



Chet Valley Churches

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**Morning Worship for Trinity 14
13th September 2020**

Greeting and Welcome

We come together to worship and praise God, to ask forgiveness of our sins and to hear the Good News of Jesus.

**Lord, direct our thoughts, teach us to pray,
lift up our hearts to worship you in Spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ, your Son. Amen.**

♪ Hymn: Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

**Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to his feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven.**

Who like me his praise should sing?

Alleluia. Alleluia. Praise the everlasting King!

**Praise him for his grace and favour to our fathers in distress;
Praise him still the same as ever, slow to chide, and swift to bless.**

Alleluia. Alleluia. Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like he tends and spares us;

Well our feeble frame he knows;

In his hands he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Widely as his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him; ye behold him face to face;

Sun and moon bow down before him,

Dwellers all in time and space.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Praise with us the God of grace!

Prayer of Adoration

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

Every day we do things that are not pleasing to God; things that separate us from God and from each other. St Paul tells us, "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." Let us now acknowledge and confess those sins to God.

**O Lord our God, enthroned on high, filling the whole earth
with your glory: Holy, holy, holy is your Name.**

**Our eyes have seen the King, the Lord almighty;
but our lips are unclean.**

**We cry to you in our sinfulness to take our guilt away,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May Almighty God, who sent His son into the world to save sinners, bring us pardon and peace, now and for ever. Amen.

**God offers us the strength and power to live for him
through his Holy Spirit. So let us hold on firmly to the hope
we profess, because we can trust God to keep his promise.**

Collect, the Prayer of the Day

Merciful God, your Son came to save us and bore our sins on the cross: may we trust in your mercy and know your love, rejoicing in the righteousness that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

📖 Old Testament Reading: Psalm 103:1-13

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The LORD works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger for ever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love towards those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.

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

🎵 Hymn: Great is Thy Faithfulness

**“Great is thy faithfulness,” O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.**

**“Great is thy faithfulness!” “Great is thy faithfulness!”
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided—**

“Great is thy faithfulness,” Lord, unto me!

**Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.**



“Great is Thy faithfulness...

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

“Great is Thy faithfulness...

📖 New Testament Reading: Romans 14: 1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.' So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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

Talk [Rev David]

When did you last say 'sorry'? I wouldn't be surprised if it was only a few minutes ago and I wonder what it was for?

We have a board game at home, you may have it too; I discovered the other day it is now available online. It's called "Sorry". The aim of the game is to get your

four pieces safely to their 'home' having negotiated the perimeter squares of the board by moving according to the value of the cards one draws on each turn. I came across the rules which ended with these instructions:

- **Don't Forget** to control your excitement and not make the first move which appears good. First observe the effect of the move on all your pieces.
- **Don't Forget** it may sometimes be to your ultimate advantage to delay an opponent who appears to be winning, rather than advance your own piece.
- **Don't Forget** that the game of Sorry is never lost until it is won. It is essentially a game of "ups and downs" and no two games are ever alike.
- **Don't Forget** when sending back an opponent's piece to their start to say, "Sorry".

It's that last hint which, when the game is played, takes on an air of insincerity when said out loud!

The question then is how serious are we when we say sorry for causing pain or upset. We wouldn't be human if there weren't times when we need to say sorry for what we've done—and that's no game. Rather, we require forgiveness from the person whom we have wronged. How much more do we need to receive forgiveness from God?

Every Tuesday morning in what the church jokingly calls 'ordinary time' words from Psalm 103 are used as an opening to Morning Prayer. A reminder of God's graciousness, faithfulness and forgiveness. In many ways this Psalm gives us an inkling of what the experience of forgiveness is like. God forgives all our sins and heals all our infirmities (v3), and crowns us with faithful love and compassion (v4). Experiencing forgiveness brings a release and this in turn brings joy. Something akin to what we might think is as close to perfection as is possible. Think of that and hold it—what would be your perfect day? Isn't it a shame that most perfect days are spoilt by other people—them not us cause the day to be spoilt; that's how we see it. Yet community is what we need.

For many the isolation caused by the pandemic has been the most difficult aspect of it all. The restrictions which were placed on gathering together were the toughest to endure. St Anthony of the Desert taught that "our life and our death are with our neighbour." We are not isolated individuals, we are communal—bound by language, culture and economics. Therefore, being able to acknowledge God's forgiveness of our sins requires us to respond similarly to each other. As Jesus taught us in the prayer we call 'The Lord's Prayer', "forgive us our sins—we pray—as we forgive those who sin against us."

The only way to do that is by recognising God's wonderful and amazing grace. Once we've allowed ourselves to do that; then there is the opportunity for us to say sorry to each other without it being in any way insincere.

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.**

The Peace of God

We are all one in Christ Jesus. We belong to Him through faith, heirs of
the promise of the Spirit of peace.

Let us greet those around us by sharing God's peace.

♪ Song: *Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)*

Amazing grace!

How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.

I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear

And grace my fears relieved.

How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

My chains are gone I've been set free,

My God, my Saviour has ransomed me;

And like a flood his mercy reigns,

Unending love, amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.

He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

My chains are gone, I've been set free,

My God, my Saviour has ransomed me;

**And like a flood his mercy reigns,
Unending love, amazing grace.**

**The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine,
But God, who called me here below,
Will be forever mine. You are forever mine.**

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...



**God of compassion and mercy, listen to our prayer.
May what we ask in the name of 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 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: Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

**Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage
Where the grapes of wrath are stored;**

**He hath loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword;
His truth is marching on.**

***Glory! glory, hallelujah! Glory! glory, hallelujah!
Glory! glory, hallelujah! His truth is marching on.***

**He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of men before his judgment seat;
O be swift, my soul, to answer him; be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on.**

Glory! glory, hallelujah...

**In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me;
As he died to make men holy, let us die to make them free,
Our God is marching on.**

Glory! glory, hallelujah...

**He is coming like the glory of the morning on the wave;
He is wisdom to the mighty, he is honour to the brave;
So the world shall be his footstool, and the soul of time his slave.
Our God is marching on.**

Glory! glory, hallelujah...

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 & Dismissal

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.

