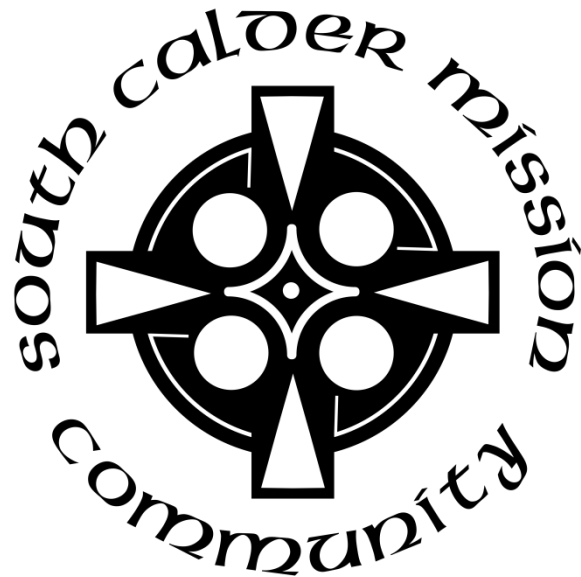


*into his courts
with praise...*



A Service of the Word
for
Sunday 5 July 2026
Fifth Sunday after Trinity.

A Service of the Word for Sunday morning

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INTRODUCTION

*“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy
burdens, and I will give you rest.”*

Matthew 11:28.



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

Almighty God, send down upon your Church
the riches of your Spirit, and kindle in all who minister the gospel
your countless gifts of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

*Suggested hymn to sing or read **Be thou my vision.***

THE WORD OF GOD.

Jeremiah 9:9-end.

Shall I not punish them for these things? says the Lord;
and shall I not bring retribution
on a nation such as this?

Take up weeping and wailing for the mountains,
and a lamentation for the pastures of the wilderness,
because they are laid waste so that no one passes through,
and the lowing of cattle is not heard;
both the birds of the air and the animals
have fled and are gone.

I will make Jerusalem a heap of ruins,
a lair of jackals;
and I will make the towns of Judah a desolation
without inhabitant.

Who is wise enough to understand this? To whom has the mouth of the Lord spoken, so that they may declare it? Why is the land ruined and laid waste like a wilderness, so that no one passes through? And the Lord says: Because they have forsaken my law that I set before them, and have not obeyed my voice, or walked in accordance with it, but have stubbornly followed their own hearts and have gone after the Baals, as their ancestors taught them. Therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: I am feeding this people with wormwood, and giving them poisonous water to drink. I will scatter them among nations that neither they nor their ancestors have known; and I will send the sword after them, until I have consumed them.

Thus says the Lord of hosts:
Consider, and call for the mourning-women to come;
send for the skilled women to come;
let them quickly raise a dirge over us,
so that our eyes may run down with tears,
and our eyelids flow with water.
For a sound of wailing is heard from Zion:
'How we are ruined!
We are utterly shamed,
because we have left the land,
because they have cast down our dwellings.'

Hear, O women, the word of the Lord,
and let your ears receive the word of his mouth;
teach to your daughters a dirge,
and each to her neighbour a lament.
'Death has come up into our windows,
it has entered our palaces,
to cut off the children from the streets
and the young men from the squares.'
Speak! Thus says the Lord:
'Human corpses shall fall
like dung upon the open field,
like sheaves behind the reaper,
and no one shall gather them.'

Thus says the Lord: Do not let the wise boast in their wisdom, do not let the mighty boast in their might, do not let the wealthy boast in their wealth; but let those who boast boast in this, that they understand and know me,

that I am the Lord; I act with steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth, for in these things I delight, says the Lord.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will attend to all those who are circumcised only in the foreskin: Egypt, Judah, Edom, the Ammonites, Moab, and all those with shaven temples who live in the desert. For all these nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel is uncircumcised in heart.

Psalm 145 :8-15.

The Lord is gracious and merciful, ♦
long-suffering and of great goodness.
The Lord is loving to everyone ♦
and his mercy is over all his creatures.
All your works praise you, O Lord, ♦
and your faithful servants bless you.
They tell of the glory of your kingdom ♦
and speak of your mighty power,
To make known to all peoples your mighty acts ♦
and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; ♦
your dominion endures throughout all ages.
The Lord is sure in all his words ♦
and faithful in all his deeds.
The Lord upholds all those who fall ♦
and lifts up all those who are bowed down.

Romans 7:15-25a.

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?
Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.

*Suggested hymn to sing or read **Just as I am, without one plea.***

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30.

‘To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another,
“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.”

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, “He has a demon”; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, “Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!” Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.’

At that time Jesus said, ‘I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’

REFLECTION – Sharing Jesus' yoke.

'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

Words of comfort and encouragement, one of the most beautiful passages in the New Testament. A reassurance that things might turn out to be all right in the end. I'm sure we have all taken comfort from those words at some time or other.

I think the passage accepts that we are not, never will be and were never intended to be "perfect". It is not in our nature as mere mortals. All we can do is to try our best and accept that we are flawed. Then we can begin to come to Jesus in humility and open ourselves up to him. We can offer him the burden of our messy, difficult lives and ask for the rest that only he can give us.

Let's step back a bit and look at the context of Jesus' teaching. The beginning of this chapter tells of an encounter between Jesus and the disciples of John the Baptist.

"Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"

John's disciples ask in chapter 11:3, and they have been sent with this question by none other than John himself. We might wonder if he, languishing in prison, might not have some doubts about who Jesus really is. Yes, John recognised Jesus as the Messiah at his baptism, but the great events that John announced have not yet happened. There has been no revolution, the corrupt are still in power, and John is banged up in prison. Little wonder that he sent his friends just to check that he had got it right.

So having added some context to the passage let's look at what Jesus tells his listeners.

*'But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another,
"We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn."*

Is this Jesus saying, "the youth of today....."? No, as usual he has a point to make and he makes it in a graphic way which must surely have taken up residence in the minds of all those who heard it.

The problem is that people don't listen to Jesus and nor did they listen to John the Baptist.

Looking at John's lifestyle, austere and strict, they accused him of being possessed by a demon. On the other hand Jesus was accessible to everyone he ate and drank with sinners and didn't act like a holy man.

The present generation seemed to take offense at both John and Jesus. Therefore they ignored the message of both of them. They are like children in the marketplace who cannot decide if they want to play at weddings or funerals and so they end up playing neither.

When Jesus goes on to say;

'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants.'

He is referring to the religious leaders who consistently refuse to listen to his message. They are the "wise and intelligent" who Jesus often rebukes as self-important and hypocritical. The scribes and Pharisees pride themselves on being learned in the law yet they have no understanding of the basics of justice, mercy, and faith.

Not only do they reject Jesus and conspire against him, but they are working with the authorities to oppress the people. This goes against everything that God wants for the people of his kingdom.

The “infants” are not regarded as wise or important. They are the poor in spirit, the meek, the merciful, the persecuted. Those people that Jesus calls blessed who come to Jesus for healing of body and spirit. These “infants” see what the “wise” cannot — that Jesus is sent by the Father.

This brings us back to Jesus’ invitation;

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest.

Who are these suffering, weary and burdened people?

They are the ordinary people, not the leaders. One of the themes throughout Matthew’s Gospel is that the religious leaders are portrayed as complicit with the Roman rulers in maintaining the imperial system.

Looking at Paul’s writing in Romans dealing with the inherent sinfulness of the human condition we could imagine that he may have taken some comfort from the invitation to come to Jesus for relief. Jesus is not inviting us to a life of ease. If we choose to follow him the only thing guaranteed is that life will be full of risks and challenges.

He calls us to a life of humble service, but it is not slavery. Rather it is a life of freedom and joy. We will live a life yoked to Jesus under God’s gracious and merciful reign, free from the burden of sin, free to rest deeply and securely in God’s grace.

Brian Pateman.

Suggested hymn to sing or read I heard the voice of Jesus say.

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.**



THE PRAYERS

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*

**Lord Jesus, you are the Prince of Peace.
Look upon our divided world
to be with those who are victims of violence.
We pray for all people in war torn places and all who have been
subjected to the cruelty of others.
Help us to know the gift of your peace
in the power of your Spirit and
we ask you to soften the hearts
of those who can stop the fighting.
Creator God, we ask for your aid as your children of light
living in the darkness of our world.
Amen.**

Cumbria Ecumenical Spirituality Group.

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 **Forth in thy name O Lord I go.***

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

Be thou my vision.

<https://youtu.be/DORM8ttY1ws>

Just as I am, without one plea.

https://youtu.be/enJ8JzW_A48

I heard the voice of Jesus say.

<https://youtu.be/yYqgBMrmeZA>

Forth in thy name O Lord I go.

<https://youtu.be/AUVAbXgJyqQ>