

Sunday 8th March 2026

Christ Church with St Mary's

Service of Holy Communion

Theme: Lent 3

We say together the words in **bold**



Welcome and Introduction



The Lord be with you and also with you



Parish Bible verse
2025 - 2026

**Love never wrongs
anyone- hence
love is the fulfilment
of the law.**

Romans 13:10

A Prayer for Growth

God of mission

**who alone brings growth to your church,
send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning
wisdom to our actions and power to our witness.
Help our Partnership of Churches to grow in numbers
in spiritual commitment to you
and in service to our Swindon community
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen

**All my hope on God is founded
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth
only good and only true.
God unknown, he alone
calls my heart to be his own.**

HERE'S MY HEART LORD

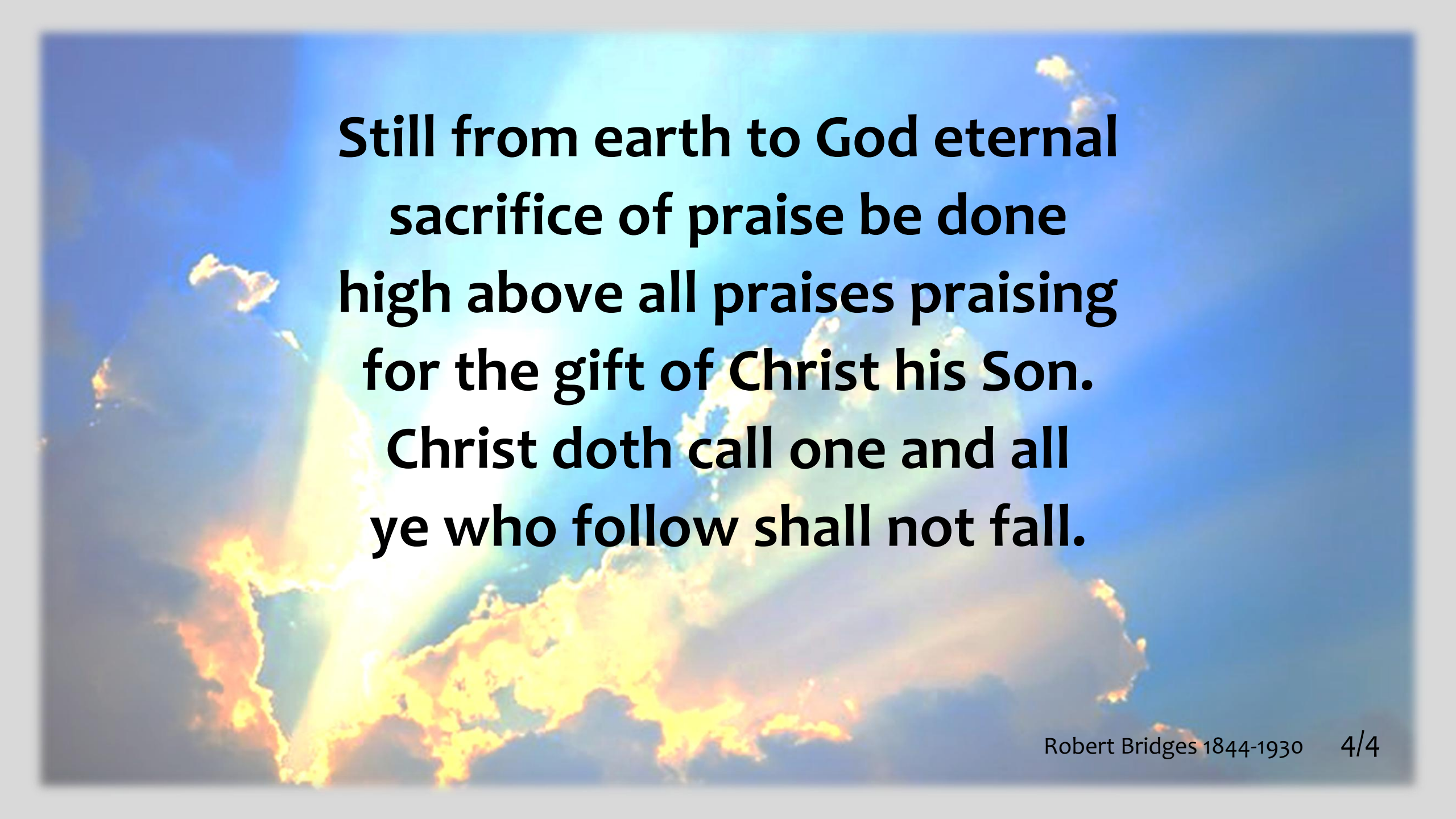


**Human pride and earthly glory
sword and crown betray his trust
what with care and toil he buildeth
tow'r and temple fall to dust.
But God's pow'r hour by hour
is my temple and my tow'r.**

EXPERIENCING THE MIGHTY
POWER OF GOD

**God's great goodness aye endureth
deep his wisdom, passing thought
splendour, light and life attend him
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.**





**Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call one and all
ye who follow shall not fall.**



Offertory
and
thank you prayer



Children's Talk – 'A Drink of Water'



Prayer with the children

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known
and from whom no secrets are hidden
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

Hear these commandments which God has given to his people and examine your hearts.

I am the Lord your God:
you shall have no other gods but me.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.

Amen. Lord have mercy



You shall not make for yourself any idol.

God is spirit and those who worship him
must worship in spirit and truth.



Amen. Lord have mercy

You shall not dishonour
the name of the Lord your God.

You shall worship him with awe and reverence.



Amen. Lord have mercy

Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.

Christ is risen from the dead:
set your minds on things that are above,
not on things that are on earth.



Amen. Lord have mercy

Honour your father and mother.

Live as servants of God:

let us work for the good of all,
especially members of the household of faith.

Members of the
Household of God



Amen. Lord have mercy

You shall not commit murder.

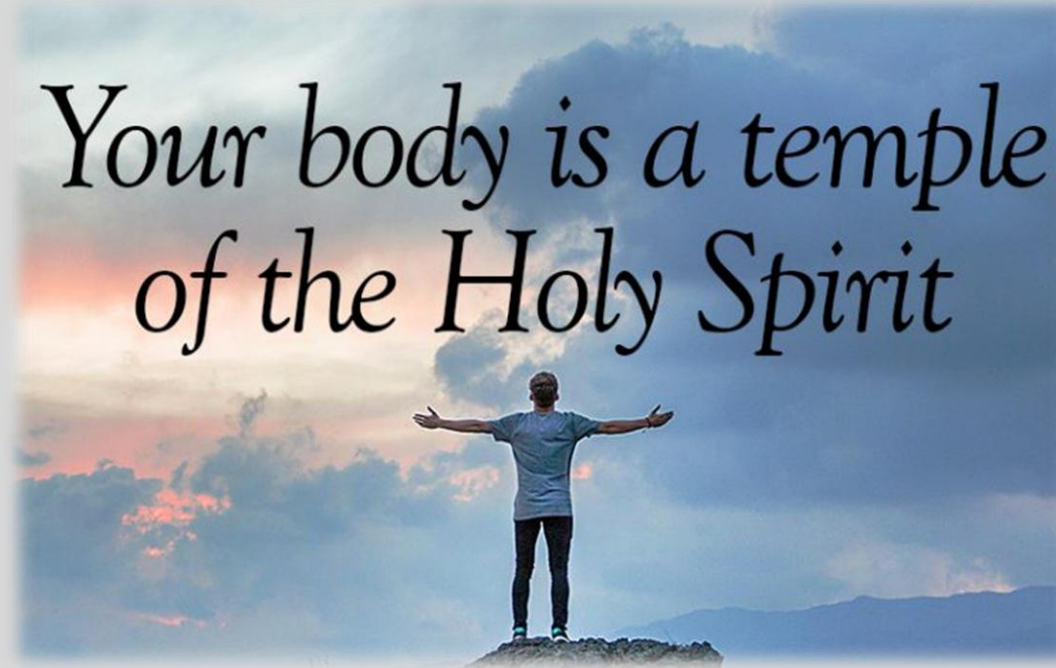
Live peaceably with all:
overcome evil with good.



Amen. Lord have mercy

You shall not commit adultery.

Know that your body
is a temple of the Holy Spirit.



Amen. Lord have mercy

You shall not steal.

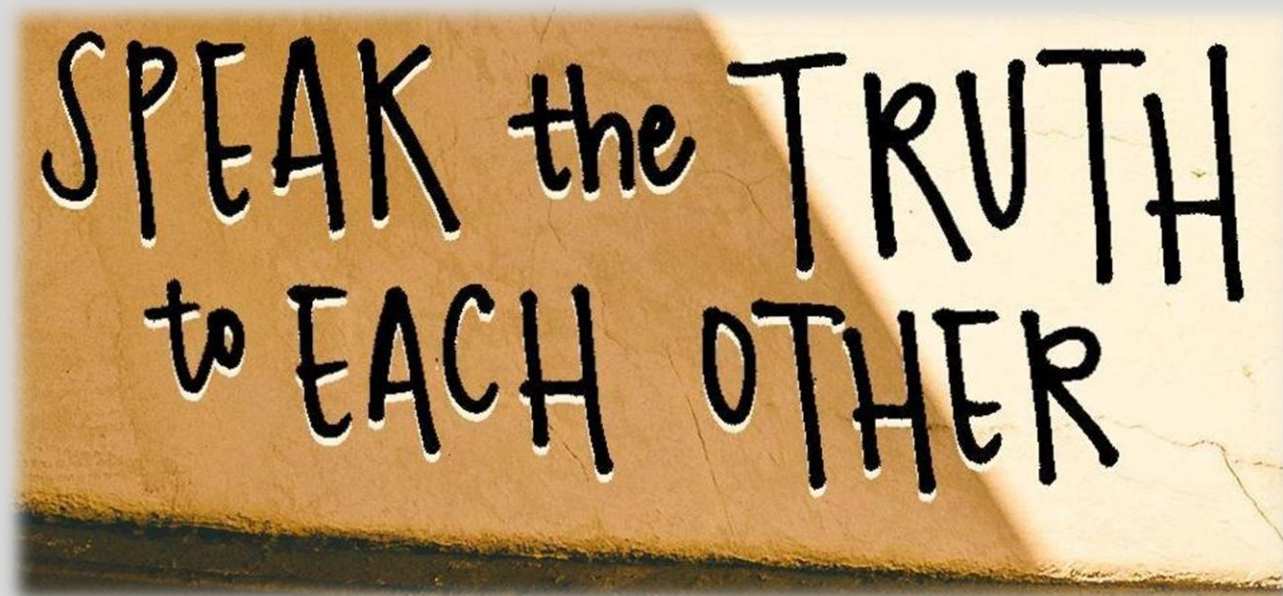
Be honest in all that you do
and care for those in need.

honest.

Amen. Lord have mercy

You shall not be a false witness.

Let everyone speak the truth.



Amen. Lord have mercy

You shall not covet anything
which belongs to your neighbour.

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus
'It is more blessed to give than to receive'
Love your neighbour as yourself,
for love is fulfilling the law.

Amen. Lord have mercy

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit:
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.
Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion
and acknowledge our transgressions
in penitence and faith.



**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.**

**We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past and grant that we may
serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

Lord, have mercy. x2

Christ, have mercy. x2

Lord, have mercy. x2

May Almighty God,
who sent his Son into
the world to save sinners
bring you his pardon
and peace, now and forever.

Amen



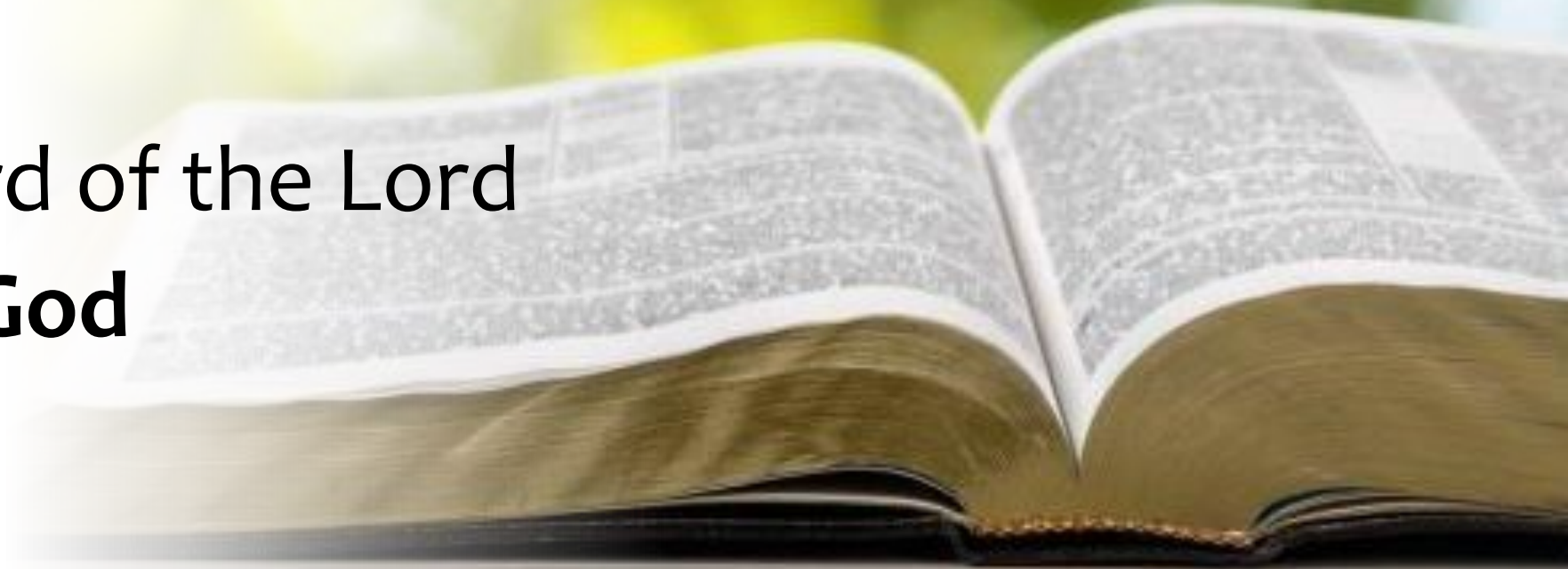
The Collect Prayer for today

Eternal God,
give us insight to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us
and to seek the perfection
we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Exodus 17 : 1 - 17

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God



**1 Firmly I believe and truly
God is Three and God is One
and I next acknowledge duly
manhood taken by the Son.**

**2 And I trust and hope most fully
in the Saviour crucified
and each thought and deed unruly
do to death as he has died.**



**3 Simply to his grace and wholly
light and life and strength belong
and I love supremely, solely
him the holy, him the strong.**

**2 And I hold in veneration
for the love of him alone
holy Church as his creation
and her teachings as his own.**



**5 Adoration may be given
with and thro' th'angelic host
to the God of earth and heaven
Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

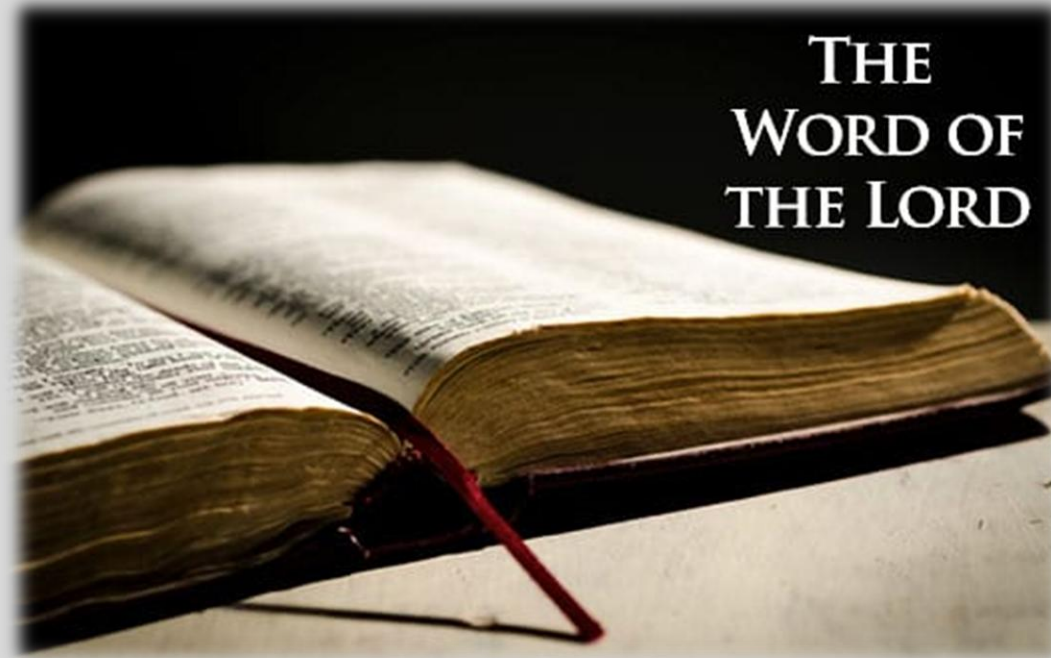


Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory.

The Lord is a great God,

O that today you would listen to his voice.

Harden not your hearts.



Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Hear the Gospel of
our Lord Jesus Christ
according to.....

Glory to you O Lord

John 4 : 5 – 15, 27 - 42

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ





Sermon – ‘Consequences’

The Creed

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God
**Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God
but made himself nothing. Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness. He humbled himself and
was obedient to death, even the death of the cross.**

**Therefore, God has raised him on high
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

Final Response

Merciful Father-

**Accept these
prayers for the
sake of your son
our Saviour
Jesus Christ.
Amen**



The Peace

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace. The peace of the Lord be always with you



and also with you.

**1 Be thou my vision
O Lord of my heart
naught be all else to me
save that thou art.
Thou my best thought
in the day and the night
waking or sleeping
thy presence my light.**



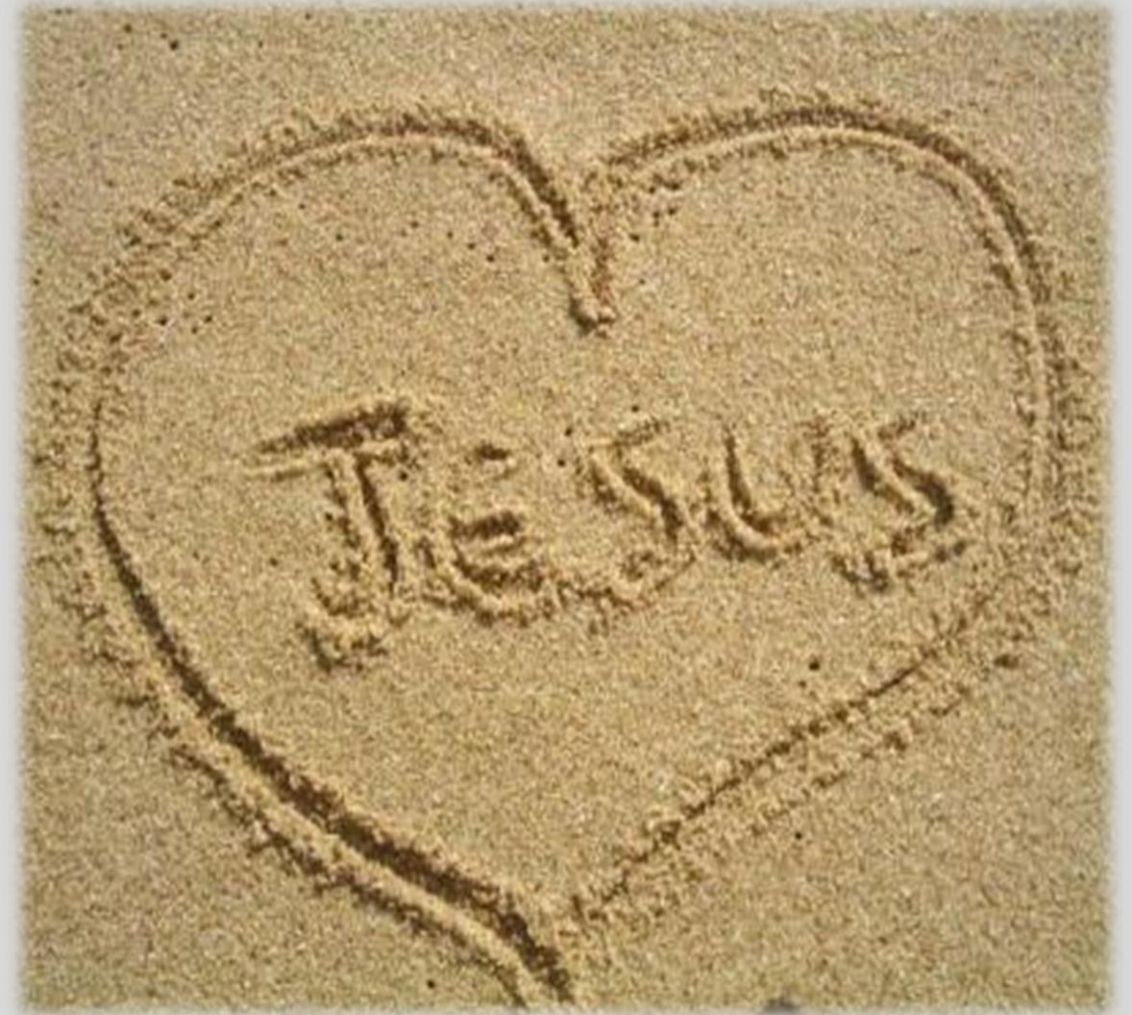
**2 Be thou my wisdom
be thou my true word
I ever with thee
and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my great Father
and I thy true heir
thou in me dwelling
and I in thy care.**



**3 Be thou my breastplate
my sword for the fight
be thou my armour
and be thou my might.
Thou my soul's shelter
and thou my high tow'r
raise thou me heavenward
O Pow'r of my pow'r.**



**4 Riches I need not,
nor all the world's praise
thou mine inheritance
through all my days.
Thou and thou only
the first in my heart
high King of heaven,
my treasure thou art.**



**5 High King of heaven
when battle is done
grant heaven's joy to me
O bright heav'n's sun.
Christ of my own heart
whatever befall
still be my vision
O Ruler of all.**





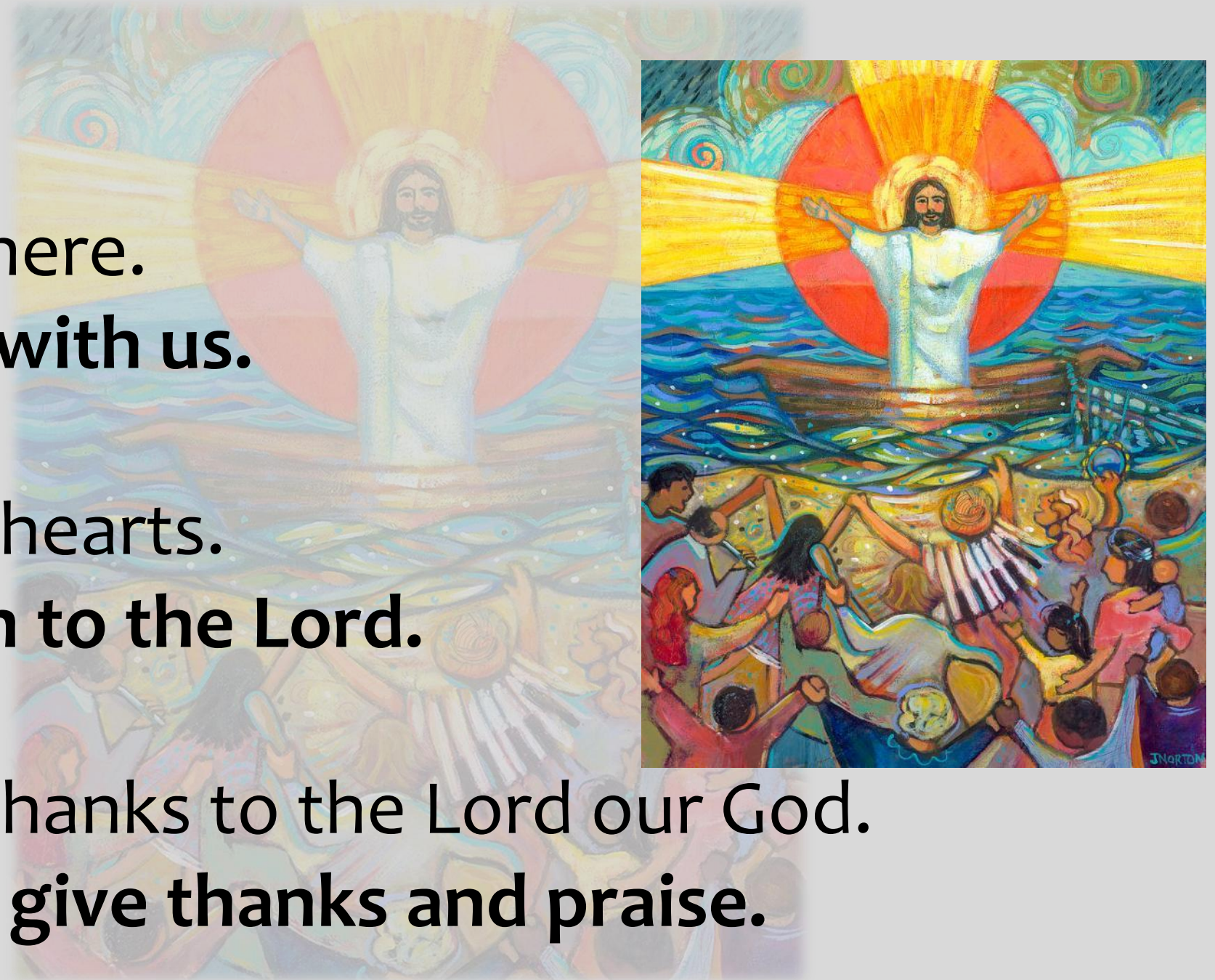
Pour upon the poverty of our love
and the weakness of our praise,
the transforming fire of your presence.

Amen

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

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



It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
Almighty God and Everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.



For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of
repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer
and discipline we may grow in grace
and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service
you bring us back to your generous heart.



Through study of your holy word
you open our eyes to your presence in the world
and free our hands to welcome others into the
radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds, we bless you for your mercy and join with saints and angels for ever praising you and singing:



**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**



**Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**



Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine may be to us
the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ:

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks,
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:



Take eat; this is my body which is given for you
do this in remembrance of me

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: drink this all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.



Christ is the bread of life:

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim your death,
Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.**

I Am the
Bread of
Life





And so Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the
whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection
and glorious ascension
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise
and thanksgiving, we bring before you
this bread and this cup and we thank you for
counting us worthy to stand
in your presence and serve you.



Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into
one in your kingdom all who share this one bread
and one cup, so that we, in the company of
all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom and with whom and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit
all honour and glory be yours
Almighty Father, for ever and ever.

Amen

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

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Jesus is the Lamb of God who
takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are
called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to
receive you but only say the
word and I shall be healed.**





**Most merciful Lord, your love compels us to come in.
Our hands were unclean, our hearts were unprepared
we were not fit even to eat
the crumbs from under your table.
But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation
and share your bread with sinners.**

**So cleanse and feed us with the precious
body and blood of your Son,
that he may live in us and we in him
and that we, with the whole company of Christ,
may sit and eat in your kingdom.**



Amen


We sing together –

**Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, Redeemer of the world
give us your peace.**





Jesus the Bread of Life

Receiving the bread and wine




Chester
Cathedral

Anthem

‘As water to the
thirsty’

Tune : Brian Coleman

Words :
Timothy Dudley-Smith



Jesus the Bread of Life

Receiving the bread and wine

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Lord,
grant your people grace to withstand
the temptations of the world,
the flesh and the devil
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you,
the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood
of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you
our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the
power of your Spirit
to live and work to
your praise and glory.
Amen**



What is
going on?

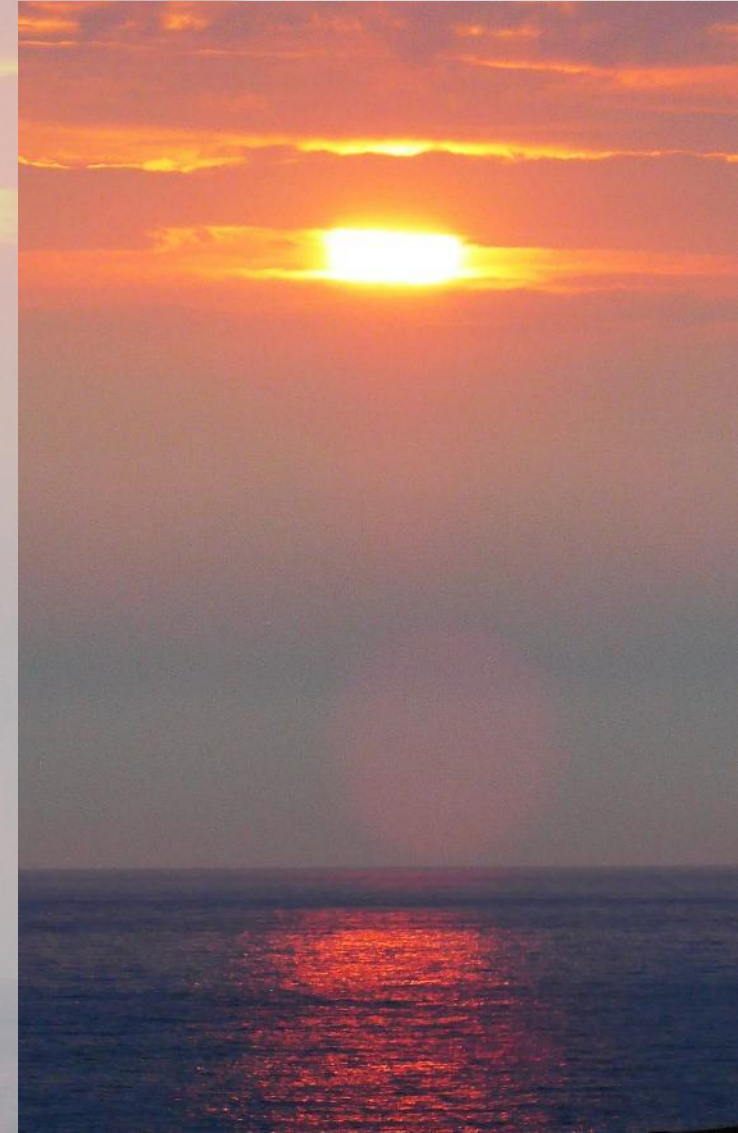
Family News



**God's Work
Our Hands**

**¹At even, ere the sun was set
the sick, O Lord, around thee lay
O in what divers pains they met!
O with what joy they went away!**

**²Once more 'tis eventide, and we
oppressed with various ills draw near
what if thy form we cannot see?
We know and feel that thou art here.**



**3 O Saviour Christ, our woes dispel
for some are sick and some are sad,
and some have never loved thee well
and some have lost the love they had.**

**4 And some have found the world is vain
yet from the world they break not free
and some have friends who give them pain
yet have not sought a friend in thee.**

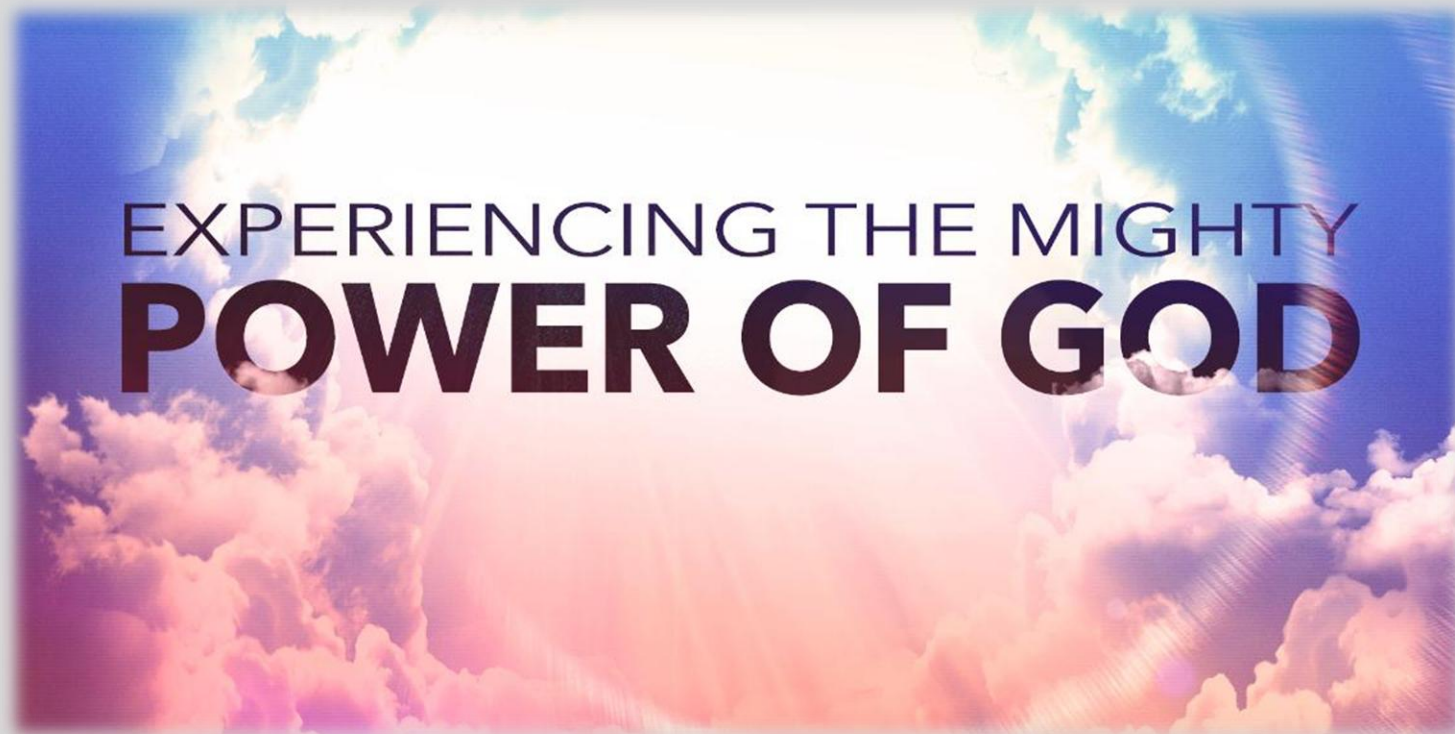


**5 And none, O Lord, have perfect rest
for none is wholly free from sin
and they who fain would serve thee best
are conscious most of wrong within.**

**6 O Saviour Christ, thou hast been human too
thou hast been troubled, tempted, tried
thy kind but searching glance can view
the very wounds that shame would hide.**



**7 Thy touch has still its ancient pow'r
no word from thee can fruitless fall
hear, in this solemn evening hour
and in thy mercy heal us all.**



Christ give you the grace to grow
in holiness to deny yourselves,
take up your cross and follow him
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father,
the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen

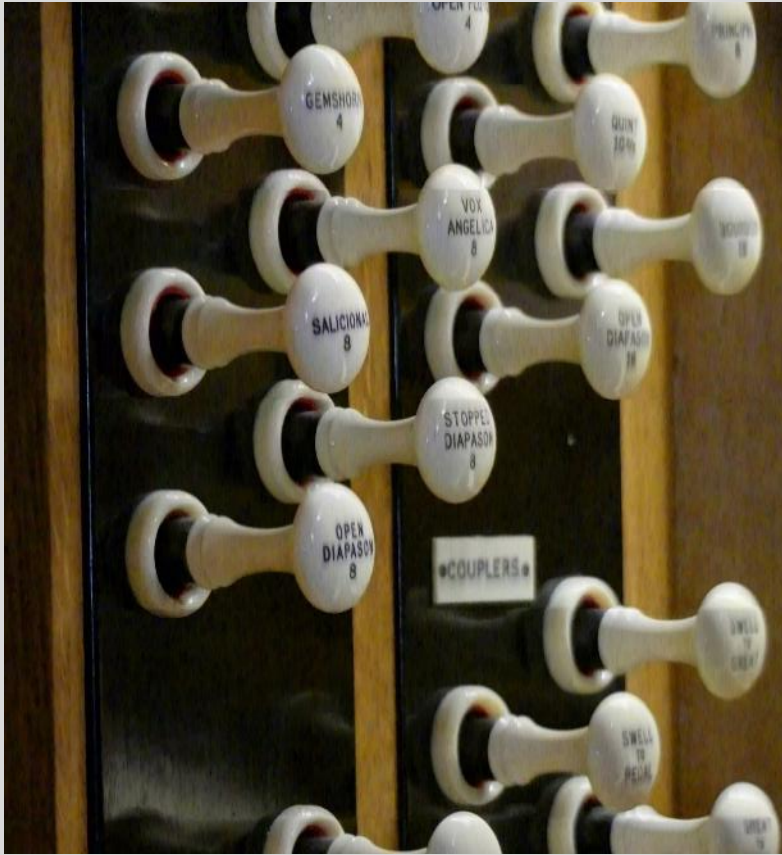




Go in peace to love
and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ.

Amen



Christ Church Organ

Organ Voluntary

‘Voluntary’
Thomas Tomkins