



**St Edmund's Church Taverham  
and St Peter's Church Ringland**

**10<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Praise with joy the world's Creator**

God of justice, love and peace  
Source and end of human knowledge  
Force of greatness without cease  
Celebrate the Maker's glory  
Power to rescue and release

Praise the Son who feeds the hungry  
Clothes the naked, finds the lost  
Heals the sick, upsets religion  
Fearless of both fate and cost  
Celebrate Christ's constant presence  
Friend and stranger, guest and host

Praise the Spirit sent among us  
Liberating truth from pride  
Forging bonds where race or gender  
Age or nation dare divide  
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure  
Foolishness none dare deride

Praise the Maker, Son and Spirit  
One God in community  
Calling Christians to embody  
Oneness and diversity  
Thus the world shall yet believe  
When shown Christ's vibrant unity  
(John Bell & Graham Maule)

O Divine Voice,  
**You sing and the universe comes into being;**  
O Divine Breath,  
**You breathe and all things spring to life;**  
O Divine Word,  
**You call and creation is sustained;**  
O Divine Flesh,  
**You are born among us,  
and the Creator is clothed in creation;**  
O Divine Spirit,  
**You fill all that has been formed;**  
O Divine Life,  
**You are the pulse of all that is.**

And so, in amazement and awe, in wonder and celebration  
we marvel at this mystery:  
In you all things live and move and have being,  
In all things, you live and move and express your Divine artistry;  
And so we join with creation  
in the eternal song of worship and wonder

**Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power and might  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory  
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Come let us sing of a wonderful love, tender and true**  
Out of the heart of the Father above  
Streaming to me and to you  
Wonderful love dwells in the heart of the Father above

Jesus the Saviour this gospel to tell, joyfully came  
Came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell  
Sharing their sorrow and shame  
Seeking the lost, saving, redeeming at measureless cost

Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet, why do they roam?  
Love only waits to forgive and forget  
Home, weary wanderer, home!  
Wonderful love dwells in the heart of the Father above

Come to my heart, O thou wonderful love, come and abide  
Lifting my life till it rises above  
Envy and falsehood and pride  
Seeking to be lowly and humble, a learner of Thee  
(Robert Walmsley)

### **A reading from the Acts of the Apostles chapter 17 beginning at verse 22**

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.

From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him-though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we too are his offspring."

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'

## **O God you search me and you know me**

All my thoughts lie open to your gaze  
When I walk or lie down you are before me  
Ever the maker and keeper of my days

You know my resting and my rising  
You discern my purpose from afar  
And with love everlasting you besiege me  
In every moment of life and death, you are

Before a word is on my tongue, Lord  
You have known it's meaning through and through  
You are with me beyond my understanding  
God of my present, past and future, too

Although your spirit is upon me  
Still I search for shelter from your light  
There is nowhere on earth I can escape you  
Even the darkness is radiant in your sight

For you created me and shaped me  
Gave me life within my mother's womb  
For the wonder of who I am I praise you  
Safe in your hands, all creation is made new

For the wonder of who I am I praise you  
Safe in your hands, all creation is made new  
(Bernadette Farrell)

## **A reading from the gospel according to John beginning at chapter 14 verse 15**

Jesus said, 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.'

'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.'

On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

**Loving God,  
in Jesus you offer life to the world  
and love to its people.  
When we see life only for ourselves,  
forgive us.  
Help us to hear your transforming love  
speaking to us of respect, dignity and worth,  
telling us that we are loved  
and that we are to love one another.  
In the knowledge of this love  
work through us to bring your justice to the world,  
in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (Christian Aid)**

St Paul writes to the Christians in Rome and so for us too, "Where sin flourishes the redeeming grace of God flourishes all the more." We are a forgiven and reclaimed people.

God in community, holy in one, in you we live and move and have our being. We pray as we have been taught

**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**

**All the room was hushed and still**  
And when the bowl was filled  
He stooped to wash their feet  
And when it was complete, he said  
This is what I'm asking you to do  
This is why I'm kneeling here beside you  
This is what I want my church to be  
This is what I want the world to see  
Who it is you follow

*Love each other, one another  
Love each other in the way that I have loved you  
Walk together, and whatever comes  
Love each other in the way that I have loved you*

Let the room be hushed and still  
Let us go to where he kneels  
And join him as he serves  
And learn his ways of love  
He said, this is what I'm asking you to do  
This is why I'm kneeling here beside you  
This is what I want my church to be  
This is what I want the world to see  
Who it is you follow  
(Graham Kendrick)

**Almighty God, we love one another because you first loved us.  
Send us out to act in loving service,  
strengthened by the knowledge that the one who calls us is faithful.  
We give thanks for the vital work of Christian Aid  
and for all those who pour themselves out for the cause of justice.**

**May our actions and offerings plant seeds of change that grow and flourish.  
Guide us as we seek a world where every person can live a full life, free from poverty.  
Amen.**

**Nothing less than love has saved us**

Not our wisdom, art or skill  
Christ, amidst our mess and madness  
Died and rose and, living still  
Sends us, treasured, fed and cherished  
Empty hearts to find and fill

Nothing less than faith sustains us  
Living water, pilgrims 'bread  
Christ, the friend who never leaves us  
Walks the unknown path we tread  
Sends us, brave or trembling, onward  
To the work that lies ahead

Nothing less than justice calls us  
Not what we may stand to gain  
Christ, beside the poor and voiceless  
Pleads for peace, denounces pain  
Sends us out to make a difference  
Growing heaven's earthly reign

Nothing less than Holy Spirit  
Gives our mission energy  
Christ, among the slow and fearful  
Breathes the truth that sets us free  
Sends us out to bless, forgive and  
Be the change we long to see

Nothing less than all we are and  
All we have and dream and do  
You transform by grace, and make us  
Holy, humble, hopeful, true  
Threefold God of power and beauty  
Start, with us, your world made new  
(words:Elizabeth J Smith)

Go now into the world.  
Search for the God who is not far from each one of us.  
Offer to all who ask an account of the hope that is in you.  
Keep your conscience clear  
as you live the commandments in love.

And may God greet your prayers with constant love;  
may Christ Jesus give you life through his own life;  
and may the Spirit of truth abide with you and within you, always.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,  
**in the name of Christ. Amen.**  
(Nathan Nettleton)

**The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want**

In green pastures He makes me lie down  
He restores my soul and leads me on  
For His Name, for His great Name

*Surely goodness, surely mercy  
Right beside me all my days  
And I will dwell in Your house forever  
And bless Your Holy Name*

You prepare a table right before me  
In the presence of my enemies  
Though the arrow flies and the terror of night  
Is at my door, I'll trust you Lord

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death  
I will fear no evil  
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death  
You are on my side  
(Shane & Shane)

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