

Holy Trinity Church Heath Town

Sunday 8th March 2026

9:30 am Morning Praise

Third Sunday of Lent

Theme: Who are You?

Leader: Liz Cope

Preacher: Bill Nicholls

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, everyone who is thirsty.
Come, the lost and the seekers.
Come, the lonely and the welcomers.
Come, the sad and the comforters.
Come, the empty and the generous.
Come as you are, with your questions and beliefs.
Come and drink at the well of living water.
Come and worship the living God.

INTRODUCTION

GATHERING PRAYER

Almighty God, whose arms are open to all, we gather to meet with you and hear your word for us today; for you know us, all we have done and all that we are. You offer us 'living water', all that we need for our lives today. **Amen.**

HYMN

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only light,
Sun of righteousness, arise,
Triumph o'er the shades of night:
Day-spring from on high, be near;
Day-star in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn
Unaccompanied by Thee;
Joyless is the day's return,

Till Thy mercy's beams I see;
Till they inward light impart,
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine;
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, radiancy divine;
Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more Thyself display,
Shining to the perfect day.

PSALM 95: 1-8

Come, let us sing to the Lord!
Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.

**Let us come to him with thanksgiving.
Let us sing psalms of praise to him.**

For the Lord is a great God, a great King
above all gods.

**He holds in his hands the depths of the
earth and the mightiest mountains.**

The sea belongs to him, for he made it.
His hands formed the dry land, too.

**Come, let us worship and bow down.
Let us kneel before the Lord our maker,**

for he is our God.

We are the people he watches over,
the flock under his care.

If only you would listen to his voice today!

**The Lord says, "Don't harden your hearts
as Israel did at Meribah, as they did at
Massah in the wilderness."**

CONFESSION

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'

So let us turn away from sin and turn to the Lord, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Loving God, You know everything about us, and you still love us. We are sorry for all the wrong things we have done, and for all the right things that we haven't done. Wash us clean with Your living water. Forgive us, renew us, and fill us with Your life. Amen

THE ABSOLUTION

May the God of love bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins, and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind;
In purer lives Thy service find,
In deeper reverence, praise,
In deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
Beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word
Rise up and follow Thee,
Rise up and follow Thee.

O sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with Thee
The silence of eternity,
Interpreted by love,
Interpreted by love.

With that deep hush subduing all

Our words and works that drown
The tender whisper of Thy call,
As noiseless let Thy blessing fall
As fell Thy manna down,
As fell Thy manna down.

Drop Thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of Thy peace,
The beauty of Thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and Thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind and
fire, O still small voice of calm,
O still small voice of calm!

READING: Exodus 17:1-7

This is the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

HYMN

As the deer pants for the water,
So my soul longs after You.
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship You.

*You alone are my strength, my shield,
To You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship You.*

I want You more than gold or silver,
Only You can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy-giver
And the apple of my eye.

You're my Friend and You are my Brother,
Even though You are a King.
I love You more than any other,
So much more than anything.

READING: John 4 :5-42

This is the word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

SERMON**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

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.

HYMN

Such love, pure as the whitest snow;
Such love, weeps for the shame I know;
Such love, paying the debt I owe;
O Jesus, such love.

Such love, stilling my restlessness;
Such love, filling my emptiness;
Such love, showing me holiness;
O Jesus, such love.

Such love, springs from eternity;
Such love, streaming through history;
Such love, fountain of life to me;
O Jesus, such love.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for
the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus
Christ. Amen.**

COLLECT

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, 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.**

THE PEACE

God will speak peace to his people, to
those who turn to him in their hearts. The
peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

NOTICES**OFFERTORY HYMN**

I heard the voice of Jesus say:

‘Come unto Me and rest;

Lay down, thou weary one, lay down

Thy head upon My breast.’

I came to Jesus as I was,

Weary and worn and sad;

I found in Him a resting place,

And He has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say:
'Behold I freely give
The living water, thirsty one,
Stoop down and drink and live.'
I came to Jesus, and I drank
Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
And now I live in Him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say:
'I am this dark world's light;
Look unto Me, thy morn shall rise,
And all thy day be bright.'
I looked to Jesus, and I found
In Him my Star, my Sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk,
Till travelling days are done.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Gracious God, accept these gifts, and
with them our lives, to be used in Your
service; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

FINAL PRAYER & BLESSING

Lord, thank you that you choose to reveal
yourself to us and that you know us, love
us, and sustain us.
Help us to return to you, again and again,
to be refreshed and renewed by your
living water. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of God almighty, the
Father the Son and the Holy Spirit be
among us and remain with us always.
Amen

HYMN

To God be the glory! Great things He has
done!
So loved He the world that He gave us His
Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,

And opened the life-gate that all may go
in.

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the
Son;
And give Him the glory, great things He
has done!*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of
blood!
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon
receives.

Great things He has taught us, great
things He has done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the
Son:
But purer and higher and greater will be
Our wonder, our worship, when Jesus we
see!

DISMISSAL

**As we go from this place today, may we
take your life-giving, water-quenching
Spirit with us and share it with all we
meet. Amen**

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