



The Incomparable Christ:
Ministry unto Assurance

*“Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures
of wisdom and knowledge.” (Col 2:2-3)*

Call to Worship

Behold, God is our salvation;
We will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the LORD God is our strength and our song,
and he has become our salvation. (Isa 12:2)

**Sing praises to the LORD,
for he has done gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth.** (Isa 12:5)

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,
to you all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Psalm 100. All People That on Earth do Dwell.

All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with mirth,
his praise forth tell,
Come ye before him and rejoice.

O enter then his gates with praise,
Approach with joy his courts unto:
Praise, laud,
and bless his name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

Know that the Lord is God indeed;
Without our aid he did us make:
We are his flock, he doth us feed,
And for his sheep he doth us take.

For why? the Lord our God is good,
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

Confession and Assurance

Hear the summary of the whole law, from our Lord Jesus Christ:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” (Matt 22:37-40)

Have mercy on us, O God

**According to your unfailing love;
According to your great compassion.**

God’s word tells us:

*“If we say we have no sin,
we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins,
God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

(1 John 1:8-9)

Let us therefore confess our sins against God,
and against our neighbour, first in silence and then aloud together.

Please kneel or be seated.

Almighty and most merciful God,

**We confess to you that we are by nature sinful and unclean,
and that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed;
not only in outward transgressions, but also in secret thoughts and desires
that we are not able to understand, but which are all known to You.
For this reason, we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy,
seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him
should not perish but have eternal life."
(John 3:16)*

Psalm 34

Tell his praise
in song and story,
bless the Lord with heart and voice;
in my God is all my glory,
come before him and rejoice.
Join to praise his name together,
he who hears his people's cry;
tell his praise,
come wind or weather,
shining faces
lifted high.

To the Lord
whose love has found them
cry the poor
in their distress;
swift his angels
camped around them
prove him sure to save and bless.
God it is who hears our crying
though the spark of faith be dim;
Taste and see, beyond denying
blessed are those who trust in him.

Taste and see!
In faith draw near him,
trust the Lord with all your powers;
seek and serve him,
love and fear him,
life and all its joys are ours:
true delight in holy living,
peace and plenty, length of days;
come, my children,
with thanksgiving,
bless the Lord in songs of praise.

In our need he walks beside us,
ears alert to every cry;
watchful eyes
to guard and guide us,
love that whispers 'It is I'.
Good shall triumph,
wrong be righted,
God has pledged
his promised word;
so with ransomed saints united,
join to praise our living Lord!

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Psalm 134. A Song of Ascents.

Come, bless the Lord,
all you servants of the Lord,
who stand by night
in the house of the Lord!

**Lift up your hands
to the holy place
and bless the Lord!**

May the Lord bless you from Zion,
he who made heaven and earth!

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

**As it was in the beginning,
is now, and shall be forever,
age after age.**

Amen.

God's Word

First Reading: Isaiah 11, p. 575

This is the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Col 1:24-2:7, p. 983

This is the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

*Sermon: The Incomparable Christ:
Ministry unto Assurance (Mark Payne)*

Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision,
O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me,
save that thou art.

Thou my best thought
by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping,
thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom,
and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and
thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father
and I thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling,
and I with thee one.

Be thou my battle shield,
sword for my fight;
Be thou my dignity,
thou my delight,

Thou my soul's shelter
and thou my high tow'r:
Raise thou me heav'n-ward,
O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not,
nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance,
now and always:
Thou and thou only
the first in my heart,
High King of heaven,
my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven,
my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys,
O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart,
whatever befall,
Still be my vision,
O Ruler of all.

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The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived
by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

After each petition:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever,
Amen.**

The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

All baptised Christians who trust in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and seek to lead a new life by God's mercies, are welcome at this table. If you do not profess faith in Christ, simply allow the bread and wine to pass by, and reflect on what is taking place.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Please join in saying the Sanctus ("The Holy", based on Isaiah 6:3)

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Almighty and eternal God,
We thank you for reassuring us at this meal
of your favour and goodness towards us,
of your word for us.**

**We thank you that we are truly members
of the body of your Son,
that we are heirs, by grace,
of your eternal kingdom.**

**We humbly beg you, heavenly Father,
to keep us as faithful members of your church,
to strengthen us by your Spirit,
to draw us together in love and unity,
that we may serve through those good works
which you have prepared for us to do
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
and for His glory.**

Amen.

Gifts and Offerings

Gifts and offerings may be placed in the offertory box at the back of the hall.

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor 9:7)

Psalm 67

O God, to us show mercy
And bless us in your grace;
Cause now to shine upon us
The brightness of your face;
That so your way most holy
On earth may soon be known,
And unto every people
Your saving grace be shown.

O God, let all men praise you,
Let all the nations sing;
In every land let praises
And songs of gladness ring;
For you shall judge the people

In truth and righteousness,
And you shall lead the nations
Your justice to confess.

Let all the peoples praise you,
All tongues and tribes should sing,
For earth in rich abundance
To us her fruit shall bring.
The Lord our God shall bless us;
Let all the earth maintain
The praise it owes its Maker,
The reverence due His name.

Benediction

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the Name of Christ, Amen.

Notices

Please diarise and pray for the items below:

<i>IN THE WEEK</i>		
Thu 24th Nov	Women's Christmas Craft	Guests very welcome. Invites on the desk.
Sun 27th Nov	Morning Worship	Colossians 2:6-7
<i>FURTHER AHEAD</i>		
Sun 4th Dec	Christmas Leaflet Drop	
Sat 17th Dec	Carol Service	Guests very welcome. Starts at 5pm.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture references are from the English Standard Version (ESV)