



Chet Valley Churches

Service of the Word

9th Sunday of Trinity

9th August 2020

Welcome

We come to worship God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

This is the day that the Lord has made.

We will rejoice and be glad in it!

♪ **Hymn: *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind***

**Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways;
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives thy service find,
In deeper reverence, praise.**

**In simple trust like theirs who heard,
Beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word
Rise up and follow thee.**

**O Sabbath rest by Galilee,
O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with thee
The silence of eternity,
Interpreted by love!**

**Drop thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of thy peace.**

**Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm!**



Prayer of Approach

Lord, direct our thoughts and teach us to pray. Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Silence

**Loving God, we have come to worship you.
Help us to remember
that you are here with us.
May we pray to you in faith
and listen to your word with eagerness;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Psalm

Let us acknowledge God.

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.
**Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.**

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
**Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.**

The Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
**Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps.**

(Psalm 85. 8-13)

Silence

To you, loving God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be all glory, honour and praise
now and for ever. **Amen.**

Prayer of Confession and Declaration of Forgiveness

Let us confess our sins.

Silence

Loving God,
**we have sinned against you
in what we have thought, said and done.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and turn away from what is wrong.
Forgive us for the sake of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Silence

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect—The Prayer of the Day

Gracious Father,
revive your Church in our day,
and make her holy, strong and faithful,
for your glory's sake
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading: 1 Kings 19:9-18

Elijah came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.'

He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.

When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.'

Then the LORD said to him, 'Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazeal as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazeal, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.'

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

🎵 **Hymn/Song: 10,000 Reasons**

Bless the Lord oh my soul.

Oh my soul,

Worship his holy name.

Sing like never before,

Oh my soul.

I'll worship your holy name.

The sun comes up,

It's a new day dawning.

It's time to sing your song again.

Whatever may pass

And whatever lies before me,

Let me be singing

When the evening comes.

Bless the Lord oh my soul...

You're rich in love

And you're slow to anger.

Your name is great

And your heart is kind.

For all your goodness

I will keep on singing.

Ten thousand reasons

For my heart to find.

Bless the Lord oh my soul...



**And on that day
When my strength is failing;
The end draws near
And my time has come.
Still my soul will
Sing your praise unending,
Ten thousand years
And then forevermore.
Forevermore.**

Bless the Lord oh my soul...

Gospel Reading: Matthew 14:22-33

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear.

But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.' Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

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

Sermon [Rev David]

The other day I came across one of my travel diaries and as I was flicking through it I came across a holiday we'd taken a few years back to Iceland. A wonderful country with its geysers, glaciers and lava flows. And for a geologist, by training, rather than occupation, a fantastic place to be. It's strange being there and knowing that one can stand with a foot not only in

Europe but also in America—well on the join between the Eurasian and American plates which make up the earth's crust. After spending a few days near Reykjavik we drove north westwards in the hope of going whale watching—something that didn't happen because the winds were too strong—however what we did do was find a hole in the ground. Not any hole but one which allowed us to visit a lava flow cavern. Once we'd descended the steps to the cavern we were amazed at the size of the space but even more amazing was the absolute silence we experienced when we were told to stand still and the torches we were carrying were turned off, plunging the cavern into darkness—and silence! I've only had that experience on three other occasions: when I'd been placed in a “sound-proof” room at a recording studio so that I might record a commercial for radio; when visiting the Llechwedd Slate quarry in north Wales and when waiting to observe a solar eclipse. The last occasion was strange as all the sounds of nature suddenly ceased—the birds stopped and because we were away from traffic there was no other noise about from our own heart-beats.

Silence is not something we are used to. We often do our utmost to remove it. Shops find it necessary to have background noise (music) as do other places. Sitting still and silent for any length of time does not seem natural and as humans we do seem to want to fill those occasions with sound.

In our reading from the first book of Kings we encounter Elijah the prophet. He's utterly exhausted from his confrontations with the prophets of Baal, King Ahab and Queen Jezebel and he's now taken himself off to a cave where he's suffering from self-doubt. Elijah appears to be reflecting on his effectiveness as a prophet and perhaps even on God's commitment to him! He's worn out and wants to end it all and die. It's at that very moment that God comes to him. God doesn't come with some great theological statement of faith nor does God seek to overwhelm him rather God comes in sheer silence. When the only sound, if that word can be used, is the life beating of his own heart. So profound that Elijah is blown over, not by the wind or earthquake but by the dynamism of God who goes on to provide him—remind him—that there are others, he's not alone there are colleagues to whom he can turn.

How often do we feel alone? In our gospel we hear of Jesus needing to be alone so as to recharge his batteries. He then approaches the disciples

over the water, as they struggle against the power of the wind, and Peter—always Peter—jumps up and wishes to walk towards him only to start sinking when he sees the waves and looks away from Jesus.

I've never tried tight-rope walking—nor do I want to start, but those who have say that once you look down and move your focus away from the end point—the destination—that is when you lose your balance and will fall. Once Peter called out to Jesus, looked up and took his hand then that is when he was safe, that is when he no longer worried about the storm, that is when he—and the other disciples—became aware that the wind had been stilled. Silence prevailed in the presence of the Son of God. Elijah needed faith to believe that God was in the silence. The disciples recognised that the silence they experienced would be strengthened through faith in Jesus. We too can have a stillness and the peace which is beyond our understanding when we trust and have faith in Jesus, the Son of God.

Affirmation of Faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

♪ Hymn/Song: From the Breaking of the Dawn (Every Promise)

**From the breaking of the dawn
To the setting of the sun,
I will stand
On ev'ry promise of your word.**

**Words of power, strong to save,
That will never pass away,
I will stand
On ev'ry promise of your word.**

**For your covenant is sure,
And on this I am secure—
I can stand
On ev'ry promise of your word.**

**When I stumble and I sin,
Condemnation pressing in,
I will stand
On ev'ry promise of your word.**

**You are faithful to forgive
That in freedom I might live,
So I stand
On ev'ry promise of your word.**

**Guilt to innocence restored,
You remember sins no more—
So I'll stand
On ev'ry promise of your word.**

**When I'm faced with anguished choice,
I will listen for your voice,
stand on ev'ry promise of your word.
And I'll stand
On ev'ry promise of your word.**

**Through this dark and troubled land
You will guide me with your hand
As I stand
On ev'ry promise of your word.**



**And you've promised to complete
Ev'ry work begun in me—
So I'll stand
On ev'ry promise of your word.**

**Hope that lifts me from despair,
Love that casts out ev'ry fear,
As I stand
On ev'ry promise of your word.**

**Not forsaken, not alone,
For the Comforter has come,
And I stand
On ev'ry promise of your word.**

**Grace sufficient, grace for me,
Grace for all who will believe—
We will stand
On ev'ry promise of your word.**

Prayers of Intercession

Let us offer our prayers with all God's people
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We pray for the needs of the world...

We pray for the Church...

We pray for all in trouble or distress...

We pray for all who make a new beginning today...

♪ Reflection: Faithful One

**Faithful one, so unchanging,
Ageless one, you're my rock of peace.
Lord of all I depend on you.
I call out to you again and again.
I call out to you again and again.**

**You are my rock in times of trouble,
You lift me up when I fall down.
All through the storm, your love is
The anchor, my hope is in you alone.**



Final Prayer

**God of compassion and mercy, listen to our prayer.
May what we ask in Jesus Christ
your Son be done according to his word,
who said, 'Ask, and you will receive,
seek, and you will find,
knock, and the door will be opened to you.'**

**To you, merciful God, through your Son,
in the power of the life-giving Spirit,
be glory and praise for ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Jesus taught us to call God our Father, and so in faith and trust we say:

**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: *Go Forth and Tell*

**Go forth and tell!
O church of God, awake!
God's saving news
To all the nations take;
Proclaim Christ Jesus,
Saviour, Lord, and king,
That all the world
His worthy praise may sing.**



**Go forth and tell!
God's love embraces all;
He will in grace
Respond to all who call:
How shall they call
If they have never heard
The gracious invitation
Of his word?**

**Go forth and tell!
O church of God, arise!
Go in the strength
Which Christ your Lord supplies;
Go 'till all nations
His great name adore
And serve him,
Lord and King for evermore.**

Prayer of Dedication

God of all goodness and grace, receive all that we offer;
and grant that our whole life may give you glory and praise;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be among us and remain with us
and those whom we love, now and always. **Amen.**

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

