



Chet Valley Churches



**Morning Worship
Rogation Sunday**

22nd May 2022

Welcome and Introduction

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

♪ **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,
'Til 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 for the Day

God of heaven and earth,
you call us to share
in the care of creation
and to bring food and fruitfulness
from field and farm.

Hear our prayers on this Rogation Sunday
for all who make their living on the land,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Gloria (Anderson Gloria)

Gloria,   gloria, in excelsis Deo; (x2)

Lord God, Heavenly King,
Peace you bring to us;
We worship you, we give you thanks,
We sing our song of praise.

Gloria,   gloria, in excelsis Deo; (x2)

Jesus, Saviour of all,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
You take away our sins,
O Lord, have mercy on us all.

Gloria,   gloria, in excelsis Deo; (x2)

At the Father's right hand,
Lord receive our prayer,
For you alone are the Holy One,
And you alone are the Lord.

Gloria,   gloria, in excelsis Deo; (x2)

Glory, Father and Son,
Glory, Holy Spirit,
To you we raise our hands up high,
We glorify your name.

Gloria,   gloria, in excelsis Deo; (x2)

First Reading: Acts 16:9-15

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there.

A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.' And she prevailed upon us.

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

Hymn: Be Thou My Vision

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art—
Thou my best thought by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, thou my true word;
I ever with thee, thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, and I thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.**

**Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight;
Be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower:
Raise thou me heaven-ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.**

**Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**High King of heaven, after victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

🎵 **Gospel Reading: John 5:1-9**

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

There was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralysed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, 'Do you want to be made well?' The sick man answered him, 'Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.' Jesus said to him, 'Stand up, take your mat and walk.' At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath.

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

Talk [Rev David]

I think I must have been about ten when my uncle gave me a book as a present. The book he gave me was Kenneth Grahame's "Wind in the Willows". The story I'm sure, is familiar to many but the other day whilst thinking about Rogation I came across an extract from the book which resonated. It is an extract that speaks of recognising God in holy places that are part of the "otherness":

On either side of them, as they glided onwards, the rich meadow grass seemed that morning of a freshness and a greenness unsurpassable. Never had they noticed the roses so vivid, the willow-herb so riotous, the meadow-sweet so odorous and pervading. Then the murmur of the approaching weir began to

hold the air, and they felt a consciousness that they were nearing the end, whatever that might be, that surely awaited their expedition.

A wide half-circle of foam and glinting lights and shining shoulders of green water, the great weir closed the backwater from bank to bank, troubled all the quiet surface with twirling eddies and floating foam-streaks, and deadened all other sounds with its solemn and soothing rumble. In midmost of the stream, embraced in the weir's shimmering arm-spread, a small island lay anchored, fringed close with willow and silver birch and alder. Reserved, shy, but full of significance, it hid whatever it might hold behind a veil, keeping it till the hour should come and with the hour, those who were called and chosen.

Slowly, but with no doubt or hesitation whatever, and in something of a solemn expectancy, the two passed through the broken, tumultuous water and moored their boat at the flowery margin of the island. In silence they landed and pushed through the blossom and scented herbage and undergrowth that led up to the level ground, till they stood on a little lawn of a marvellous green, set round with Nature's own orchard trees—crab-apple, wild cherry, and sloe.

'This is the place of my song~dream, the place the music played to me,' whispered the Rat, as if in a trance, 'Here, in this holy place, here if anywhere, surely we shall find Him!'

Then suddenly the Mole felt a great Awe fall upon him, an awe that turned his muscles to water, bowed his head, and rooted his feet to the ground.

In the same way that Mole felt a great Awe fall upon him on that island by the weir, there are places in which we too might experience that awe as well. It may be in some of the wonderful places in our country, places which have over the years been places of pilgrimages, it might be those places where we heard God's call on our lives. Or it may be places where great things have occurred. Both of our readings are place based. Paul has a dream and he knows that God is calling him to head for a place, Macedonia, and in our gospel reading the healing of the ill man takes place at the pool by the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem.

Today on Rogation Sunday we too are thinking of place—asking for God's blessing on the places around us. They might not look like those places of "otherness" that we've mentioned but they too are places where God is. Our homes, our work, in the fields around us across the river, in our church. Each in its own way is a place of "otherness". Each and every one of them is where we can encounter God. But to do so we must ask or

respond to God's asking. *Rogare*, by the way, means 'to ask'. In the same way that Jesus asked the man if he wanted to be made well—on the face of it a dumb question, you might say—but to which the man had to respond, so we too must acknowledge God by asking, and responding, when prompted. This Rogation Sunday, this Easter season, let us ask for God to bless us, our local places and let us respond to God's overarching ask of us "Do you believe in the Risen Jesus."

Creed

Equal with God: **Jesus is Lord.**

Emptied himself: **Jesus is Lord.**

Came as a slave: **Jesus is Lord.**

Found as a man. **Jesus is Lord.**

Humbly obeyed. **Jesus is Lord.**

Went to his death. **Jesus is Lord.**

Death on a cross. **Jesus is Lord.**

God raised him up: **Jesus is Lord.**

Gave him the name: **Jesus is Lord.**

Higher than all: **Jesus is Lord.**

Every knee shall bow: **Jesus is Lord.**

All tongues confess: **Jesus is Lord.**

Glory to God: **Jesus is Lord.**



Confession

Let us ask God to have mercy on our parched land, and to prosper the work of our soiled hands. Let us ask God to forgive our delusion of self-sufficiency so that we may praise him for his provision and goodness. When we demand cheap food without thought of the well-being of the growers, the farm animals or the land itself.

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

When we fail to consider those who produce our food in difficult conditions for meagre rewards.

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

When we forget to give thanks to God for good food and clean water.

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

May the merciful Lord grant us pardon
and forgiveness of all our sins,
time for amendment of life,
and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Prayers

Let us go out into the glory of God's creation.

Let us seek for the wisdom to understand the rhythm of life, our own
rhythms and the rhythms of the earth;

To dance with the Spirit in the joy of God's creation.

♪ **Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below.
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost**

We look at farms:

○ Lord, who surrounds with your love all things living and promises to
save both man and beast; we thank you for the companionship of animals
and birds, without which there would be for humankind a great loneliness
of spirit on the earth. May God's blessing shower upon all his creatures,
may peace pervade the whole creation; may there be an abundance of
plants we use; may humankind prosper and animals flourish. **Amen.**

♪ **Praise God from whom all blessings flow...**

We face trees:

We give thanks, ○ Lord, for the different kinds of trees, all with their own
properties and virtues - for wood which gives us warmth, is used in
building, provides us with paper and is turned into furniture because of its
strength and beauty. We thank you for the flowers, animals and birds
which live in and among the trees, finding safety, shelter and food. Bless
them Lord, that they may flourish.

Forgive us when we waste the precious gifts that come from trees and
when we destroy them heedlessly. **Amen.**

♪ **Praise God from whom all blessings flow...**



We face a river:

We thank you Lord for water, for leisure, for its use in industry, and for life. We thank you for fresh water that sustains growth, for the seas and for different life forms that each supports. We pray for rain in due season and ask that you will bless all our sources of water. Help us to be mindful of our use of water and to protect our water sources from pollution. **Amen.**

♪ **Praise God from whom all blessings flow...**

We look at houses:

We thank you Lord for those who live in our communities and who work to make them a safe place to live. We pray a blessing on them. We pray for those who this day are not safe and are in fear of what the day will bring. We pray for your presence in our communities. Amen.

♪ **Praise God from whom all blessings flow...**

We look at fields and gardens:

We thank you Lord for those who tend the land. Almighty God whose will it is that the earth should bear its fruits in their seasons, bless the increase of crops and grain and fruit bearing trees, that bread and wine and wholesome food may be shared and enjoyed by all people. **Amen.**

♪ **Praise God from whom all blessings flow...**

We look towards a factory:

We thank you Lord for those who work in processing and preparing our food. Bless the work of their hands and their working environment that they may be kept safe and not exploited. **Amen.**

♪ **Praise God from whom all blessings flow...**

We are in a churchyard:

We pray Lord for your church wherever it might be. We ask a blessing on evangelists sowing the seeds of faith, on pastors caring for your flock, on teachers building up skills and understanding, on prophets discerning new ways for our changing world and on apostles sent to minister to new situations. **Amen.**

♪ **Praise God from whom all blessings flow...**

We Pray

**Father in heaven,
whose Son came to earth
and lived in a family,
we thank you for the blessings
of life together and the gift of children.
Teach us to live in harmony,
listening to the needs and views of others.
May your name be kept holy
and your will be done
in small everyday things of life,
so that your kingdom is built in our homes,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



The Peace

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.
And also with you. Alleluia!

Hymn: Will You Come and Follow Me

**Will you come and follow me
If I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
And never be the same?**

**Will you let my love be shown,
Will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown
In you and you in me?**

**Will you leave yourself behind
If I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
And never be the same?**

**Will you risk the hostile stare
Should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
In you and you in me?**

**Will you let the blinded see
If I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
And never be the same?**

**Will you kiss the leper clean
And do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean
In you and you in me?**

**Will you love the 'you' you hide
If I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
And never be the same?**

**Will you use the faith you've found
To reshape the world around
Through my sight and touch and sound
In you and you in me?**

**Lord, your summons echoes true
When you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
And never be the same.**

**In your company I'll go
Where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
In you and you in me.**

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.

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.**



Blessing

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
who is the source of all goodness and growth,
pour his blessing upon all things created,
and upon us his children,
that we may use his gifts
to his glory and the welfare of peoples.

And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be among us and remain with us always.
Amen.

Dismissal

Tend the earth,
care for God's good creation,
and bring forth the fruits of righteousness.

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

