



Chet Valley Churches

**Holy Communion**  
**for Eight Sunday of Trinity**  
**Lammastide**  
**2nd August 2020**

## **The Greeting and Welcome**

We come from scattered lives to meet with God.  
Therefore let us recognise his presence with us.

As God's people we have gathered:  
**let us worship God together.**

## **Opening Prayer**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known, and from whom 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**

## **♪ Hymn: Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer**

**Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,  
Pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
Hold me with thy powerful hand:  
Bread of heaven,  
Feed me now and evermore.**

**Open now the crystal fountain  
Whence the healing stream doth flow;  
Let the fiery cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through:  
Strong deliverer,  
Be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death, and hell's destruction,  
Land me safe on Canaan's side:  
Songs and praises  
I will ever give to thee.**

In ancient times the people of God presented to the Lord an offering of first fruits as a sign of their dependence upon God for their daily bread. At this Lammastide, we bring a newly-baked loaf as our offering in thanksgiving for God's faithfulness.

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life; those who come to me shall never be hungry and those who believe in me shall never thirst." John 6. 35

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation; you bring forth bread from the fields and give us the fruits of the earth in their seasons. Accept this loaf, which is brought before you, made from the harvest of your goodness. Let it be for us a sign of your fatherly care.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, worthy of our thanksgiving and praise.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

As those who know the generosity of God, let us confess our sins, especially the way in which we take God's good gifts for granted.

Lord you give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses:  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord you give us this day our daily bread.  
Let us not be led into temptation:  
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord you give us this day our daily bread. Deliver us from evil:  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of love and power  
forgive us and free us from our sins,  
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,  
and raise us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

♪ **Gloria (Anderson)**

***Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo; Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.***

**Lord God, Heavenly King, peace you bring to us;  
we worship you, we give you thanks, we sing our song of praise.**

***Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo...***

**Jesus, Saviour of all, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
You take away our sins, O Lord, have mercy on us all.**

*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo...*

**At the Father's right hand, Lord receive our prayer,  
for you alone are the Holy One, and you alone are Lord.**

*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo...*

**Glory, Father and Son, glory, Holy Spirit,  
to you we raise our hands up high, we glorify your name.**

*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo...*

## **Collecting Prayer for the Day**

Let us pray:

Lord God, your Son left the riches of heaven  
and became poor for our sake:  
when we prosper save us from pride,  
when we are needy save us from despair,  
that we may trust in you alone;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Reading: Isaiah 55:1-5**

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

For the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Hymn: I Will Offer Up My Life**

**I will offer up my life  
In spirit and truth,  
Pouring out the oil of love**

**As my worship to You.  
In surrender I must give  
My every part.  
Lord, receive the sacrifice  
Of a broken heart.**

**Jesus, what can I give,  
What can I bring  
To so faithful a friend,  
To so loving a King?  
Saviour, what can be said,  
What can be sung,  
As the praise of Your name,  
For the things You have done?**

**O my words could not tell,  
Not even in part,  
Of the debt of love that is owed  
By this thankful heart.**

**You deserve my every breath  
For You've paid the great cost.  
Giving up Your life to death,  
Even death on a cross.  
You took all my shame away,  
There defeated my sin,  
Opened up the gates of heaven  
And have beckoned me in.**

### **📖 Gospel Reading: *Matthew 14:13-21***

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves."

Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish."





And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass.

Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

For the Word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

### **Sermon** *[Rev David]*

The other week Nina, my wife, and I were making a journey across the country to carry on with the task of sorting out my mother's home. The journey is a long one which, before the outbreak of Covid-19 and the restrictions imposed, would give us lovely opportunities to stop somewhere to have a meal. However, because eating places were in scarce supply we decided to resort to what was once a much more common occurrence, to have a picnic. The very thought of doing so, especially bearing in mind the task we were engaged in, brought back wonderful memories of the many picnics I used to have with my parents. Any journey of reasonable length would have me packed off with a picnic to eat at some point on the journey. The sooner I ate it, mind you, the lighter my bag became. My mother was always a great provider! She would also use a whole half pound of butter on the sandwiches she provided. It sometimes felt as if I had bread with my butter rather than butter with my bread. Sustenance indeed.

Our gospel reading today is another familiar story which is actually recorded in one form or another in all four gospels - but I wonder whether we'd be able to tell which way each of the writers records it? Who gives us another angle, or who tells it straight? I'm sure you were listening carefully –or if you're cheating will have now paused, gone back and listened again— and will have realised that Matthew's version is the straight one. To look up the others you can go to Mark chapter 6. verses 30-44, Luke chapter 9. verses 10-17 and John chapter 6. verses 1-14. Here the disciples come to Jesus to ask him to send the crowds home or at least away to get their own food. Jesus however has other plans. He had already expressed compassion for the crowd and now again he does the same.

I wonder how we'd have reacted if we'd been there when Jesus turns to his disciples and says that the crowd has no need to go away—that's not compassionate to keep them hungry. Of course that's only half the phrase! "...you give them something to eat." Now in three of the gospel accounts there is no reference as to where the five loaves and two fish come from. In John's gospel alone do we get the extra information that Andrew introduces a little lad who has his picnic with him—clearly his mother was also a great provider. Either that or he'd not eaten his lunch!

Whichever way the disciples came by the food it clearly was pathetic to think that there was sufficient to feed all who were there. They say, they've "nothing but....", Even so Jesus invites what they have to be brought to him. "Bring them to me." And from that comes the feeding of the five thousand plus. Many have looked at this story, and its variants elsewhere in the other gospels and the similar feeding of the 4000 to see what relevance it has for us today.

Many times I'm sure most of us will have thought about doing something but decided that what we can offer is paltry compared to the need we see before us. The easy approach in those circumstances is to do nothing and justify it by claiming that others would be better suited. Yet whatever we have, if offered with a generous and open heart will be of service. If we are prepared to offer it to Jesus then who knows how he will utilise for the benefit of all. Obviously the biggest gift of all is to offer ourselves but even here we shrug and maintain that we might not be up to scratch. There again none of us are, but whatever we are like we can be used by God to make the world a better place.

If it wasn't for the introduction to this service I wonder how many of us would either have known that the 1st August was Lammas Day or indeed what Lammas is. It fits in wonderfully in the whole aspect of offering. Lammas was an offering of bread as a token of the first fruits, in thankfulness for God's provision. And there's a link. If we offer thanks for the provision of God then we can also offer ourselves in thankfulness—no matter how paltry we might believe we are.

## **Affirmation of Faith**

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

## **Intercessions, Concluding With the Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray for the coming of the kingdom.

...for the world and creation;

...for the Churches;

...for community;

...for those ill or in need;

...for those who mourn.



Let us gather our prayers in the words Jesus our Saviour, taught us:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen**

### **♪ Hymn: *Hear The Call of the Kingdom***

**Hear the call of the kingdom,**

**Lift your eyes to the King.**

**Let His song rise within you**

**As a fragrant offering**

**Of how God rich in mercy**

**Came in Christ to redeem**

**All who trust in His unfailing grace.**



**Hear the call of the Kingdom  
To be children of light.  
With the mercy of heaven,  
The humility of Christ.  
Walking justly before Him  
Loving all that is right,  
That the life of Christ may shine through us.**

**King of Heaven, we will answer the call.  
We will follow bringing hope to the world.  
Filled with passion, filled with power to proclaim  
Salvation in Jesus' name.**

**Hear the call of the Kingdom  
To reach out to the lost.  
With the Father's compassion  
In the wonder of the cross.  
Bringing peace and forgiveness  
And a hope yet to come.  
Let the nations put their trust in Him.**

## **Invitation**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:  
through your goodness we have this bread to set before you,  
which earth has given and human hands have made.

It will become for us the bread of life.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

The Lord is here. **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Father, you made the world and love your creation. You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour. His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death. And so we gladly thank you, with saints and angels praising you, and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: "Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

The Lord comes to us in bread and wine.

They are gifts of God for the people of God.

So let us join with all who receive him in their lives this day.

**♪ Hymn: King of Kings, Majesty (as we think about Communion)**

**King of kings, majesty,  
God of Heaven living in me,  
Gentle Saviour, closest friend,  
Strong deliverer, beginning and end,  
All within me falls at your throne:**

**Your majesty, I can but bow,  
I lay my all before you now.  
In royal robes I don't deserve  
I live to serve your majesty.**

**Earth and Heaven worship you,  
love eternal, faithful and true,  
Who bought the nations, ransomed souls,  
Brought this sinner near to your throne;  
All within me cries out in praise:**

**Your majesty, I can but bow,  
I lay my all before you now.  
In royal robes I don't deserve  
I live to serve your majesty.**

## **Post-Communion Prayer**

Let us pray.

**O God, your Son made himself known to his disciples  
in the breaking of bread:  
open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him  
in his redeeming work,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God now and for ever. Amen.**

## ***♪ Hymn: Jesus is Lord, Creation's Voice Proclaims It***

**Jesus is Lord!  
Creation's voice proclaims it.  
For by His power each tree and flower,  
Was planned and made.  
Jesus is Lord! The universe declares it.  
Sun, moon and stars in heaven,  
Cry, 'Jesus is Lord!'**

**Jesus is Lord! Jesus is Lord!  
Praise Him with Hallelujahs  
For Jesus is Lord!**

**Jesus is Lord!**

**Yet from His throne eternal,  
In flesh He came to die in pain,  
On Calvary's tree.**

**Jesus is Lord! From Him all life proceeding,  
Yet gave His life a ransom,  
Thus setting us free.**

**Jesus is Lord!**

**O'er sin the mighty conqueror.  
From death He rose, and all His foes,  
Shall own His name.**

**Jesus is Lord! God sent His Holy Spirit  
To show by works of power,  
That Jesus is Lord.**

God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who is the source of all goodness and growth,  
pour his blessing upon all things created and upon us his children,  
that we may use his gifts to his glory and the welfare of all peoples:  
and the blessing of God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you,  
and those whom you love, now and always. **Amen.**

Tend the earth, care for God's creation, and bring forth the fruits of  
righteousness. Go in the peace of Christ. **Amen.**

