

Pentecost 16

24 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 are invited to stand for the entrance of the Bible.

CALL TO WORSHIP

However much we wrestle
with questions, big and small,
worship today and receive
a glimpse of something more,
a taste of greater love
a blessing and invitation to follow on the way.
**God is here amongst us as we gather,
ready to meet us with whatever we need,
to restore our hope and encourage our faithfulness.**

HYMN

WELCOME

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

We need no prayer of invocation
focused on an “elsewhere” God.
God is present to us here and now.
Our prayer is that we become
aware of your presence
within and amongst us, Loving God.
We are the ones who must bring ourselves
here into this moment to meet God.

Make us aware of your presence
within and amongst us, Loving God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You are grace and mercy for the exhausted and weary.

Lord have mercy.

You are Redeemer and giver of abundant life.

Christ have mercy.

You are presence and provider on our journey.

Lord have mercy.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God, far beyond our imagining,

has already forgiven our limitations.

We are not held captive in these chains;

we are set free to wonder at the limitlessness of God.

We step forward in confidence,

hired even at this late hour to follow on the way,

called and gifted to serve at this time and in days ahead.

BAPTISM OF CHARLOTTE BOSWELL

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

The children are invited to activities in the west chapel.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Holy Spirit,

that in your light we may see light,

in your truth find freedom,

and in your will discover our peace;

through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Exodus 16: 2-15

In this is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 105:1-6, 37-45

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

Please remain standing for the gospel reading

A reading from the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord

GOSPEL READING Matthew 20: 1-16

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.
Please remain standing for the dedication prayer.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God is more generous than we can imagine.
In your generosity, Loving God,
take these gifts and make of them
provisions for those who have lost hope
and a beacon of abundance
for those who have only known
the world to be tight-fisted and mean.
So shall the last be first and the first last
according to your loving kindness. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

At every hour of the day
we have the opportunity
to extend God's graciousness
beyond the bounds of expectation.

Loving God,
we pray for the workers of the world,
labourers who toil so that others may eat,
and have enough.

We pray for fair labour practices,
fair trade and equal justice for
those in the office and on the line.

Loving God,
we pray for those who do not have the work
they deserve or desire.

Help us to acknowledge and transform
systems that deny people a living wage
and the dignity of self-determination.

Loving God,
we pray for those who have lost hope and faith
in a world that favours the few and leaves the many
standing idly by.

Give us wisdom to work together

towards a world in which everyone may flourish. **Amen**

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

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

HYMN

As we remain standing the minister takes the white baptismal candle, lights it from the Christ candle and presents it to Charlotte's parents. Charlotte, you belong to Christ, the light of the world. Walk always as a child of the light. (To the congregation). We too are invited to walk always as a child of the light.

WORDS OF MISSION AND BENEDICTION

God brings the people out with joy:
there is enough for all,
food as if from heaven, in abundance.
Let God unleash a spirit of generosity
within and amongst us,
so that we are the ones to invite others to a world
of sharing, where no one is left behind or without.

God be your fire by night and your shade by day.
Christ be your guide to a promised land of enough for all.
Spirit be your companion, turning your complaints to wonder
and your fear to love. **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 Ministers	Rev Dr Dean Eland. Rev Sandy Boyce.
Scripture Reader	Don Bell
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.***

