**Pentecost 8 30 July 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 are invited to stand for the entrance of the Bible.*

CALL TO WORSHIP *(based on Psalm 105:1-11)*

O Lord, our God, where is there another God like you?

A God of justice and unfailing love,
who stands by every promise made to God’s people,

generation after generation?

**There is no other. You alone are God.**

And so we gather together to worship you:

**to give you thanks,**

**to proclaim your greatness,**

**to sing your praise,**

**to seek your face,**

**and to celebrate your faithful presence with us**.

We pray that your Spirit would guide and inspire our worship.

**Open our mouths to sing and speak your praise,**

**open our ears to hear your Word,**

**open our eyes to see to you at work among us,**

**open our hearts to receive your love.**

Let us worship God!

HYMN 533 O for a heart to praise my God Tune 400

GREETINGS AND WELCOME

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

It is not our past which keeps us from God, for that is behind us.

It is not our present, for God is with us on this day.

And our future is held tight in God's hands.

It is true - there is absolutely nothing which can separate us from God.

Wherever we are, wherever we go, God is near.

Whatever actions or attitudes have led us away from God,
God's forgiveness and love and wisdom waits for us
as we open ourselves to the ways of God,
revealed to us in the life of Jesus Christ.
Teach us your ways, O God, so that we are flooded with your mercy -

emptying it of anything that makes it opposed to your ways,

so that it beats more in rhythm with you

and pounds greatly for your kingdom. *A time for silent reflection.*

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**
It is love that binds us to God forever.
There is nothing is this world, or beyond, which will keep us apart from God.
God casts out a net of grace so that all might be gathered into God’s family,
so we may be embraced with hope, and blessed with love.
**Thanks be to God!  Amen.**

**THE SERVICE OF THE WORD**

ANTHEM Lord, teach us how to pray aright

 Thomas Tallis c. 1500-1585

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Open our hearts and minds to hear your Word of love, O God. **Amen**

FIRST READING Genesis 29: 15-28

In this is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**.

PSALM 105: 1-11, 45b

*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 8: 26-39

In this is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM Jesu, priceless treasure J.Crüger 1598-1662

*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 13: 31-33, 44-52

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

HYMN 152 Now is eternal life

Sermon

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

Hymn 448 God of grace and God of glory

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

*Please remain standing for the dedication prayer.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

May God bless our giving as signs of the kingdom:

bread for all, pearls of wisdom, plenty to share.

Let it all work together for the good,

bringing hope to any who feel they are lost

and reminding us all of your constant love, gracious God. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *(inspired by Romans 8:26-27)*

As we come to prayer we remember that we do not have to twist the arm of a reluctant God to seek good things for this world, nor find ways to persuade a distant God to come near and listen to us.

As we pray, we draw alongside Jesus Christ, in the presence of God, with the help of the Spirit.

As we pray, may those in need our prayers draw alongside us, inviting us to live out our prayers.

We pray for those who are ill, or anxious;

those who are lonely or sad;

those who are despairing or defeated;

those facing uncertain futures;

those who are hungry or homeless;

those whose relationships are breaking apart;

those who are bullied or abused;

those who cannot find work and those who are over-worked.

In silence now, let us make our own specific prayers

for those on our hearts and minds today. *(Ann Siddall, adapted) A silence is kept for personal prayers.*
God who is love, grant us love, show us love, teach us love, lead us into love, guide us how to love, so that we might love you with our heart, mind strength and soul, love as you have loved us as the Christ, love our neighbours as ourselves, love our enemies, love those who persecute us, love the poor by our aid, love the lonely with our presence, love the needy with our care, love the suffering with our compassion, and love others by letting them love us. May we come to better love your way. Amen. *(Jon Humphries)*

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

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

HYMN 442 God is love Tune 418

WORDS OF MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Friends, as you go from here into the week ahead,

with whatever joys and challenges it holds,

do not be discouraged or disheartened.

Remember the truth - that you are a child of God,
embraced by divine love.

Hold on to that truth and live in that hope.

And may the peace of God,

the blessing of Jesus Christ,

and the presence of the Holy Spirit

be with you and among you. 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 Psalm—Prelude Op. 32 no. 3 Herbert Howells 1892-1983

 “Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;

 for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff comfort me. Psalm 23 v. 4

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

 Presiding Minister Rev Sandy Boyce

 Scripture Reader Brian J.Ward

 Organist & Choir Director Greg Crawford

 The Choir of Pilgrim Church

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

***after the service.***