Christ Church in the Manche

**Service of The Word**

**Welcome**

**Opening Hymn**

1  Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,  
    all for love’s sake becamest poor,  
    thrones for a manger didst surrender  
    sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.  
    Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,  
    all for love’s sake becamest poor.

2  Thou who art God beyond all praising,  
    all for love’s sake becamest man;  
    stooping so low, but sinners raising  
    heavenwards by Thine eternal plan.  
    Thou who art God beyond all praising,  
    all for love’s sake becamest man.

3  Thou who art love beyond all telling,  
    Saviour and King, we worship Thee.  
    Immanuel, within us dwelling,  
    make us what Thou wouldst have us be.  
    Thou who art love beyond all telling,  
    Saviour and King, we worship Thee.

You may be seated

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

**and also with you.**

We have come together in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving,

to hear and receive God’s holy word, to pray for the needs of the world,

and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may give ourselves to the service of God.

**Confession**

**Almighty and most merciful Father,**

**we have wandered and strayed from your ways**

**like lost sheep.**

**We have followed too much the devices and desires**

**of our own hearts.**

**We have offended against your holy laws.**

**We have left undone those things**

**that we ought to have done;**

**and we have done those things**

**that we ought not to have done;**

**and there is no health in us.**

**But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us sinners.**

**Spare those who confess their faults.**

**Restore those who are penitent,**

**according to your promises declared to mankind**

**in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,**

**that we may live a disciplined, righteous and godly life,**

**to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

**Absolution**

Blessed is the Lord,

for he has heard the voice of our prayer;

therefore shall our hearts dance for joy

and in our song will we praise our God.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, creator and redeemer of all;

to you be glory and praise for ever. From the waters of chaos you drew forth the world

and in your great love fashioned us in your image. Now, through the deep waters of death,

you have brought your people to new birth by raising your Son to life in triumph.

May Christ your light ever dawn in our hearts as we offer you our sacrifice of thanks and praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

**Blessed be God for ever.**

**The Word of God**

**First Reading** - Malachi 3:6-12

**Psalm** 138:1-8

Response -  **Your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever.**

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;

before the gods will I sing praise to you.

2    I will bow down towards your holy temple and praise your name,

because of your love and faithfulness;

for you have glorified your name

and your word above all things.

3    In the day that I called to you, you

answered me;  you put new strength in my soul.

4    All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,  for they have heard the words of your mouth.

5    They shall sing of the ways of the Lord,   that great is the glory of the Lord.

6    Though the Lord be high, he watches over the lowly;  as for the proud, he regards them from afar.

7    Though I walk in the midst of trouble,

you will preserve me;   you will stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand will save me.

8    The Lord shall make good his purpose

for me;  your loving-kindness, O Lord,

endures for ever;

forsake not the work of your hands.

**Second reading** - Hebrews 9:11-14

**Hymn**

1  How deep the Father’s love for us,  
how vast beyond all measure,  
that He should give His only Son  
to make a wretch His treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss –  
the Father turns His face away,  
as wounds which mar the chosen one  
bring many sons to glory.

2  Behold the man upon a cross,  
my sin upon His shoulders;  
ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held Him there  
until it was accomplished;  
His dying breath has brought me life –  
I know that it is finished.

3  I will not boast in anything,  
no gifts, no power, no wisdom;  
but I will boast in Jesus Christ,  
His death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from His reward?  
I cannot give an answer,  
but this I know with all my heart,  
His wounds have paid my ransom.

**Gospel Reading** – John 1:26-34

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ

**Sermon**

**The Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the Virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic Church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

**Prayers of intercession**

**Collect**

Gathering our prayers and praises into one 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**

The peace of the Lord be always with you

*All*   and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace

**Offertory Hymn**

1  Take my life, and let it be  
    consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
    take my moments and my days,  
    let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2  Take my hands, and let them move  
    at the impulse of Thy love;  
    take my feet, and let them be  
    swift and beautiful for Thee.

3  Take my voice, and let me sing  
    always, only, for my King;  
    take my lips, and let them be  
    filled with messages from Thee.

4  Take my silver and my gold,  
    not a mite would I withhold;  
    take my intellect, and use  
    every power as Thou shalt choose.

5  Take my will, and make it Thine;  
    it shall be no longer mine:  
    take my heart, it is Thine own;  
    it shall be Thy royal throne.

6  Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
    at Thy feet its treasure store:  
    take myself, and I will be  
    ever, only, all, for Thee.

**Prayer of thanksgiving**

**Closing Hymn**

1  When I survey the wondrous cross  
    on which the Prince of glory died,  
    my richest gain I count but loss,  
    and pour contempt on all my pride.

2  Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
    save in the death of Christ my God:  
    all the vain things that charm me most,  
    I sacrifice them to His blood.

3  See from His head, His hands, His feet,  
    sorrow and love flow mingled down:  
    did e’er such love and sorrow meet,  
    or thorns compose so rich a crown?

4  Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
    that were an offering far too small,  
    love so amazing, so divine,  
    demands my soul, my life, my all.

***Notices***

***The Blessing***

The Lord bless us and preserve us from all evil and keep us in eternal life. **Amen**

Let us bless the lord

**Thanks be to God**