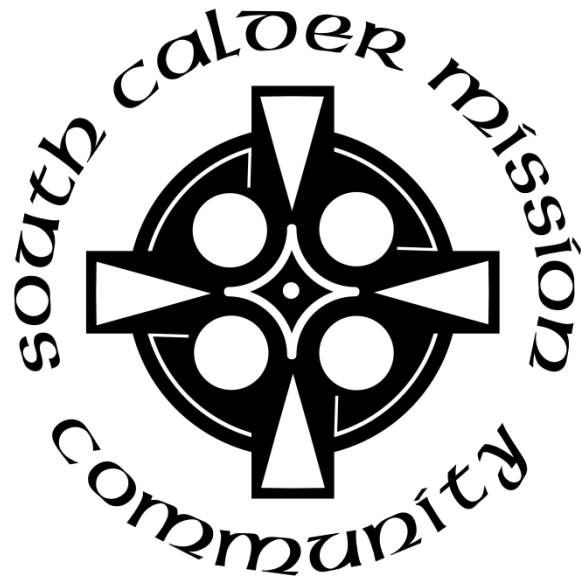


# Into his Courts with Praise...



A Service of the Word

Sunday 10 August 2025  
Eighth Sunday after Trinity.

## A Service of the Word for Sunday morning

This service is taken from A Service of the Word,  
Morning and Evening Prayer, Night Prayer,  
which is copyright (c) The Archbishops' Council, 2000,  
with permitted variations.

### INTRODUCTION

*"You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."*

*Luke 12:40*



### THE CONFESSION

The grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all. Though we have grieved him, yet he will heal us if we confess our sins in penitence and faith.

**Almighty God,  
I confess that I have sinned against you  
in thought, word and deed;  
I have not loved you with all my heart;  
I have not loved my neighbours as myself.  
Have mercy upon me,  
cleanse me from my sins,  
and help me to overcome my faults,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### *Receive God's forgiveness*

May the Father forgive us  
By the death of His Son  
And strengthen us  
To live in the power of the Spirit  
All our days. **Amen.**

### **PRAISE**

O Lord, open my lips...  
**and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**  
Give me the joy of your saving help...  
**and sustain me with your life-giving Spirit.**

### **THE COLLECT**

Lord God, your Son left the riches of heaven and became poor for our sake: when we prosper save us from pride, when we are needy save us from despair, that we may trust in you alone;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
**Amen.**

*Suggested hymn to sing or read **Jesus shall reign where'er the sun.***

### **THE WORD OF GOD.**

#### **Psalm 50.**

The Lord, the most mighty God, has spoken ♦  
and called the world from the rising of the sun to its setting.  
Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth; ♦  
our God comes and will not keep silence.  
Consuming fire goes out before him ♦  
and a mighty tempest stirs about him.  
He calls the heaven above, ♦  
and the earth, that he may judge his people:  
'Gather to me my faithful, ♦  
who have sealed my covenant with sacrifice.'  
Let the heavens declare his righteousness, ♦  
for God himself is judge.  
Hear, O my people, and I will speak: ♦

'I will testify against you, O Israel;  
for I am God, your God.

'I will not reprove you for your sacrifices, ♦  
for your burnt offerings are always before me.

'You that forget God, consider this well, ♦  
lest I tear you apart and there is none to deliver you.

'Whoever offers me the sacrifice of thanksgiving honours me ♦  
and to those who keep my way  
will I show the salvation of God.'

#### **Isaiah 1:1, 10-20.**

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

Hear the word of the Lord,  
you rulers of Sodom!

Listen to the teaching of our God,  
you people of Gomorrah!

What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?  
says the Lord;

I have had enough of burnt-offerings of rams  
and the fat of fed beasts;

I do not delight in the blood of bulls,  
or of lambs, or of goats.

When you come to appear before me,  
who asked this from your hand?

Trample my courts no more;  
bringing offerings is futile;  
incense is an abomination to me.

New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation—

I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity.  
Your new moons and your appointed festivals  
my soul hates;

they have become a burden to me,  
I am weary of bearing them.

When you stretch out your hands,  
I will hide my eyes from you;  
even though you make many prayers,  
I will not listen;

your hands are full of blood.  
Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;  
remove the evil of your doings  
from before my eyes;  
cease to do evil,  
learn to do good;  
seek justice,  
rescue the oppressed,  
defend the orphan,  
plead for the widow.

Come now, let us argue it out,  
says the Lord:  
though your sins are like scarlet,  
they shall be like snow;  
though they are red like crimson,  
they shall become like wool.  
If you are willing and obedient,  
you shall eat the good of the land;  
but if you refuse and rebel,  
you shall be devoured by the sword;  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

### **Hebrews 11:1-3,8-16.**

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, ‘as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.’

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

*Suggested hymn to sing or read* ***Ye servants of God your master proclaim.***

### **GOSPEL Luke 12:32-40.**

‘Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

‘Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

‘But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.’

### **REFLECTION – Uncertainty, faith and expectation.**

When I hear figures and statistics on the radio I tend to be somewhat sceptical. I want to know more about the data, I question the accuracy. This is something I did for a living as an engineer involved with measuring how processes were working.

There is a factor called “Uncertainty” which can be calculated for any statistic, measurement or prediction. The result is the “Uncertainty Budget” and takes into account all the variations and errors we might expect for any given measurement. In some cases the uncertainty budget is so large you might as well not bother with the measurement in the first place. In life things do not always act in the way we predict.

In today’s Gospel reading Jesus is telling his “little flock” what to expect;

*“Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.”*

That is a prediction with no uncertainty. For those who believe, God’s Kingdom is assured. However, Jesus, a realist, is under no illusion that belief will be easy. He understands only too well that the world offers inducements to take the easy option. He knows all about uncertainty and the effect that can have on us, frail humans, and how we can allow doubt to creep in to our minds and our lives.

Having faith is not always easy. The epistle to the Hebrews has Paul writing with characteristic honesty taking the example of Abraham, known to his readers;

*“By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.”*

Did Abraham look for the uncertainties?

No, he relied on his faith and knew that God was also faithful. Although Abraham knew he wouldn’t live to see the Kingdom created by his descendants he believed in it.

Jesus gives us the expectation that there is a Kingdom, there is treasure to come if we have faith. There is a warning too;

*“Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them.”*

Being ready, prepared to face what comes, whenever it comes, is an important part of our faith and the preparation for the Kingdom to come. I think that part of that readiness is a preparedness to live our faith, be open about what we believe and to encourage those around us to believe too.

So while there is an uncertainty to the things that we create, the actions we cause to happen, we know that in God’s Kingdom there is no uncertainty, no error and what we expect to happen will happen – if we have faith and are prepared.

**Brian Pateman.**

*Suggested hymn to sing or read* ***We have a Gospel to proclaim.***

## THE CREED

**All     I believe in God the Father,  
          whose loving care is the pattern for family life.  
          I believe in Jesus, the Son of God,  
          who lives in my heart through faith,  
          and fills me with his love.  
          I believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
          who strengthens me with power from on high.  
          I believe in one God;  
          Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**



*A time of quiet prayer for*

- *The universal Church - Bishops, synods and all leaders church*
- *The leaders of the nations*
- *The natural world and the resources of the earth*

**Loving God I see the news and I am afraid. Violence is spiralling out of control. I don't know what to think or feel. The temptation to fall into hatred, or despair feels very close at hand.**

**Help me to remember that nothing in all creation can separate me from your love that I know in Jesus. May your perfect love for me cast out my fear and free me to discern what is mine to do amidst the chaos of this suffering world.**

**Amen.**

*A prayer on the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki;*

**Gracious God, Spirit of Life and Love, help us to see our scars: those we have created, those we are called to witness, and those we can soothe and heal. We are deeply grateful for the buds and blossoms that even the most scarred offer as a revelation to the world. And, especially on this 80th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we renew our commitment to peace individually, collectively and globally:**

**To "peace within" which calms our anxieties and fears, to "peace between" which overcomes differences, animosities and conflict, and, to "the great peace", beyond even our understanding, that is Your gift and which we attempt to be stewards of for the world.**

**Amen.**

*Finishing with the South Calder Mission Community prayer...*

**Heavenly Father we thank you for the life of your Church in this place, and in all the villages of the South Calder Mission Community; for all who have served and worshipped you in years gone by, for all who make up your family in our churches today, for the faith we have in common, and for the people and traditions which make each church unique.**

**By your Spirit, guide and equip us, that together we might find new ways to reach out to our local community, to show your love to our neighbours, and to encourage them to follow the Lord Jesus in their lives. Father, we offer ourselves to your service. In the unity of the Holy Spirit, And in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*and the Lord's prayer...*

**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.**

## THE CONCLUSION

*Suggested hymn to sing or read* **Let us build a house.**

*The following prayer is said*

**Be with me, Lord, as I finish my prayer today.  
May my lips always speak the truth;  
may my eyes which have read your word  
see only what is good;  
and may my life as well as my worship  
be always pleasing in your sight,  
for the glory of your name. Amen.**

And now may the Lord who brought us to birth by his Spirit, strengthen us for the Christian life.

May the Lord who provides for all our needs sustain us day by day.

May the Lord whose steadfast love is constant as a mother's care, send us out to live and work for others.

And the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be with us and remain with us always.

**Amen.**

So now may I go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

## **Links for the hymns**

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun.

<https://youtu.be/rcHXOnKZ3ME>

Ye servants of God your master proclaim.

[https://youtu.be/ptLLr\\_WjCz8](https://youtu.be/ptLLr_WjCz8)

We have a Gospel to proclaim.

<https://youtu.be/l5wWRYq57EM>

Let us build a house.

<https://youtu.be/N9bOiAxwi4U>