

A Service of Morning Worship for Sunday May 10th

Welcome and Introduction

Today we remember the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, and in doing so we celebrate nurses and healthcare workers today who have answered God's call on their lives. This weekend we have marked the commemoration of Victory in Europe so we come with thanksgiving for forces past and present, and we come before God who has called us into being to be his people for this time and place.

We pray

Janet: O God, the Father of light, from you comes every good and perfect gift: we give you thanks for Florence Nightingale and for her vision, courage, and compassion. We give thanks for our forces past and present who gave of themselves to protect our nation, its people young and old and the way of life they knew. Now in this time of crisis kindle our hearts, we pray, by the fire of your Holy Spirit, so that we may shine for you in the darkness of human suffering and sorrow; through him who is the light of the world, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Greeting

Janet: We meet in the presence of God

All: **who knows our needs, hears our cries, feels our pains,
and heals our wounds.**

Janet: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All: **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Hymn

Jesus Christ is ris'n today, alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, alleluia!
who did once, upon the cross, alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss, alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, alleluia!
unto Christ, our heavenly King, alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save, alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, alleluia!
our salvation have procured, alleluia!
now in heaven above he's King, alleluia!
where the angels ever sing, alleluia!

An invitation to confession

Janet: As we worship God together, let us call to mind the time when we have ignored his call to us, and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

A moment of silence and stillness

We confess our sins

Lord our God, in our sins we have avoided your call. Our love for you is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. Have mercy on us; deliver us from judgement; bind up our wounds and revive us; in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We receive God's forgiveness

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

A reading from the Book of Acts

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

Acts 7.55-end

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the holy one is here;
come bow before him now
with reverence and fear:
in him no sin is found -
we stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the holy one, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;
he burns with holy fire,
with splendour he is crowned:
how awesome is the sight -
our radiant king of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place:
he comes to cleanse and heal,
to minister his grace -
no work too hard for him.
In faith receive from him.
Be still for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place.

A reading from the Gospel of John

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

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes

to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.' Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

John 14.1-14

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

Song

Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you,
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

Creed

Let us declare our faith in God.

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.

Prayers

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn

O JESUS, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou for ever near me,
my Master and my Friend:
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be;
and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end:
O give me grace to follow,
my Master and my Friend.

O let me see thy foot-marks,
and in them plant mine own;
my hope to follow duly
is in thy strength alone:
O guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
and then in heaven receive me,
my Saviour and my Friend.

Dismissal and Blessing

Janet: Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour everyone; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father the Son and Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Janet: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: In the name of Christ. Amen.