

Pentecost 11

20 August 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 133)*

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

It is like a summer rain which restores the parched earth.

It is like a cool breeze at the shore of a lake,
at the top of a mountain or through a crowded city street.

God meets us here.

We have gathered to worship the Maker of Our Days,
the Restorer of Our Souls and the Breath of Our Lives.

Let us worship God!

HYMN 537

O God, our help in ages past

GREETING AND WELCOME

PRAYER OF THANKS

Uniting God, we have gathered here together as a community of faith to worship and offer praise. We have come together in trust, in hope, and in expectation of a blessing. As a community of faith, we rejoice in the wide diversity of gifts, graces and experiences, all of which contribute to the uniqueness of this fellowship of faith. We rejoice in the ways we grow together as one community and for these blessings we offer our thanks. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Maker of Our Days:
you created each of us as unique beings
with differing strengths and weaknesses.
Help us to use our strengths to assist others
and also to allow others to use their strengths to meet our weaknesses.

Restorer of Our Souls:
you have seen the parched places in our lives.
Meet us in the places of our deepest pain.

Breath of Our Lives:
we confess we are humans disposed to division and disunity.
There is much good in us. There is much potential for love.
When we get it right there is beauty, compassion, peace and harmony.
But when we get it wrong we think hurtful thoughts, wish hurtful things
and create separation and division sometimes. And we get it wrong often.
Loving God, forgive us when we misunderstand each other;
when we do not seek greater understanding; when we would rather judge than understand.
A time of silence as we reflect on these words for ourselves

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Jesus embodies the forgiveness of God.
Take heart and know that you are loved, forgiven and understood.
Thanks be to God. Amen

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

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 45: 1-15

In this is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 133

1 Behold, how good and joyful a thing it is
, to dwell together in unity!
2 is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down unto the beard
unto Aaron's beard, and went down to the skirts of his clothing.
3 as the dew of Hermon fell upon the hill of Sion.
4 there the Lord promised his blessing and life for evermore.

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 11: 1-2a, 29-32

In this is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM Lord, Thou hast been our refuge

Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872-1958

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 15: 21-28

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

HYMN 352 Think, O Lord, in mercy omit vs 1

SERMON

THE RESPONSE TO GOD IN WORD AND ACTION

HYMN 443 God is our strength and refuge

*During the singing of this hymn our offering will be received.
Please remain standing for the dedication prayer.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We dedicate our lives and these offerings for your blessing.
Work in us and through us to extend your love and care,
here and around the world. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord of all peoples. you have created us to live together.
Help us to see that our common life depends on each other's work and goodwill.
May compassion increase and generosity prevail.
Hear us, we pray: **Lord, help us.**
Abundant God, you make the earth bring forth good food.
As the children of Israel found hope and sustenance in a time of famine,
we pray the same for all those suffering from famine in our world today.
Hear us, we pray: **Lord, help us.**
Caring God, how good and pleasant it is when people live together in unity.
Pour out a spirit of reconciliation in our community and in our world.
Hear us, we pray: **Lord, help us.**
We pray for harmony wherever there is discord:
within ourselves, in our close relationships, between nations.
We pray for solidarity of purpose amongst advocates for justice and peace.
Hear us, we pray: **Lord, help us.**
We pray for everyone who commits to
celebrating difference whilst dissolving division.
Hear us, we pray: **Lord, help us.**
Lord Christ, may those who call out to you find your heart open to their cries.
We pray for healing for the sick and suffering, the desperate and disturbed.
May the dying find comfort; may the dead rest in your peace.
We offer silent prayers for people, places and situations on our hearts...

Hear us, we pray: **Lord, help us.**

We offer these prayers 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 10 Abide with me

WORDS OF MISSION AND BENEDICTION

We began our service with worship.

Now we continue our worship in service,

to do the work of Christ in the world:

to extend a hand to those in need, to speak up for those cast aside,

to build bridges of reconciliation, to strengthen bonds of community,

knowing that the Maker of Our Days,

the Restorer of Our Souls

and the Breath of Our Lives

will be with us all this day and ever more. 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 Elegy George Thalben-Ball 1896-1987

Please stand as the Bible is taken from the church.

Presiding Minister

Rev Sandy Boyce

Preacher

Geoff 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.***