

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, and from Common Worship: Times and Seasons material from which is included in this service, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000

LEADER'S COPY

Benefice of Tonge, Rhodes & Alkrington

SERVICE OF THE **WORD**

A service for everyone
led by a Licenced Reader, ALM
or a Churchwarden



Everyone is welcome here!

*Together in God,
growing in faith and love, reaching out to all.*

WELCOME

We have two parishes in our Benefice - All Saints, Rhodes and St. Michael's, Tonge-cum-Alkington. Whichever parish you are in today, we offer you a very warm welcome and hope the following notes will help you in your worship with us today.

If the print is too small, large print copies are available.

Some music is played as we enter the church. You are welcome to take a seat wherever you like as we gather to worship God.

If you use a hearing aid, you may like to know there is a loop system.

If you would like to follow the music, full hymn books are available.

Toilets, including a baby change area, are located in each church.

A 'Pew Sheet' usually given as you enter church, has contact details and a summary of all activities here in our parishes plus other important information. Please take this home with you.

If you have any questions or need further help, please ask a sidesperson/welcomer (the person who welcomed you into church).

Children are welcome in church: there are activity bags at the back for young children, or during any of our services you may like to use the creche area at the back of church. Children in Key stage 2 are encouraged to join a short preparation course to receive communion prior to making their adult confirmation of faith.

Uniformed Groups at St Michael's: worship together at 9.30am in church for the Parade Eucharist on the second Sunday of each month except during school holidays.

Infant Church (pre-school); **Junior Church:** (from the age of 3) usually meets in various locations except during school holidays. Please ask a welcomer for details as the exact provision is different in each church.

Coffee for everyone (or tea or juice) is available for everyone after the 9.30am and 11am services. On Parade Sunday, bacon butties are usually available at St Michael's.

Something to note for families

If you are considering making a school application for your child to either St. Michael's Primary School or a 'faith' secondary school that requires evidence of your own attendance and your child's

THE CONCLUSION

At the end of the singing, everyone turns to face the main door (the way we will exit to begin our service) and the Minister says:

This Service is ended,
'our service' must now begin.

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

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

During the Easter Season the following is also said:

Alleluia, alleluia! Christ is risen!

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia!

+

***You are welcome to join with us
for refreshments
(9.30am and 11am services)***

Please also take this opportunity to make enquiries about future events, church services, activities, or to talk with the Minister, other ministers and leaders about anything that is of concern to you which you think we might be able to help you with.

THE CONCLUSION

Let us pray together

**All Eternal Giver of love and life,
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us
into all the world
to preach the gospel of the Kingdom.
Confirm us in his mission,
and help us to live the good news
we proclaim,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

A blessing may be given or we all say:

**All The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all evermore.
Amen.**

II The Peace

God is love, and those who live in love,
live in God and God lives in them.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may now exchange a sign of peace.

*We then sing our recessional **HYMN** or **SONG**.
Children may be invited to come forward and join in
with the actions together. Young children may be given a
musical instrument to use.*

'Greet one another
with a holy kiss...'
2 Corinthians 12v13

The 'kiss of peace'
was a custom of the
early church - a sign
that before we
celebrate peace with
God we must show
peace with each
other.

It acts as a bridge
between our prayers
and our service.

attendance here at church, please make sure you sign one of the registers at the back of church - Children in Key Stage 2 will also need to sign the register.

About this 'Service of the Word' led by a Licensed Reader, Churchwarden or ALM (Authorised Lay Minister) *All are trained to lead worship and are comfortable in leading people into mystery, into the unknown and yet the familiar.*

At the heart of the service is the Liturgy of the Word.

As well as this booklet you will have been given a pew sheet and possibly a hymn book.

Any hymns or worship songs will be announced. Depending on the time of service, when invited, the children are welcome to come to the front of church to join in doing actions for the songs together. Musical instruments may also be handed to the very young.

The order of service begins on page four and carries on straight through the booklet. The words said by the leader alone look like this:

The Lord be with you

Words that we say together are printed in bold, like this:

And also with you

Words in *italics* are for direction.

Words in the box on the inner edge of the page include explanations and comments. They are NOT part of the service itself.

At times during the service, there may be silent pauses to give time for us to reflect and pray before moving on.

The service has four main sections:

- 1) **The Gathering:** as the People of God in greeting, hymn, song, confession and forgiveness, Gloria, silence & praying.
- 2) **The Liturgy of the Word:** readings, sermon, maybe an activity to help understand the sermon, the Creed, Offertory.
- 3) **The Prayers:** Prayers of intercession and thanksgiving, and the Lord's Prayer.
- 4) **The Conclusion:** Blessing, the Peace, going out to love and serve God.

THE GATHERING

Please stand

*The entrance hymn or worship song is announced.
An invitation may be offered for children to come forward and join together with actions for the songs*

1 We Gather in God's House

The minister says:

We meet in the name of God:

All Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

This is the day the Lord has made.

All Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

In the Easter Season this is also said:

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Please be seated

Introduce yourself, advise that this is a Service of the Word and therefore no communion this week.

**All Loving God,
we have come to worship you.
Help us to pray to you in faith,
to sing your praise with gratitude
and to listen to your word
with eagerness;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

2 We Say We Are Sorry To God

We prepare to meet with God
by saying sorry to God and each other
for the things we have done wrong:

Lord, you made us to be one family,
but we sometimes live as divided people.

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

We focus on God whom we are here to worship together. We do this through a sentence of Scripture, the introduction and opening prayer.

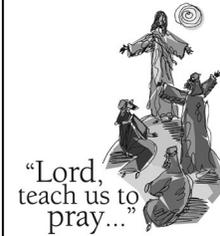
The leader is called the 'Minister' during this service.

'What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?'

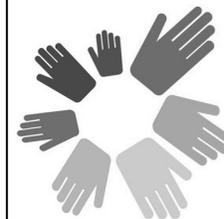
Micah 6 vs 8

THE PRAYERS

The Lord's Prayer was taught to the disciples by Jesus (*Matthew: 6 v9, and Luke: 11 v.2*).



The ending is traditional.



**God's Work
Our Hands**

9 The Lord's Prayer
We praise the Father, and pray in the words of Christ himself.

**All Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
forever and ever.
Amen.**

THE CONCLUSION

Banns of marriage may be read, notices may be given, Junior Church/Infant Church may be invited to share what they have learnt, then everyone stands.

10 We Are Sent Out To Serve God
Invite everyone to stand as they are able for the dismissal and final hymn

These words or another form of words is said:

Hear the teaching of Jesus:
'Blessed are those who hear
the word of God and obey it.'

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?

All We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

All This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Invite to remain standing and introduce the hymn

7 We Make Our Offering

*As we sing a collection is taken and brought to the altar
by a member of the congregation who leads everyone in
the following prayer or other words may be used:*

*Hold the offertory plate up towards the altar then invite
the person who has brought them up to say:*

God of all goodness and grace,
**receive the gifts we offer;
and grant that our whole life
may give you glory and praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

THE PRAYERS

8 We Say Our Prayers

Invite everyone to sit for the prayers.

*After each petition the following or another phrase may
be used and we all respond:*

Lord in your mercy

All Hear our prayer.

At the end of prayers a leader may invite us to say:

Jesus, Lord of the Church

**All Hear our prayer,
and make us one in heart and mind
to serve you with joy for ever. Amen.**

THE WORD

The offertory is the worshippers' offering of bread and wine to be consecrated, and also includes gifts of money to be blessed.



We remember in our prayers the church, the world, the needs of the people in our community—especially those who are ill or dying and those who care for them.

We commend to God those who have died and pray for those who mourn.

We pray for ourselves too.

THE GATHERING

Jesus, you brought people together,
but we sometimes bring anger, not love.
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Lord, you rejoice in our differences,
but we sometimes make them a cause of hatred
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

The Minister announces God's forgiveness

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 his Son,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

3 THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE

*We give thanks to God for all the wonderful gifts he
pours down upon us which we so often take for granted.
These or other words may be used:*

Let us offer our praise and thanksgiving to
God

Blessed is the Lord

All for he has heard the voice of our prayer;

therefore shall our hearts dance for joy

All and in our song we will praise our God.

Come, let us sing to the Lord our God;

All Raise the roof to the Rock of rescue.

Come into the presence of the Lord
with thanks;

All Raise the rafters with songs of praise.

The Lord is the great God, over all;

All Greater than every other power.

For the leader—
DO NOT make the
sign of the cross
here

THE GATHERING

He holds the depths of the earth
in his hands,

**All And the mountain peaks
belong to him.**

The ocean is the Lord's;
it was made by God.

**All The land was formed
by his own hands.**

Come, let us bow before the Lord
our maker;

All With humble hearts we worship God.

The Lord is God and we are his;

**All We are the Shepherd's
very own flock.**

Cf Psalm 95: 1-7

The Gloria may be said/sung - not in Advent/Lent

As you are able, please stand as we raise our
voices together in the words of the Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the
Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us; you are seated
at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you
alone are the Lord, you alone are the
Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy
Spirit, in the +glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

'Gloria in Excelsis
Deo' ('Glory to God
in the Highest') is an
ancient song of
praise dating from at
least the 4th
century.

THE WORD

The Collect is the
opening prayer,
appointed for the
day or season. It
gathers our thoughts
and prayers, usually
on one topic or
theme.

The readings from
Holy Scripture are
central to this
service. They come
from an authorized
lectionary, so that
the whole Church
is together
proclaiming the
major events in the
Christian story.

When the Gospel is
read, we stand as a
sign of the
importance of the
life and teaching of
Jesus, as recorded in
the four gospels.

The Creed or
Affirmation of Faith
is used as a climax
of the Word, We
affirm our faith in
God who is Father,
Son and Holy Spirit.

The Minister introduces the special prayer
(Collect) for today with the words, 'Let us Pray.'
We make the prayer our own by saying, **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Invite the congregation to be seated

**4 We Listen And Respond
To The Word of God**

*Readings from either the Old Testament or New
Testament, or both, plus a Gospel reading; and maybe
a Psalm are read here. There may also be an activity or
introduction before the Gospel for any of the readings.
A hymn or song may be sung between the readings.*

At the end of each reading, the reader may say:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Everyone replies:

All Thanks be to God.

*Announce the hymn prior to the Gospel and invite all to
stand as they are able. Ask to be seated for the sermon.*

5 The Sermon

*The sermon, prepared by a licensed minister is given and
may be followed or begin with an activity. Or we may
pause for silent reflection.*

*Invite to stand as we declare our faith in God who is
Father, Son and Holy Spirit*

6 We Say What We Believe

We stand to declare our faith in God:

*Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?*

All 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?*

All We believe and trust in him.