

St Bridget's, West Kirby

with **Caldy Church**



Today we celebrate inclusive Church and reflect on what that might mean in our churches and wider community.

October 11th is also 'Sight Loss Sunday' and we celebrate the gifts and skills of those who are blind and partially sighted and all that they offer to our church families.

THE GATHERING

HYMN This is God's house, holy ground for God's people,
Hallowed by singing and silence and prayer;
blessed by the presence and power of the Spirit,
founded on faith in the Saviour we share.

This is the place where the church as Christ's body,
meets as a family where all have their place:
Stalwarts and stranger, the known and the seeker-
each needs the other and all need God's grace.

This is the time when desires and intentions
find interaction with God's holy word
trouble and treasure and business and pleasure,
all are redeemed and restored by the Lord.

This is the purpose of God in creation,
all shall be changed for the gospel is true
healing and wholeness, and love for each other,
doubt to commitment and old into new.

All: The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Loving God, we have come together in this place,
sharing the same faith, yet all different, each of us
unique. Though many, you have made us one
All: **Together we praise you**

We praise you for all that made us who we are,
for the fellowship we share in Christ
and the love he has put in our hearts;
Though we are many you have made us one
All: **Together we praise you**

Prayers of penitence

You are tireless in seeking out the lost;
we often write them off.

Lord have mercy

All: **Lord have mercy**

You do not give up on a single one;
we give up even on ourselves.

Christ have mercy

All: **Christ have mercy**

You have a joy that is without measure
we accept limits to our compassion.

Lord have mercy

All: **Lord have mercy**

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

Prayer for the day

Searching God:

To you no one is lost, no one is left behind

No one is the price to be paid for the greater good.

Give us the same restless desire, the same fierce joy
which finds grace in every child of earth
and makes a community open to all.

We ask this in the name of Jesus,
who loved the world and did not count the cost.

Amen.

POEM BY HANNAH HARVEY

HYMN WE SEEK YOUR KINGDOM

We seek your kingdom throughout every sphere
We long for heaven's demonstration here
Jesus your light shine bright for all to see.
Transform, revive, and heal society

Peace, truth, and justice reigning everywhere
With us be present in our public square
Fill all who lead with your integrity
Transform, revive, and heal society

Faithful to govern ever may we be
Selfless in service, loving constantly
In everything may your authority
Transform, revive, and heal society

Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

REFLECTION AND RESPONSE

Affirmation of faith

All: **We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven
and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

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

The Prayers

All: Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer

And at the end

 Merciful God
All: **Accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son our Saviour
Jesus Christ. Amen**



THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace

 All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.
 The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: **and also with you.**

OFFERTORY HYMN

Within the circle of your friends
You found a place for me
Beside those whom I often meet,
Near people whom I've yet to greet
I'm privileged to be,
I'm privileged to be.

Within your commonwealth of love,
You found a place for me
To listen, heal, disturb, or care,
Seek words to sing, find truth to share
Let life be full and free,
let life be full and free.

Around the table you prepare
You found a place for me
Where breaking bread and pouring wine
You tell us all 'this means you're mine
And mine you'll always be,
and mine you'll always be.'

Now brother, servant, Saviour, Lord
I make a place for you
Called to your feast among your friends
And keen to live as God intends
I come to be made new,
I come to be made new.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
All: **and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.
All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

We thank you, Holy God,
For being a fool in the eyes of the world.
We thank you for abandoning control,
For creating a universe, new and strange.

We thank you for nurturing life,
Diverse, evolving, surprising and strange.
We thank you for calling a people
who did not walk straight or know their limits.

We thank you for different bodies and desires
For different ways of thinking and speaking
For different ways of belonging and believing.
May our thanks cut a path through dividing walls
and free the Spirit's song:

All: **Holy, holy, holy One God of life and love.
The world overflows with your glory.**

We thank you, loving Father,
because, when we turned away,
you sent Jesus, your Son.
He gave his life for us on the cross
and shows us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died,
when darkness had fallen,
Jesus took bread.
He gave thanks, broke it, and
shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.'



After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.
As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit,
and change us more and more
to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Help us, Father, to love one another,
as we look forward to that day
when suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with Bridget and all your saints
we give you glory, through Jesus Christ,
in the strength of the Spirit, today and for ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Made in God's image, and formed by God's love,
Let us pray in the Spirit as our Saviour taught us:

All: **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 forever. Amen.**

All: **We break this bread to share in the body of Christ
Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread**

Invitation to Communion

It is always a mixed company that Jesus gathers and invites to his table where, in bread and wine, he meets us.

Through him we, who are different,
are joined to each other.

So come, not because you understand,
but because you are understood.



Come, not because of how you feel,
but because God has food for you.

Come, not because you deserve a place, but because
Jesus invites you, just as you are.

All: Amen, Lord, we come.

*All are more than welcome to come and receive communion. If
you would prefer a blessing, simply come up but keep your
hands lowered.*

Prayer after Communion

**All: God of welcome,
we thank you that in this sacrament
you have made yourself known to us
and bound us to one another.
Empower us by your Spirit,
that we might witness to the world
your radical and unconditional love. Amen**

Notices may now be given

BLESSING

You are called and loved by God
and kept safe by Jesus Christ.
Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance,
And the blessing of God, Creator of all humanity,
Protector of all who are outcast
and Sustainer of all who require strength
be upon you, this day and always

All: Amen.

HYMN We shall go out with hope of resurrection

We shall go out with hope of resurrection,
We shall go out, from strength to strength go on,
We shall go out and tell our stories boldly,
Tales of a love that will not let us go.
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted,
We'll dream our dream of hurts that can be healed,
We'll weave a cloth of all the world united
Within the vision of a Christ who sets us free.

We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken,
We'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed,
We'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,
Vibrating love alive in every heart.
We'll share our joy with those who are still weeping,
Chant hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,
We'll leap and dance the resurrection story
Including all within the circles of our love.

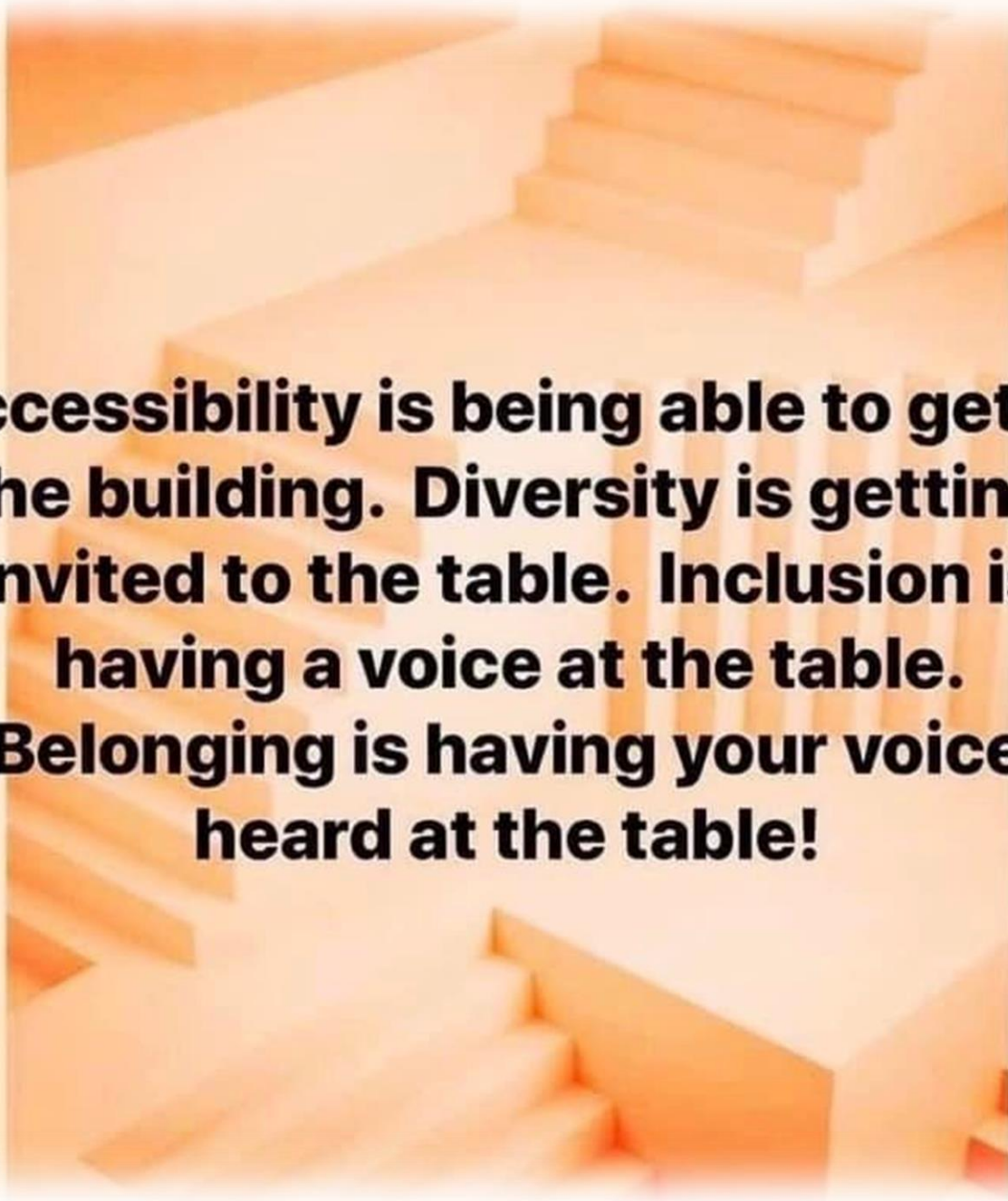
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: **In the name of Christ.
Amen.**

**Thank you to our visiting preacher
the Rev'd Hannah Harvey.**

**Please join us for refreshments in St Bridget's Centre
after the service.**

Many people are not sure whether they are fully welcome and included in church so please take a button badge as an outward and visible sign of our welcome and a reassurance to them.



**Accessibility is being able to get in
the building. Diversity is getting
invited to the table. Inclusion is
having a voice at the table.
Belonging is having your voice
heard at the table!**