



The Incomparable Christ

Free and Full in Him

*“For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,
and you have been filled in him,
who is the head of all rule and authority.” (Col 2:10)*

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 96

Sing unto the Lord a new song,
Sing to Him, O all the earth!
Bless the name of God forever;
Sing salvation's wondrous worth.
Tell His glory to the nations;
Of His wonders, anthems raise.
He is Lord of all creation,
Great, and greatly to be praised.

Other gods fade as a vapour;
There is none beside the Lord.
In His dwelling, strength, and splendour,
God exalted and adored.
Give Him glory, all ye people;
Give Him glory due His name.
In His temple, as an off'ring,
All His pow'r and might proclaim.

Worship God in holy beauty;
Bow before His throne in fear.
Now proclaim among the nations
His dominion, ever near.
By His word, the earth was founded,
That it never may be moved;
In His word is justice grounded,
That He righteous may be proved.

Let the heavens shout, rejoicing,
And the earth in joy aflame;
Let the sea in thunder praise Him,
Field and forest now acclaim.
For the Lord, the Lord is coming;
Let the earth resound again!
To His people, He is coming
In His righteousness to reign!

Words: David P. Regier; Music: J. Wyeth

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:

“Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.” (Prov 28:13)

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

Please kneel or be seated.

Have mercy on us, O God

According to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin! For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Against you, you only, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgement.

Hide your face from our sins, and blot out all our iniquities. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Cast us not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from us.

O Lord, open our lips, and our mouths will declare your praise. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit. For you will not delight in sacrifice, or we would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. Our sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. (Ps. 51)

Assurance of Pardon

"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death." (Rom 8:1-2)

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

God's grace first taught my heart to fear,
His grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe this far
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
My shield and great reward is he
As long as life endures.

And when this mortal life is past
And earthly days shall cease,
I shall possess with Christ at last
Eternal joy and peace.

The earth will soon dissolve like snow,
The sun no longer shine;
But God, who called me here below,
Will be forever mine.

John Newton (1779)

Psalm 136. His Steadfast Love Endures Forever.

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
Give thanks to the God of gods,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
to him who alone does great wonders,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
to him who by understanding
made the heavens,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
to him who spread out the earth above
the waters,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
to him who made the great lights,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
the sun to rule over the day,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
the moon and stars
to rule over the night,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
to him who struck down
the firstborn of Egypt,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
and brought Israel
out from among them,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
with a strong hand
and an outstretched arm,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
to him who divided the Red Sea in two,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
and made Israel
pass through the midst of it,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

but overthrew Pharaoh
and his host in the Red Sea,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
to him who led his people
through the wilderness,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
to him who struck down great kings,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
and killed mighty kings,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
Sihon, king of the Amorites,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
and Og, king of Bashan,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
and gave their land as a heritage,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
a heritage to Israel his servant,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
It is he who remembered us
in our low estate,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
and rescued us from our foes,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
he who gives food to all flesh,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

**Give thanks to the God of heaven,
for his steadfast love endures forever.**

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: Ps 81, p. 491

This is the Word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Col 2:6-15, p. 984

This is the Word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

*Sermon: The Incomparable Christ:
Free and Full in Him (David Thornhill-Smith)*

Psalm 57. Be Thou, O God, Exalted High.

Be Thou, O God, exalted high;
And as Your glory fills the sky,
So let it be on earth displayed,
Till You are here, as there, obeyed;
Till You are here, as there, obeyed.

O God, my heart is fixed, 'tis bent
Its thankful tribute to present;
And, with my heart, my voice I'll raise
To You, my God, in songs of praise;
To You, my God, in songs of praise.

Awake, my glory; harp and lute,
No longer let your strings be mute;
And I, my tuneful part to take,
Will with the early dawn awake;
Will with the early dawn awake.

Your praises, Lord, I will resound
To all the list'ning nations 'round;
Your mercy highest heav'n transcends;
Your truth beyond the clouds extends;
Your truth beyond the clouds extends.

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, and 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)

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious,
the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious,
Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting,
Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains
high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains
of goodness and love.

To all life Thou givest,
to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest,
the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish
as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish,
but nought changeth Thee.

Great Father of Glory,
pure Father of Light
Thine angels adore Thee,
all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render,
O help us to see:
'Tis only the splendour
of light hideth Thee!

*Words: Walter C. Smith, 1867
Music: Traditional Welsh melody*

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:

IN THE WEEK		
Wed 7th Dec	Fellowship Group (M)	
Thu 8th Dec	Prayer Meeting	Online
Sun 11th Dec	Morning Worship	The Saviour is Foretold (Luke 1:24-38)
FURTHER AHEAD		
Sat 17th Dec	Carol Service	Guests very welcome. Starts at 5pm.
Tue 20th Dec	Tots & Toys	Volunteers appreciated (Welcoming)

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture references are from the English Standard Version (ESV); CCLI No: 731672.