



Sixth Sunday of Easter 9th May 2021

Call to Worship

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised
His holy mountain is the joy of all the earth.

We ponder your steadfast love, O God.

Walk among your people, that we may tell the next generation that this is God, our God forever and ever.

God will be our guide forever.

Help us to seek your guidance as we gather to worship you.

Opening Prayer

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever.

All: Amen

Hymn

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heav'n, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art.
Visit us with thy salvation;
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Come, Almighty, to deliver,
let us all thy life receive.
Suddenly return, and never,
nevermore they temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation;
true and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.

Confession

"Come now, let us reason together," says the Lord.

We confess that we envy others. We do not live like Christ who calls us to be content with what we have.

Forgive us, Lord.

"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow."

We covet what belongs to our neighbour. Our lives are driven by our wants.

Forgive us, Lord.

"Though your sins are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."

We begrudge the invitation to give generously and joyfully. We turn away from the needs of others and do not see the difference our caring can make.

Forgive us, Lord.

"I will forgive...and will remember their sins no more."

Absolution

May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Reading

Acts 20:17-38

At end of reading:

This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon

A Creed

All: We believe in the God
who provides for our every need,
Who has an answer to our
deepest questions,
And a purpose for us in life.
Today, we praise God the provider.

We believe in Jesus Christ,
our holy brother,
Who stands by our side when light turns into
darkness,
Who suffers our pain and turns it into
a blessing.
For the presence of Christ in our lives,
We praise God the provider

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the breath of life,
Who inspires us when our spirits are
dried up,
Who creates something new when old
structures crumble.
For the spirit of hope and renewal,
We praise God the provider.
Amen

Prayers of Intercession

The response to
O Lord, Guide/support/comfort/restore us as
we follow

Is All: in the footsteps of your Apostles.

Prayers finish with:

Merciful Father,

All: accept these prayers

**for the sake of your Son, our Saviour,
Jesus Christ. Amen**

The Collect

Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed
your call to your disciples: help your Church
to obey your command and draw the nations
to the fire of your love,
to the glory of God the Father.

All: Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven...

Hymn

For the beauty of the earth
For the beauty of the skies
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies (x2)

*Chorus 'Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise*

For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night
Hill and vale and tree and flow'r
Sun and Moon and stars of light (x2)
Chorus

For the joy of human love
Brother, sister, parent, child
Friends on earth and friends above
For all gentle thoughts and mild (x2)
Chorus

For each perfect gift of Thine
To our race so freely given
Graces human and divine
Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n (x2)
Chorus

*Music by John Rutter (1980)
Lyrics by Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917*

Notices

Blessing

Remember all God has done.
Rejoice in all he is doing.
Receive all he shall yet do.
Put your hand in his,
the God of the past, present and future
and walk with him wherever he may lead
knowing that he will walk with you
this day and always. **Amen**
And the Blessing of God Almighty.....