*(Joan Stott)*

This is God’s house - a house of prayer for all people.

God welcomes each one who comes.   
Here is Love. Here is Grace. Here we renew our Hope together.   
Let us worship God!

HYMN

GREETING and WELCOME

PRAYER OF ADORATION

God beyond us, we adore you.

You are the depth of all that is. You are the ground of our being.

We can never grasp you, yet you grasp us.

The universe speaks of you, and your love comes to us through Jesus.

God beside us, revealed in the life of Christ, we adore you.

You are the perfection of humanity.

You have shown us what human life can be like.

In you we see divine love and human goodness combined.

God around us, embodied in the Spirit, we adore you.

You are the power within us.

God beyond, beside and around us: we adore you. Amen

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

To be here is to be willing to face ourselves with honesty and confidence, trusting that in this safe place we will find ways to our better selves. *A* *silence is kept.*

We bring to mind times when we have not trusted love: we are so hard on ourselves, paralysing our lives with unforgiven failures, anxious about our questions and complexities, unable to face who we are in a given moment. *A silence is kept.*

We know there are times when we judge others: offering no space, no grace.   
It is our own fear that shrinks us*.*

*A time of silence as we reflect on these words for ourselves.*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

In truth, we are never condemned, only loved. Through love, we are released to be who we are and to allow others to shine. **Thanks be to God.**

**THE SERVICE OF THE WORD**

ANTHEM

*The children are invited to the Lounge for special activities.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit,

that as the scriptures are read and your word is proclaimed,   
we may hear what you are saying to us today. **Amen**

FIRST READING Exodus 14: 19-31

In this is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 114

1Israel came out of Egypt

and the house of Jacob from among the strange people,  
2Judah was his sanctuaryIsrael his dominion.  
3sea saw that, and fledJordan was driven back.  
4mountains skipped like ramsthe little hills like young sheep.  
5What aileth thee, O thou sea, that thou fleddest  
thou Jordan, that thou wast driven back?  
6Ye mountains, that ye skipped like rams  
ye little hills, like young sheep?  
7Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the Lord  
the presence of the God of Jacob;  
8Who turned the hard rock into a standing water  
the flint-stone into a springing well.

*Please stand and sing the concluding Gloria*

**Glory be to the Father, and / to the / Son:**

**and / to the / Holy Spirit;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and / ever /shall be**

**world without / end. / A / men**

SECOND READING Romans 14: 1-12

In this is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

*Please stand for the gospel*

A reading from the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, Lord.**

GOSPEL READING Matthew 18: 21-35

The gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

HYMN

Sermon

**THE RESPONSE TO GOD IN WORD AND ACTION**

Hymn

# *During the singing of this hymn our offering will be received.*

# *Remain standing for the dedication prayer.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We bring our gifts to you, O God, in gratitude and hope. In dedicating them, we dedicate ourselves again to be your people in the world, in the strength and enabling power of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

Prayer is an act of love: love of God, love of self, love of neighbour. We enter a time of prayer to recall, collect and expand our love for all the world. These are those who move our hearts in concern today.

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

Be our wise companion, Holy Spirit, as we draw near to the struggling places of this earth and inspire in us an active, lively love. Speak to us in healing and in kindness, entering the empty spaces or the closed doors of our souls and giving us new meaning and purpose in all that we are and do. We pray in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray:

THE LORD’S PRAYER *(printed inside cover of hymn book)*

**THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD**

HYMN

WORDS OF MISSION AND BENEDICTION

May the whole earth be restored with love: in us, through us, sometimes despite us.

May our lives be signs of love, symbols of hope and carriers of grace.   
We pray in the name of God - Father, Son, Spirit. **Amen.**

*You are invited to be seated for the playing of the postlude,*

*or to leave at this point without disturbing those who wish to listen.*

POSTLUDE

*Please stand as the Bible is taken from the church.*

Presiding Minister Rev Sandy Boyce

Scripture Reader

Organist & Choir Director Peter Kelsall

The Choir of Pilgrim Church

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***Please join us for tea or coffee and fellowship in the Lounge***

***after the service.***