



A Gracious Greeting

“For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.” (Phil v7)

Call to Worship

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing!

**To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honour and glory and might
forever and ever. Amen!**

(Rev 5:12-13)

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 65

Praise awaits you God in Zion
Soon to you all flesh will come
Though our sins prevail against us
You atone for every one
Blessed are those
you choose and welcome
Dwelling in your courts of grace
We are filled with every blessing
Satisfied in you always

Holy God and mighty Saviour
Hope of all the farthest seas
When we pray you hear and answer
You make known
your wondrous deeds

By your strength
you formed the mountains
Stilled the roaring of the waves
Earth rejoices at your goodness
Dawn and evening sing your praise

From your river ever-flowing
You give life to all the land
Autumn rains and grain at harvest
You provide for every man
All the year
is crowned with bounty
Deserts bloom and hills bear fruit
Hills and valleys, all creation
Lift their hymn of praise to you

Matt Searles

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.

Prayer of Confession

Almighty and most merciful Father,

We have wandered and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.

We have offended against your holy laws.

**We have left undone those things that we ought to have done;
and we have done those things that we ought not to have done;
and there is no health in us.**

But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us sinners. Spare those who confess their faults.

**Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises
declared to mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may live a disciplined, righteous and godly life,
to the glory of your holy name.**

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

"But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all." (Isa 53:5-6)

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it
mount of God's redeeming love.

Here I find my greatest treasure;
hither by thy help I've come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,

wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
bought me with his precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

*Robert Robinson, 1758
The Psalter Hymnal, 1987*

God's Word

First Reading: Jer 32:1-15, "Living in Hope" p. 660

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

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not
want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters
He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of
the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,
for you are with me; your rod and your
staff, they comfort me.

Second Reading: Philemon p. 1000

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

Sermon: A Gracious Greeting (David Thornhill-Smith)

You prepare a table before me in the
presence of my enemies; you anoint my
head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall
follow me all the days of my life, and I
shall dwell in the house of the Lord
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!

Oh How Good It Is

Oh how good it is
when the family of God
Dwell together in spirit,
in love and unity;
Where the bonds of peace,
of acceptance and love
Are the fruits of his presence
here among us.

*So with one voice
we'll sing to the Lord,
And with one heart
we'll live out his word
Til the whole world sees
the Redeemer has come,
For he dwells in the presence
of his people.*

Oh how good it is
on this journey we share
To rejoice with the happy
and weep with those who mourn.
For the weak find strength,
the afflicted find grace,
When we offer the
blessing of belonging.

Oh how good it is
to embrace his command
To prefer one another,
forgive as he forgives.
When we live as one
we all share in the love
Of the Son with the Father
and the Spirit.

*Getty, Holmes & Townend
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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, please refrain from receiving the bread and wine.

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.

The stewards will distribute the wine and bread.

Eat the bread as you receive it, but keep the wine until we all drink together.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Father, as we have received these gifts of bread and wine, you have fed us with the spiritual food of the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Thank you for assuring us of your goodness and love, and that we are members of his body. Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son, and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gifts and Offerings

Gifts and offerings may be placed in the offertory box at the back of the hall. *"Honour the LORD with your wealth and with the first-fruits of all your produce." (Pro 3:9)*

O God, to Us Show Mercy (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.

Please diarise and pray for the items below:

IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS		
Tues 25th Apr	Women in the Word	7.30pm. Speak to Hilary Townshend or Sarah Payne for more details.
Thurs 27th Apr	CAL Event	Billy McCurrie: <i>Would God forgive a terrorist?</i>
Sun 30th Apr	Sunday Worship	Philemon (ctd)

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