



Chet Valley Churches



Morning Worship

Eighth Sunday of Trinity

7th August 2022

Introduction, 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. **Amen.**

♪ Hymn: *One More Step Along the World I Go*

**One more step along the world I go,
One more step along the world I go;
From the old things to the new,
Keep me travelling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me travelling along with you.**

**Round the corners of the world I turn,
More and more about the world I learn;
All the new things that I see
You'll be looking at along with me.
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me travelling along with you.**

**As I travel through the bad and good,
Keep me travelling the way I should.
Where I see no way to go,
You'll be telling me the way, I know.
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me travelling along with you.**

**Give me courage when the world is rough,
Keep me loving though the world is tough;
Leap and sing in all I do,
Keep me travelling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me travelling along with you.**

**You are older than the world can be,
You are younger than the life in me;
Ever old and ever new,
Keep me travelling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me travelling along with you.**



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

Every day we do things that are not pleasing to God, things that separate us from God and each other, so let us now acknowledge and confess our sins. 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.**

Declaration of Forgiveness

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.

Psalm 33:12-22

Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.

The LORD looks down from heaven; he sees all humankind.

From where he sits enthroned he watches all the inhabitants of the earth—
he who fashions the hearts of them all, and observes all their deeds.

A king is not saved by his great army;
a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

**The war horse is a vain hope for victory,
and by its great might it cannot save.**

Truly the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him,
on those who hope in his steadfast love,
to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and shield.
Our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.

Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

Old Testament: Genesis 15:1-6

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' But Abram said, 'O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' But the word of the LORD came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

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

Hymn: Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

**Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone;
Chosen of the Lord, and precious, binding all the church in one,
Holy Zion's help for ever, and her confidence alone.**

**All that dedicated city, dearly loved of God on high,
In exultant jubilation pours perpetual melody;
God the One in Three adoring in glad hymns eternally.**

**To this temple, where we call thee,
Come, O Lord of Hosts, today!
With thy wonted loving-kindness, hear thy servants as they pray,
And your fullest benediction, shed within its walls away.**

New Testament: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations,

whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore, from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, ‘as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.’

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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

Talk [Rev David]

I wonder what or where would be your favourite view? If you're anything like me you would struggle to decide on a favourite. So many places have inspired me over the years. The view from the top of Yr Wyddfa, Snowdon, on a clear day—and yes, they do exist; the view across the sea from the cliffs of Mainland, Shetland; the wide open expanse and broad horizons of Norfolk. Yes, each has its merits yet there are two specific places, which have something in common, which bring me great delight every time I view them. A clear night sky on Dartmoor and an equally clear night sky in the north of Norway with the pulses of the Aurora Borealis flickering across it.

It was the night sky which convinced Abram that God's promise to him would be fulfilled. In chapter eleven of Genesis we read of Abram's father setting off on a journey and arriving in Haran, then after his death we read in chapter twelve that Abram had packed his possessions and headed off from Haran with his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, and others of his household on the basis of a promise made by God to him that he would be blessed. God also promised that it would be for Abram's offspring too. So here he is a little while later and Abram is getting anxious for he and Sarai have no children—no offspring, no descendants. How real is God's promise now? It is in this situation that Abram seeks of God a sign, and the sign he gets is to head outside to the look to the heavens, to see the stars, to count them if he can. At that Abram “believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.” An act of faith.

At this we turn to the reading from the letter to the Hebrews where we heard a perfect definition of faith. It is, “the assurance of things hoped for, the

conviction of things not seen.” Or as another translation says, “faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” True faith is not blind, rather it is based on what we already know, it follows on from that with the logical deduction of what comes next. Faith, as the writer to the Hebrews says, builds on our hopes and enables us to live with that certainty. The promises of God are true, and it was because of his belief in them, in particular the specific promise that he would be the father of many nations, that enabled Abram to continue in his journey and be always willing to live out his faith.

We too need to hold on to God’s promises offered to us in Jesus. To have life in all its fullness, to believe in the resurrection and the outpouring of the Spirit. So if we have moments of uncertainty, even of doubt, why not go outside when the night sky is clear, look up to the heavens and look at the stars, and, if you are in the right place, you may also see the wisps of the Northern Lights, the Mirrie Dancers, the Aurora Borealis flickering across them.

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.

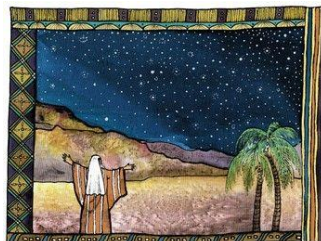
This is the faith of the Church.

**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.**



🎵 **Hymn: Just As I Am Without One Plea**

**Just as I am, without one plea but that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come.**

**Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings within, and fears without, O Lamb of God, I come.**

**Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea all I need, in thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come.**

**Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve:
Because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!**

**Just as I am (thy love unknown has broken every barrier down),
Now to be thine, yea thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come.**

**Just as I am, of that free love
The breadth, length, depth and height to prove,
Here for a season then above, O Lamb of God, I come.**

🙏 **Prayers of Intercession**

We pray for God's faithfulness to be known in our world.

Faithful God glorify your name.

In a world of change and hope, of fear and adventure;

Faithful God glorify your name.

In human rebellion and obedience, in our seeking and our finding;

Faithful God glorify your name.

In the common life of our society, in prosperity and need;

Faithful God glorify your name.

As your Church proclaims your goodness in words and action;

Faithful God glorify your name.

Among our friends and in our homes;

Faithful God glorify your name.

In our times of joy, in our days of sorrow;

Faithful God glorify your name.

In our strengths and triumphs, in our weakness and at our death;
Faithful God glorify your name.

In your saints in glory and on the day of Christ's coming;
Faithful God glorify your name. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Jesus taught us to call God our Father, and 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.**

♪ Hymn: Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer

**Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
Hold me with thy powerful hand:
Bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore.**

**Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fiery cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through:
Strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side:
Songs and praises I will ever give to thee.**



The Dismissal

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. May the blessing of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

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