



Chet Valley Churches



Holy Communion: St Luke

18th October 2020

Introduction

We are here to worship. To give God our praise, love and thanks; to seek healing for each other; and forgiveness for those things which separate us from God and neighbour.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Prayer of Preparation

Let us pray.

**Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people,
and kindle in us the fire of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

♪ Hymn: *Fight the Good Fight*

**Fight the good fight with all thy might;
Christ is thy strength, and Christ thy right:
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Thy joy and crown eternally.**

**Run the straight race through God's good grace,
Lift up thine eyes, and seek his face;
Life with its path before us lies,
Christ is the way, and Christ the prize.**

**Cast care aside; upon thy Guide
Lean, and his mercy will provide;
Lean, and the trusting soul shall prove,
Christ is its life and Christ its love.**

**Faint not, nor fear, his arm is near;
He changeth not, and thou art dear;
Only believe, and thou shalt see
That Christ is all in all to thee.**



Prayers of Penitence

Jesus says: Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. The gospel calls us to turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ. As we offer ourselves to him in penitence and faith, we renew our confidence and trust in his mercy.

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw us to himself,
and cleanse us from all our sins that we may behold
the glory of the Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect

Almighty God, you called Luke the physician, whose praise is in the gospel, to be an evangelist and physician of the soul: by the grace of the Spirit and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel, give your Church the same love and power to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading: 2 Timothy 4:5-17

As for you, [*Timothy*], always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully. As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Do your best to come to me soon, for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry. I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will pay him back for his deeds. You also must beware of him, for he strongly opposed our message. At my first defence

no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth.

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

Psalm 34

○ magnify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together.

○ magnify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together.

I sought the Lord and he answered me;
he delivered me from all my fears.

○ magnify the Lord with me.

In my weakness I cried to the Lord;
he heard me and saved me from my troubles.

Let us exalt his name together.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

○ magnify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together.

Hymn: Be Still for the Presence of the Lord

Be still for the presence of the Lord

The Holy One is here

Come bow before Him now

With reverence and fear

In Him no sin is found

We stand on holy ground

Be still for the presence of the Lord

The Holy One is here

Be still for the glory of the Lord

Is shining all around

He burns with holy fire

With splendour He is crowned

How awesome is the sight

Our radiant King of light

Be still for the glory of the Lord

Is shining all around

**Be still for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place
He comes to cleanse and heal
To minister His grace
No work too hard for Him
In faith receive from Him
Be still for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place
Be still for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place**



📖 Gospel Reading: Luke 10:1-9

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you."

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

Sermon [Rev David]

Today, 18th October, is the Feast day of St Luke the Evangelist. So who was Luke: what do we know of him, what does he tell us and what should we learn from him.

Most scholars are of the opinion that he was the author of both the Gospel that bears his name and of the sequel - the Acts of the Apostles; providing us therefore with a two-part account, not only of Jesus's life and ministry but also of the early church as the Christian community began to spread

beyond the confines of Israel and Judea to the wider Roman and Greek world. It is thought that he was a gentile, he is referred to as a physician/ a doctor. From comments made in St Paul's letters there is evidence that he wasn't only a "beloved physician" but also a companion of the apostle on at least two of Paul's missionary journeys.

In her introduction to Luke's Gospel, as part of the Reflections for Sundays series, Paula Gooder gives us a wonderful insight into the character of the gospel; its purpose and the mindset of its author. She states: "It is perhaps, easier to discern Luke's particular concerns than in any other gospel, because Luke tells us at the start in (chapter) I, (verses) 1-4 what he thinks he is doing in writing the Gospel."

Luke gives us the template for a good essay: he tells us who it's aimed at, why he's writing it, how he intends to do that and what he hopes to achieve by so doing.

His orderly approach to setting out the Good News of Jesus means, more than anything else that the reader / listener needs to be as alert to what has gone before or what comes after in the narrative as to the passage being read or discussed!

He tells us that he's writing to Theophilus—a lover of God. If that title is generic then he's putting his account together to explain to those who have an appetite to know more about God who this person Jesus is and so that the teaching they have received may be enforced. He tells us that he's investigated what he's already heard, he's checked it out so that it becomes more than hearsay. From passages at the beginning of the gospel he appears to have spoken to Jesus' mother as he relates that she had treasured some of the childhood events of Jesus in her heart.

He recounts Jesus's ministry in a way that is transformative. It is to be the culmination and fulfilment of the hopes and dreams of the Jewish people. But the images he creates, the stories he narrates are those which are also personal. People, and in particular those on the fringe—the outcast, the women—are the ones who feature prominently in his story. Jesus came, comes, for all—not just the well to do, the in-crowd but for all. And this transcends time as well as place. So that you and I are included.

And it is there that the story of salvation offered by God through Jesus, portrayed in this gospel affects our lives as much as anywhere else. The passage we heard read from chapter 10 is a call to action; to work quickly

in sharing good news, healing and care which is the transforming nature of God's love in Jesus. The call is urgent. In a world torn apart by fear, uncertainty and isolation it is imperative to act. Some during this pandemic have done that by following in the physician's footsteps. Seeing the list of those in the recent delayed Queen's Birthday Honours list being honoured for their work during the Covid pandemic reminds us of that but there are others, not mentioned in that list, who have also stepped up to the mark and responded through word and deed. But it isn't just for the present; there is a need to respond to the call of 'eternity'.

In our first reading from Paul's letter to young Timothy chosen because there is that rather salutary phrase— "only Luke is with me" in contrast to those who are not—highlights that there is a need for everyone to persevere in the life of discipleship. Paul says three things in verse 7 about himself: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith". The same could be said of Luke the Evangelist. May it also be true of all who seek to be ambassadors of the Good News of Jesus.

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.

Prayers of Intercession

Holy God, in whom we live and move and have our being, we make our prayer to you, saying:

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Grant to all who seek you the assurance of your presence, your power and your peace.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Grant your healing grace to all who are sick that they may be made whole in body, mind and spirit.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Grant to all who minister to the suffering wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Sustain and support the anxious and fearful and lift up all who are brought low.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may ever be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The almighty Lord, who is a strong tower for all who put their trust in him, whom all things in heaven, on earth, and under the earth obey, be now and evermore our defence. May we believe and trust that the only name under heaven given for health and salvation is the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Peace

Peace to you from God our Father who hears our cry.
Peace to you from Jesus Christ whose death brings healing.
Peace to you from the Holy Spirit who gives us life and strength.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

♪ Hymn: *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*

**Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm doth bind the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
For those in peril on the sea.**

**O Saviour whose almighty word
The winds and waves submissive heard,
Who walkèdst on the foaming deep,
And calm amid its rage didst sleep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
For those in peril on the sea.**

**O sacred Spirit, who didst brood
Upon the chaos dark and rude,
Who bad'st its angry tumult cease,
And gavest light and life and peace:
O hear us when we cry to thee
For those in peril on the sea.**

**O Trinity of love and power,
Our brethren shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them whereso'er they go:
And ever let there rise to thee
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.**

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

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 thanks and praise.

It is right to give you thanks in sickness and in health in suffering and in joy, through Christ our Saviour and Redeemer, who as the Good Samaritan tends the wounds of body and spirit. He stands by us and pours out for our healing the oil of consolation and the wine of renewed hope, turning the darkness of our pain into the dawning light of his kingdom.

Therefore with angels and archangels we say:

**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 St Luke and 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's Prayer

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

Give us this day our daily bread.

**And 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.**

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Prayer after Communion

Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

♪ Hymn: *I Stand Amazed in the Presence*

**I stand amazed in the presence
Of Jesus the Nazarene,
And wonder how he could love me
A sinner, condemned, unclean.**

**O how marvellous! O how wonderful!
And my song shall ever be:
O how marvellous! O how wonderful!
Is my Saviour's love for me!**

**He took my sins and my sorrows
He made them his very own;
He bore the burden to Calvary
And suffered and died alone.**

O how marvellous...

**When with the ransomed in glory
His face I at last shall see,
'Twill be my joy through the ages
To sing of his love for me.**

O how marvellous...



Blessing

To God the Father, who loved us and has accepted us in Jesus;

To God the Son, who loved us and washed us from our sins through his death on the cross;

To God the Holy Spirit, who pours out the love of God into our hearts;

To the One True God be all love and all glory for time and eternity:

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit rest upon you and all for whom we have prayed. Amen.

Dismissal

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

