



Chet Valley Churches

Holy Communion

27th September 2020

God's Generosity in this Harvest Season

Preparation and Gathering

Lord, teach us to be generous. Teach us to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labour and not to ask for reward, save that of knowing that we do your will. **Amen.** *St Ignatius of Loyola*

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

God is able to provide us with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, we may share abundantly in every good work. *cf. 2 Corinthians 9.8*

Let everything be said and done in the name of the Lord Jesus, **giving thanks to God through Jesus Christ.**

Let us bring our gifts to the Lord **that they may be used for his glory.**

May the Spirit of God fill our hearts **as we come to meet him in this place.**

♪ **Hymn: Alleluia, Sing to Jesus**

**Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
His the sceptre, his the throne.
Alleluia! His the triumph,
His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
Thunder like a mighty flood;
“Jesus out of ev’ry nation
Has redeemed us by His blood.**

**Alleluia! Not as orphans
Are we left in sorrow now.
Alleluia! He is near us;
Faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received him
When the forty days were o’er,
Shall our hearts forget his promise,
“I am with you evermore”?**

**Alleluia! Bread of heaven,
Here on earth our food, our stay.**



**Alleluia! Here the sinful
Flee to you from day to day.
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
Earth's redeemer, hear our plea
Where the songs of all the sinless
Sweep across the crystal sea.**

Prayers of Penitence

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

Father, in creation you are generous towards us, yet we have sown sparingly;

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus, you show us the way of humility, yet we have given reluctantly;

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Holy Spirit, you show us the gift of grace, yet we have loved grudgingly;

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive us our sins, open our eyes to God's truth, strengthen us to do God's will and give us the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Collect

God of grace, ever creating and restoring, you breathe life into all things and embrace us with an everlasting love; help us to grow in wonder and awe, to embody a spirit of gratitude, and to dream generous dreams; that, in gathering what we have, we may graciously offer ourselves to accomplish what you will, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

The First Reading: 1 Timothy 6:11-19

But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honour and eternal dominion. Amen.

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

Hymn: My Jesus, My Saviour

**My Jesus, My Saviour, Lord there is none like you.
All of my days, I want to praise the wonders of Your mighty love.**

**My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and strength.
Let every breath, all that I am, never cease to worship You.**

**Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing,
Power and majesty, praise to the King!**

**Mountains bow down and the seas will roar,
At the sound of your name!
I sing for joy at the work of your hands,
Forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.**

 Gospel Reading: *Matthew 6:19-33*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said, 'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Talk [Rev David]

Is your glass half full or is the glass half empty? I once asked that question to a group of people only to be challenged by the retort.... from an engineer - who replied that there's another category - Has the glass been made twice as big as it should be. Well of course that might be the case. But I'm sure we know many people who see the glass half empty and they will also be the ones who, at the slightest provocation, will become worried.

Worry seems to be a human condition which is inbuilt into a significant number of people. Now of course it is right to get worried about some things that threaten us or we encounter but there are other situations when the worrying attitude of one will permeate through a crowd and all of a sudden there is a mass panic. Worry just exacerbates into panic.

So how do we stop worrying? In the Gospel reading for today from Matthew chapter 6 we get some forthright - and basic - teaching. Bishop Tom Wright somewhere poses the question: "Has it ever struck you what a basically happy person Jesus was?" We might be aware of all the trials and tribulations he endured but his experience of the natural world which he saw around him taught him what a wonderful place it was. The flowers of the field, the birds of the air the grass on the hillside, all this beauty, required one to live in the present. To enjoy the moment. Okay that seems fanciful when one is struggling to pay the bills, struggling to feed the family, struggling to see those whom we love but it is at these times more than others that we need to hold on to the promises of Jesus and to recognise the generosity of God. Jesus in this passage doesn't mean that these things don't matter. Rather he's encouraging his followers to get their priorities sorted. If the world comes first, with its cares and concerns, then there's every chance that it will get all moth-eaten and rusty; put God first then there's every chance that you'll get the world as well.

Living without worry sounds impossible. Those hooked on it, if they haven't got anything to worry about find themselves worrying that they have forgotten something! But recognising that the God, the Father whom Jesus talks of, is generous - someone who wants to give good things to us - requires us to learn how to receive and to do so with joy, with open arms and empty hands. As St Paul, writing to the young church leader Timothy, says: "Set your hope on God... who provides us with everything, for our enjoyment." (*1 Timothy 6:17*).

Rowan Williams in his book “Holy Living”, reminds us right at the outset of that book that “[The] Christian life, ... is not a matter of calculation or realism. Risk is incalculable, grace is incalculable, Christ is incalculable. He (Christ) calls us to attend to and respond to his Word.... and there meet the absolute gratuity and unexpectedness of his measureless compassion.” All of which is offered because we have a generous God.

The Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

A Litany of Generosity

Let us give thanks to God for his gifts so generous given to us, and for the blessings we are called to share.

For recognising that all things come from you,
for remembering that we are stewards of your gifts,
for wisely using the resources entrusted to us.

We offer ourselves to you, O God.

For rejoicing in the beauty of creation, for the care of your world,
for sharing the fruits of creation equally among all people.

We offer ourselves to you, O God.

For encountering the joy of giving,
for humility in putting others' needs before our own,
for embracing the privilege of sharing in the ministry to the saints.

We offer ourselves to you, O God.

For courage in offering sacrificial generosity,
for giving to be an act of worship,
for grace in offering our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice.

We offer ourselves to you, O God.

For all financial gifts offered to your Church,
for freely giving as we have received, for giving and not counting the cost.

We offer ourselves to you, O God.

For releasing our hold on material possessions,
for contentment in what we have, for trust in letting go.

We offer ourselves to you, O God.

For gathering the harvest, for thankfulness in all you have given,
for reflecting on what you are calling us to create.

We offer ourselves to you, O God.

For generosity in love, encouragement and hope,
for openness in invitation and hospitality, for wisdom in the gift of friendship.

We offer ourselves to you, O God.

For serving you as you deserve, for following our calling as your disciples,
for serving you with gladness of heart.

We offer ourselves to you, O God.

For being a blessing through the blessings we receive,
for generosity which enables mission,
for sharing abundantly in every good work.

We offer ourselves to you, O God.

For living a generous life, for our actions to point beyond themselves,
for our generosity to be an expression of love and gratitude.

We offer ourselves to you, O God.

Intercessions are offered, which end with;

Source of all life and giver of all that is good, hear our prayer, and make us one in heart and mind to serve you with joy forever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

The harvest of the Spirit is love, generosity, peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you **and also with you.**

♪ Hymn: *Let Us With a Gladsome Mind*

**Let us, with a gladsome mind,
Praise the Lord, for he is kind:
For his mercies ay endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure.**

**Let us blaze his name abroad,
For of gods he is the God:
For his mercies ay endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure.**

**He with all-commanding might
Filled the new-made world with light:
For his mercies ay endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure.**

**He the golden-tressèd sun
Caused all day his course to run:
For his mercies ay endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure.**

**And the hornèd moon by night,
Mid her spangled sisters bright:
For his mercies ay endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure.**

**All things living he doth feed,
His full hand supplies their need:
For his mercies ay endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure.**



**Let us, with a gladsome mind,
Praise the Lord, for he is kind:
For his mercies ay endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure.**

God of grace, in our time of darkness you bless us with gifts of light.
We bring our gifts and talents to you and with them we offer our lives;
that they may be used to serve others, and give you glory.
We make our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Taking of the Bread and Wine

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.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this wine to set before you, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Eucharistic Prayer

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.

Eternal God and Father, all things are in your making. In fulfilment of your promise you have showered us with blessings and filled us with your gifts.

You form us in your image, the first fruits of your creation, and by your Holy Spirit embed within us generous hearts that we may be channels of your self-giving love. Through your Son Jesus Christ, you have freed us from our sins

and made us a kingdom of priests to serve you with joy for ever.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever 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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

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.**

Offering ourselves into the hands of God,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.**

○ taste and see that the Lord is gracious;
blessed is the one who trusts in him.

The communion

Prayer after Communion



Loving and righteous God, at your table we taste your goodness and generosity which exceeds all that we can desire or deserve; liberate us from all jealousy and greed, that we may respond cheerfully by offering ourselves, and love and serve others to witness to your glory, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

♪ **Hymn: My God, How Wonderful Thou Art**

**My God, how wonderful thou art, thy majesty how bright,
How beautiful thy mercy-seat, in depths of burning light!**

**How dread are thine eternal years, O everlasting Lord,
By prostrate spirits day and night incessantly adored!**

**How wonderful, how beautiful, the sight of thee must be,
Thine endless wisdom, boundless power, and awful purity!**

**O, how I fear thee, living God, with deepest, tenderest fears,
And worship thee with trembling hope, and penitential tears!**

**Yet I may love thee too, O Lord, almighty as thou art,
For thou hast stooped to ask of me the love of my poor heart.**

**No earthly father loves like thee, no mother, e'er so mild,
Bears and forbears as thou hast done with me thy sinful child.**

**Father of Jesus, love's reward, what rapture will it be
Prostrate before thy throne to lie, and gaze and gaze on thee.**

The Dismissal

The God of hope fill us with every blessing,
that we may share in every good work;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

