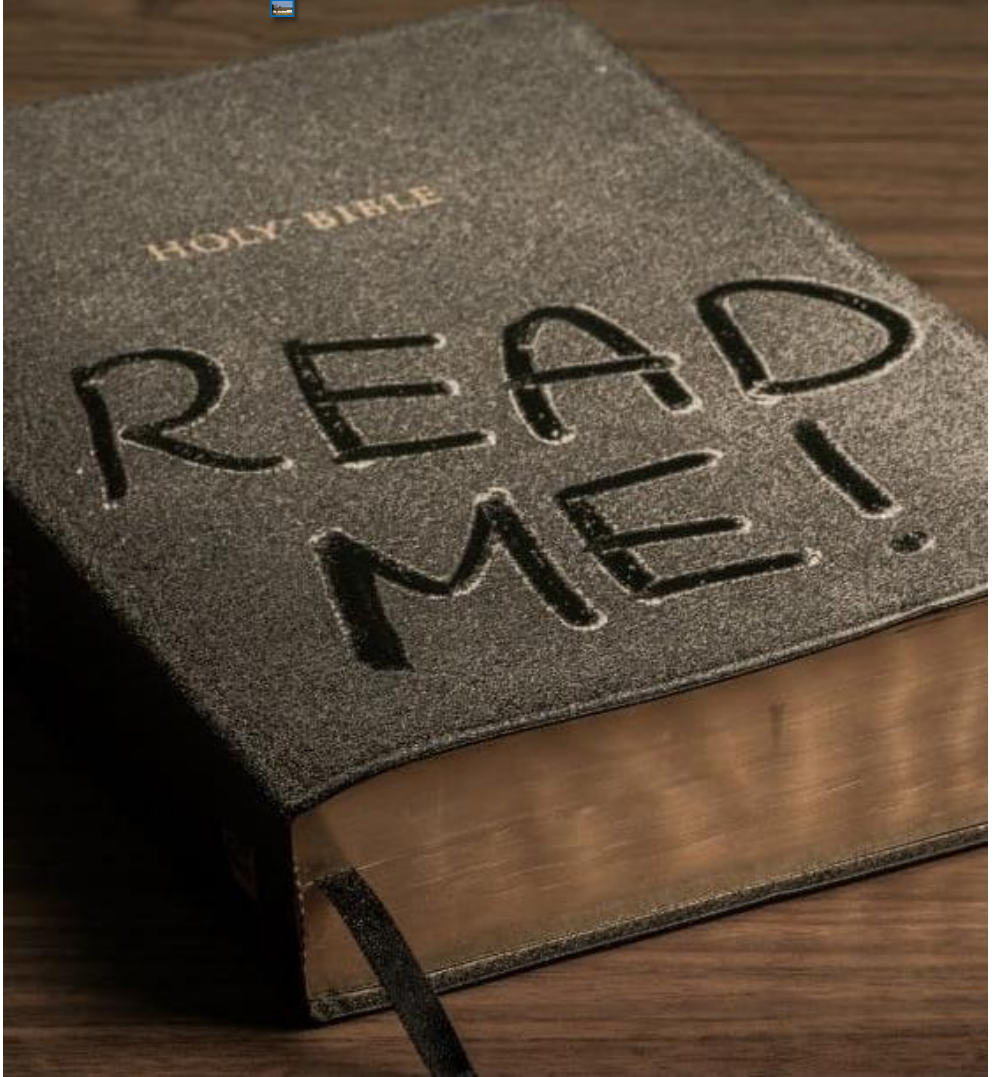




Chet Valley Churches



Holy Communion Bible Sunday

24th October 2021

Introduction

We come together to worship and praise God;
to ask forgiveness of our sins; to hear the Good News of Jesus;
and to remember his offering of himself for us.

Your word, Lord, is a lamp to my feet **and a light to my path.**

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

♪ **Hymn: *Thou Whose Almighty Word***

**Thou whose almighty word
Chaos and darkness heard,
And took their flight;
Hear us, we humbly pray,
And where the gospel day
Sheds not its glorious ray
Let there be light.**

**Thou who didst come to bring
On thy redeeming wing
Healing and sight,
Health to the sick in mind,
Sight to the inly blind,
O now to all mankind
Let there be light.**

**Spirit of truth and love,
Life-giving, holy Dove,
Speed forth thy flight;
Move on the water's face,
Bearing the lamp of grace,
And in earth's darkest place
Let there be light.**

**Blessèd and holy Three,
Glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might,
Boundless as ocean's tide
Rolling in fullest pride,
Through the world far and wide
Let there be light.**



Prayers of Penitence

The word of God is living and active. It judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart. All is open and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we give account. We confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Your word convicts us: all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.
Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Your word commands us: repent, and believe the good news.
Christ have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Your word assures us: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.
Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

May the God of love bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins, and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria: Peruvian Gloria

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to the Father.

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to the Father.

To him be glory for ever. **To him be glory for ever.**

Alleluia amen. **Alleluia amen.** [x2]

Glory to God, Glory to God, Son of the Father.

Glory to God, Glory to God, Son of the Father.

To him be glory for ever. **To him be glory for ever.**

Alleluia amen. **Alleluia amen.** [x2]

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to the Spirit.

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to the Spirit.

To him be glory for ever. **To him be glory for ever.**

Alleluia amen. **Alleluia amen.** [x2]

The Collect

Merciful God, teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty,
that trusting in your word and obeying your will
we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading: Psalm 119:7-14

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring for ever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults. Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

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

Hymn: Thy Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet

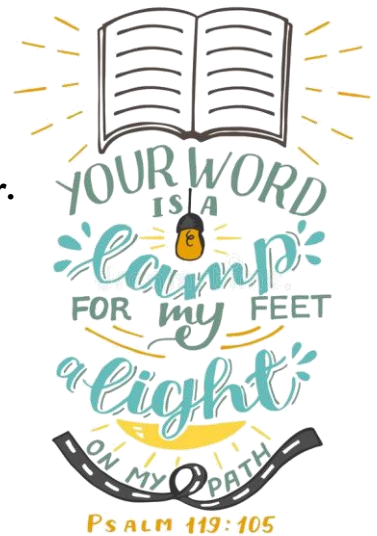
**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.**

**When I feel afraid,
Think I've lost my way,
Still you're there right beside me.
Nothing will I fear as long as you are near.
Please be near me to the end.**

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.**

**I will not forget
Your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering.
Jesus be my guide, hold me to your side,
And I will love you to the end.**

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.
You're the light unto my path.**



Reading: 2Timothy 3:14-4:5

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

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

Talk [Rev David]

There's a wonderful game that one can play which is all about word association. Going round the room, each person says the word which first comes to their mind which relates to the word said by the person before them. If you're in a room with others, play it now. Start with the word: sky. Okay, I wonder where it took you? So then have another go—try starting with the word: bible. What's the first word that comes into your mind?

Bible: interestingly, if you go to a web browser and input Bible, one of the first sites you're directed to—after bypassing the ads which tell how you can buy “bible” at Amazon—is that of Wikipedia but you'll notice that the definite article is placed in front of the word so that it becomes The Bible. There is something about Bible that requires one to be definite about it! Although it is impossible to obtain exact figures there is, in the annals of the Guinness Book of Records, little doubt that it is the world's most sold and widely distributed book. But how do we view this book and how do we handle the writings within it. Jews, Christians and Muslims treasure the books of the Old Testament yet interpret them differently. Over the

centuries the way that the bible has been understood has varied. Christians within its many different traditions will have differing perspectives and won't always agree on what passages mean. Yet there is one important aspect to hold fast to—and that is that people actually read it.

When I was at school studying English Literature there were a few set books which my class studied that I, if I'm honest, only knew from having Coles Notes alongside me. Now that in itself was helpful but wasn't really the same as reading the text. Similarly there are many useful bible study guides which I encourage people to use but to do so alongside, not instead of the text.

Today's readings come from different parts of the Bible. Our first from the collection of poems and songs—the Psalms—reminds us that the bible contains the precepts and stories of God which are there for our well-being. A foundation on which to build our lives. The second reading from Paul's letter to the young church leader Timothy emphasises the need for him to return constantly to the sacred writings of his youth. Things he would have been taught from his mother, and as we learn elsewhere, his grand-mother. For Paul and Timothy the sacred writings would be what we now call the Old Testament.

However that does not allow us to turn our backs on the writings which have been incorporated in the New Testament. The essence of the Bible is to tell a story, the story of God's dealings with humanity. That story develops into a relationship, a relationship with Jesus. The One whom St John writes of as The Word. In Jesus we have the written word of God transformed into the Word made flesh. The Bible shares with us Jesus's teachings about Community and Society. About we live to love the Lord our God and our neighbour as ourselves. On this Bible Sunday let us read afresh that story, let us seek that relationship and let us know God's promises through the Word and words of the Bible.

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.**

Prayers of Intercession

In our prayers this time let's be mindful that this is Bible Sunday.

Lord we pray for those who translate the Bible, making it available in languages from all over the world. We pray for people for whom this means they have the Bible in their own language, maybe for the first time. We pray for those who take the good news of Jesus to countries near and far, and for those who receive it.

Lord of life, **hear our prayer**

The Bible brings us good news. In contrast, the media often bring us news that is distressing. We pray for countries where people are facing day-to-day hardship or are at the mercy of bad situations outside their control. We pray for political leaders, that they may work for the good of the people they serve.

Lord of life, **hear our prayer**

The Bible brings us many promises, one of which is that God cares for us and will continue to care for us until our lives' end. We pray for those we know who are ill, and also for those who are nearing the end of their life. We pray that they may know the love and comfort of Jesus.

Lord of life, **hear our prayer**

Finally we pray for ourselves. Lord we ask you to give us the enthusiasm to read your Bible and learn from it. We ask you to be close to us now and always.

Merciful God,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Peace

Let the word of Christ dwell in us richly.

Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

♪ **Hymn: *Speak O Lord, As We Come to You***

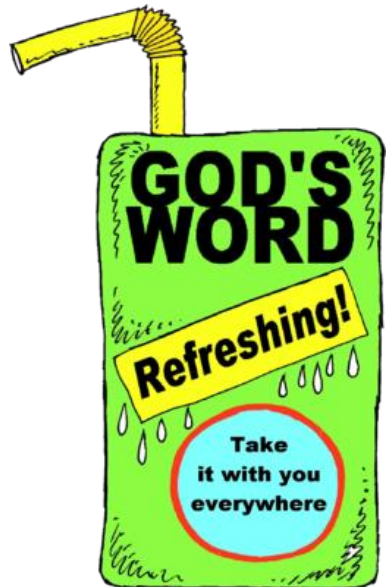
**Speak, O Lord,
As we come to you
To receive the food
Of your holy word.
Take your truth,
Plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us
In your likeness,**

**That the light of Christ
Might be seen today
In our acts of love
And our deeds of faith.**

**Speak, O Lord,
And fulfil in us
All your purposes,
For your glory.**

**Teach us Lord
Full obedience,
Holy reverence,
True humility.
Test our thoughts
And our attitudes
In the radiance of your purity.**

**Cause our faith to rise
Cause our eyes to see,
Your majestic love
And authority.
Words of power
That can never fail;
Let their truth prevail
Over unbelief.**



**Speak, O Lord,
And renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights
Of your plans for us.
Truths unchanged
From the dawn of time,
That will echo down
Through eternity.**

**And by grace we'll stand
On your promises;
And by faith we'll walk
As you walk with us.
Speak, O Lord,
'Til your church is built
And the earth is filled
With your glory.**

Eucharistic Prayer

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 indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

And now we give you thanks because you have given us the Holy Scriptures to instruct us in the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

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.**



Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: 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.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

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

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours 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 today our daily bread.**

*The Lord's
Prayer*

**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.**

God of all grace, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life and the word of his kingdom: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

♪ Hymn: *From the Breaking of the Dawn*

**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.

Blessing & Dismissal

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

[based on Numbers 6. 24-26]

Go now in peace, knowing that you have been born again
through the living and enduring word of God.

Let us go and serve the Lord. Amen.

