

United Parish@Home

Sunday Services



August 2025

**The United Parish of Chinnor, Sydenham,
Aston Rowant and Crowell**

The ministry team offer you these services, particularly if you find you are unable to attend church.

Our prayer is that these services will help you still feel connected to, and loved by, your church family.

Sunday August 3rd page 3

Sunday August 10th page 9

Sunday August 17th page 13

Sunday August 24th page 21

Sunday August 31st page 26

Sunday August 3rd 2025
7th Sunday after Trinity

Opening prayer

Just as we are, together or apart, we have come to worship you, Lord God, to hear or read your word and sing your praises, to acknowledge our need and share your love. Amen

Psalm 107 vs 1-9

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
his love endures for ever.

Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story-
those he redeemed from the hand of the foe,
those he gathered from the lands,
from east and west, from north and south.

Some wandered in desert wastelands,
finding no way to a city where they could settle.
they were hungry and thirsty,
And their lives ebbed away.

Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.

He led them by a straight way
to a city where they could settle.

Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love
And his wonderful deeds for mankind,
for he satisfies the thirsty
and fills the hungry with good things.

Prayer of confession

Father God, we have not loved you with our whole heart, we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and humbly repent for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us; that we might delight in your will and walk your ways to the glory of your name. Amen

Collect

Lord of all power and might,
who art the author and giver of all good things:
graft in our hearts the love of thy name,
increase in us true religion,
nourish us with all goodness,
and of thy great mercy keep us in the same;
through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord,
who liveth and reigneth with thee,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit
one God now and forever. Amen

Bible Reading

Luke 12 vs 13-21 The Parable of the Rich Fool

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me judge or an arbiter between you?"

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist of an abundance of possessions."

And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'"

"Then he said, 'This is what I will do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat drink and be merry."'

"But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?"

“This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

Reflection *(by Margaret)*

Our culture runs on consumerism, and one of the side effects of that is an encouragement of greed and increase in the daily temptation through the media to us, that security, happiness and peace of mind come from possessions and self-indulgence. It is a myth which has enough truth in it to be dangerous. It's undoubtedly true that we all need to have enough to live on, but living within our means is what will promote happiness where finances are concerned, and spending beyond that can only bring misery! Many today spend beyond their means, using money that they don't have.

It is a short step from being told that we haven't got something to believing that we need, rather than want it, especially when we see others who have it.

The 'if only,' sets in, and then discontentment and resentment. Equally, when we think we have it all, we kid ourselves that we have no need of God, so we shut ourselves down from any spiritual nourishment and grow increasingly oblivious to the needs of others.

Today's readings point out the foolishness of living in this way, and that our souls need the security that comes from living with a firm focus on God through to eternity.

Now that Christ has given us a new life, our assurance is kept with Christ in heaven. Our lives are changed, and our time on earth recognised as only the first part of our full and lasting life. When we really grasp the implications of what Jesus has done for us, it is bound to change our outlook on what is important to possess and what is only of minimal value.

It is not so much a question of giving away our possessions as changing our attitude to them and recognising them for what they are – pleasant comforts to thank God for, but lent to us to use, as good stewards, and in no way altering our real wealth and security.

Prayer

Lord our God, your abundance, your love, your provision, your blessing amazes us day by day. With such knowledge we bring our prayers for others in need this day.

We pray for those in need of food on the table. No one should go hungry in the world, yet they do. Help us to do all we can to help feed the hungry.

For those who are hungry of love, hungry for care, hungry for compassion, hungry for purpose, may they find what they need and what they seek from the abundance of your richness to the world.

For the fearful and the frightened, the bewildered and the bemused as the pace of life overtakes them. And especially those who find themselves in debt. May they seek the help of the many debt agencies that are there to help and support them.

For those known to us who need our prayers today... in silence we bring their names and offer them to God

For ourselves that we may live fruitful, helpful lives, treating others with respect, dignity, fairness and worth, That, we love as we are loved and as Jesus commanded. Amen

A time for personal 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 today 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

Now thank we all our God

Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things have done,
in whom his word rejoices;
who from our mother's arm
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven,
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

Final Prayer and Blessing

Loving God, you have given us eyes to see the beauty and bounty of the earth, and minds to understand the importance of sharing.

As we reflect on your words for us today, make us quick to see where there is injustice or suffering, and generous to do what we can to alleviate either. Amen

Rejoicing that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are with us wherever we are. Amen

Sunday August 10th
8th Sunday after Trinity

“Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High. Call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.” (Psalm 50 v 14-15)

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you. Amen.

Reading – Isaiah 1 v 10-18

The concept of God which dominates Isaiah’s prophecies is God’s holiness. In these verses Isaiah joins with other eighth century prophets in a condemnation of their religious hypocrisy. In his eyes God demands real goodness which is expressed in social justice rather than outward religious show.

“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 – calling of convocation - I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity. Your new moons and 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 be red like crimson, they shall become like wool."

A Prayer of Confession

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned, in thought, word and deed,
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy,
forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with our God. Amen.

The Gospel – St. Luke 12 v 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 them, who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet. 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.

A Reflection – (by Joan)

In telling them to “fear not” some scholars suggest Jesus is preparing his disciples for the shock of his approaching death. Other scholars say these words were spoken to re-assure those early disciples who were discouraged after his death by the delay of the parousia.

In contrast to thieves who come to rob and moths which consume, God knows our needs and loves us generously. In response to God’s generosity, we are challenged to live generously in response. Secondly, we are urged to be ready for anything because the future is unpredictable. In the parable illustrating this need, not only does the master return at an unknown time but on his return he invites the slaves to sit down and he waits on them himself!

The Journey by Pat Bennet

(Words for us to ponder as we live with uncertainty).

Lord Christ.

I know not where this journey will lead.

But you do not leave me unguided; uncomforted; or unchallenged.

Thank you for those whose lives, by word, deed and example, have become a signpost for me.

Thank you for those who in love and compassion have met me in my brokenness and brought healing.

Thank you for those whose words and questions have stretched me and sent me out to search for you.

Thank you for those who, in the sharing of their lives, have become my companions of the way.

We do not know where this journey will lead, but it is enough that you are at its beginning and at its end and that you travel with us.

A Prayer of Response

God of our journeying, inviting us to travel with you, forgive us when we cling to outward security, afraid to let go of what is safe and familiar.

Give us courage – to take the risk
of answering your call into your adventure,

A Hymn (to sing or say as prayer)

O God of Bethel, by whose hand
thy people still are fed,
who through this earthly pilgrimage
has all our forbears led.

Our vows, our prayers, we now present
before thy throne of grace:
God of our forbears, be the God
of their succeeding race.

Through each mysterious path of life
be thou our constant guide;
give us each day our daily bread,
and raiment fit provide.

O spread thy covering wings around,
till all our journeys cease,
and at our Father's loved abode
our souls arrive in peace.

A Final Prayer

God of all ages, we praise you for all who have gone before
and shown us the way of faith.

In faith, we trust you now, for tomorrow and for all that is to come, and
the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us now
and always. Amen.

Sunday August 17th 2025

Trinity 9

Introduction

We come this Sunday during what is known in the Church's year, as Ordinary Time, with no great Christian Festivals or celebrations to distract us from our troubling world. However, it is often in the 'ordinary' that God reveals himself in surprising ways. Let us be prepared for something special and encouraging today.

Opening Prayer

O Lord, open our lips, and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

In your resurrection, O Christ, let heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia.

We have come 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. Amen

A Psalm set for this Sunday Psalm 119 vs 17-24

17 O do good to your servant that I may live,
and so shall I keep your word.

18 Open my eyes, that I may see
the wonders of your law.

19 I am a stranger upon earth;
hide not your commandments from me.

20 My soul is consumed at all times
with fervent longing for your judgements.

21 You have rebuked the arrogant;
cursed are those who stray from your commandments.

22 Turn from me shame and rebuke,
for I have kept your testimonies.
23 Rulers also sit and speak against me,
but your servant meditates on your statutes.
24 For your testimonies are my delight;
they are my faithful counsellors.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Confession

Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Absolution

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse us from our sins,
and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gospel reading: Luke 12 vs 49-56

‘Not Peace but Division’

49 ‘I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on, five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.’

‘Interpreting the Times’

54 He also said to the crowds, ‘When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, “It is going to rain”; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, “There will be scorching heat”; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection (By Tony)

Our Gospel reading today is disturbing and unsettling. This feels like a fiery prophet of doom, hectoring and admonishing his listeners. What are we to make of it?

Firstly, Jesus is compelled by love but doesn’t hold back from telling the truth as he knows and understands it.

Troubling times are ahead as the historical events that took place around Jerusalem in 70AD bear witness to.

He knows that those who follow him through his 'Baptism' that he describes, and are baptised by God's Holy Spirit may well face the same opposition and battles – they too may find family members against them, as Jesus certainly did at one point in his ministry, described in Mark 3:
²¹ When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind."

Jesus wants them to understand the cost of following him, and to be prepared. They need to be ready to interpret the 'present' times.

Secondly, this passage reminds us we need to read scripture in context and hold it against the bigger picture the Gospels, and the whole Bible presents us with.

Ultimately Jesus wants all of humanity to be one with him and the Father: John 17:20 *"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me."*

Ultimately, in the words of Julian of Norwich, *"but all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well."*

In the meantime Jesus' promise is true: *I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever — the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you."* John 14:16

So today in our troubled world, the challenge is to 'Read the Signs of the Time' in the light of the whole of scripture, to keep awake and alert, and trust in Christ who promises we are not alone, and that ultimately all will be well.

Collect

Almighty God,
who sent your Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of your Church:
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love and joy and peace;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Intercessions

Lord, You are the deepest wisdom, The deepest truth, The deepest love,
You are within us, Lead us in your way.

We pray that as individuals we will invite you into our lives each day. Help us to reflect you in the things we think, say and do. Please forgive us when we fail and help us not to become discouraged. Let us not only see others with your eyes but also to see ourselves as you see us and to appreciate that we are unique to you.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

It is disturbing when we look at the difficult problems the world is facing. Wars, persecution, poverty and global warming among them. It is not always easy to know how to support or help. Give us the ability to listen to your prompting and show us how to pray. Please give comfort and hope to all who suffer.

We lift up government leaders around the world and ask that you restrain those whose actions cause harm and grief to others. We pray for a way forward that enables leaders to work together constructively.

We pray for people in government or in positions of authority and influence in this country. Please give them guidance and wisdom and lead them in the decisions they make. Help them to act responsibly and with integrity.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We think of those we know personally who may be finding life a struggle at this time, through physical or mental illness, grief, relationship problems or financial difficulties. We pray that they will experience you being beside them, easing their burdens and giving them hope. We can take a moment to pray for people on our hearts.....

We also think of those facing death, and those who grieve and mourn the death of a loved one. Draw alongside them at this time with the comfort and compassion only the Saviour of the World can bring.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal God and Father, help us to entrust the past to your mercy, the present to your love and the future to your wisdom, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who is the same yesterday and today and forever. Amen

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen**

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.*

Hymn: Lord, thy word abideth

- 1 Lord, thy word abideth,
and our footsteps guideth;
who its truth believeth
light and joy receiveth.
- 2 When our foes are near us,
then thy word doth cheer us,
word of consolation,
message of salvation.
- 3 When the storms are o'er us,
and dark clouds before us,
then its light directeth,
and our way protecteth.
- 4 Who can tell the pleasure,
who recount the treasure,
by thy word imparted
to the simple-hearted?

5 Word of mercy, giving
succour to the living;
word of life, supplying
comfort to the dying.

6 O that we discerning
its most holy learning,
Lord, may love and fear thee,
evermore be near thee.

Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877)

Blessing

In darkness and in light, in trouble and in joy,
help us, heavenly Father, to trust your love,
to serve your purpose, and to praise your name;
And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Sunday 24th August 2025
10th Sunday after Trinity

Opening Prayers

O Lord, open our lips and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever. Amen.

Gospel Reading Luke 13:10-17

Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. ¹¹ And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, 'Woman, you are set free from your ailment.' ¹³ When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. ¹⁴ But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, 'There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day.' ¹⁵ But the Lord answered him and said, 'You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? ¹⁶ And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?' ¹⁷ When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

Reflection (by Jacky)

It's easy to imagine the disciples, in this moment, fidgeting awkwardly in the synagogue. Jesus has just healed a woman who has been bent double for eighteen years. A miracle. A liberation. But instead of rejoicing, the synagogue leader grumbles about timing. "Six days to heal," he says—*not the Sabbath*.

You can almost see the disciples' eyes darting around. Do we clap? Do we stay quiet? Is Jesus about to get in trouble again?

The gospels don't always tell us what the disciples say in moments like this—but we see them enough elsewhere to know: they are often confused, cautious, caught between awe and anxiety. They're trying to follow Jesus, but it's not neat or tidy.

And that's reassuring.

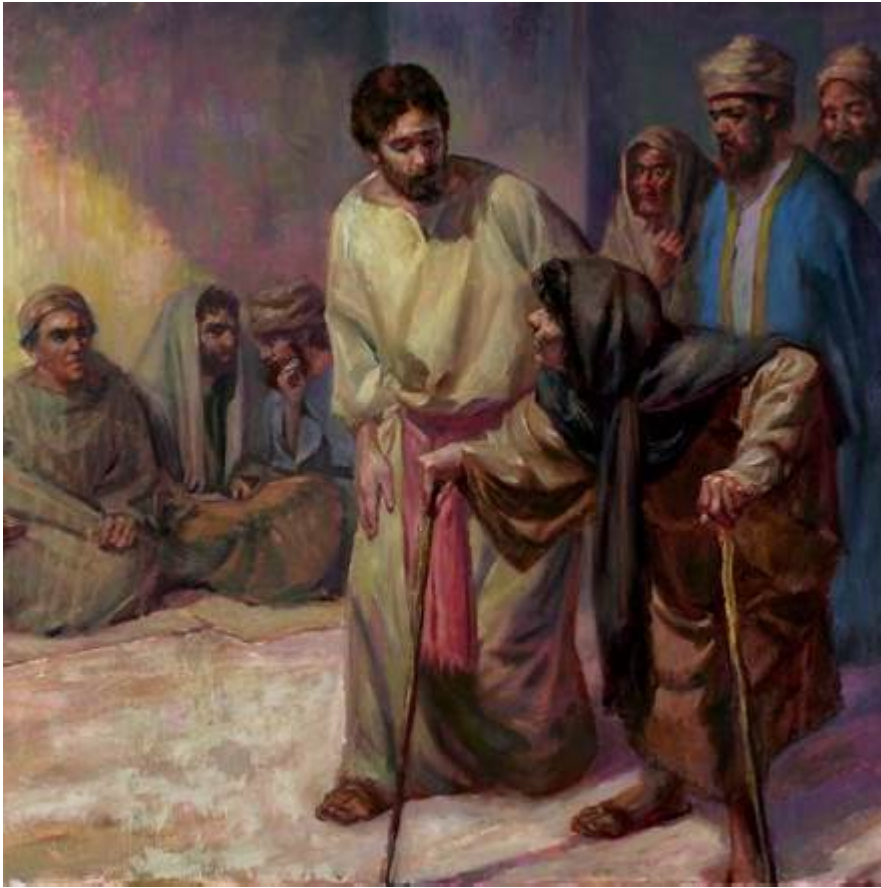
Because we too live in the tension. We want to do what's right, honour tradition, not upset the apple cart. But Jesus? He goes straight to the heart. He sees the woman. He calls her forward. And he says: *You are set free*.

The disciples may not have known what to do—but God did.

In the end, the kingdom isn't built on perfect understanding. It's built on love. It's not about having all the answers—it's about trusting the One who heals, even when it's inconvenient.

And the disciples? Wobbly as they are—they keep following.

So can we.



The Benedictus (*The Song of Zechariah*)

1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,
who has come to his people and set them free.

2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of his servant David.

3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,

4 To show mercy to our ancestors,
and to remember his holy covenant.

5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

6 Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.

7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
8 To give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
9 In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.68-79

Prayers

Take some time to offer to God your own prayers.

The Collect for the 10th Sunday after Trinity

Let your merciful ears, O Lord,
be open to the prayers of your humble servants;
and that they may obtain their petitions
make them to ask such things as shall please you;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Awaiting his coming in glory, let us pray with confidence as our
Saviour has taught us:

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

May the Lord, when he comes, find us watching and waiting.

Let us bless the Lord, thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn

Lord, the light of your love is shining

In the midst of the darkness, shining

Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us

Set us free by the truth you now bring us

Shine on me, shine on me

Shine, Jesus, shine

Fill this land with the Father's glory

Blaze, Spirit, blaze

Set our hearts on fire

Flow, river, flow

Flood the nations with grace and mercy

Send forth your word

Lord, and let there be light

Lord, I come to your awesome presence

From the shadows into your radiance

By the blood I may enter your brightness

Search me, try me, consume all my darkness

Shine on me, shine on me

As we gaze on your kingly brightness

So our faces display your likeness

Ever changing from glory to glory

Mirrored here may our lives tell your story

Shine on me, shine on me.

Sunday 31st August 2025

Trinity 11

BCP Morning Prayer

Opening Prayers

O Lord, open thou our lips *and* our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us. O Lord, make haste to help us.

Praise ye the Lord. The Lord's name be praised. Amen

Venite (*a prayer that calls us to worship, based on Psalm 95*)

O come, let us sing unto the Lord :

let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving :

and shew ourselves glad in him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God : and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are all the corners of the earth : and the strength of the hills is his also.

The sea is his, and he made it : and his hands prepared the dry land.

O come, let us worship, and fall down : and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is the Lord our God : and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end.

Amen.

Psalm 112

Praise the Lord!

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord,

Who delights greatly in His commandments.

²His descendants will be mighty on earth;

The generation of the upright will be blessed.

³Wealth and riches will be in his house,

And his righteousness endures forever.

⁴Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness;
He is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.

⁵A good man deals graciously and lends;
He will guide his affairs with discretion.

⁶Surely he will never be shaken;
The righteous will be in everlasting remembrance.

⁷He will not be afraid of evil tidings;
His heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

⁸His heart is established;
He will not be afraid,
Until he sees his desire upon his enemies.

⁹He has dispersed abroad,
He has given to the poor;
His righteousness endures forever;
His horn will be exalted with honor.

¹⁰The wicked will see it and be grieved;
He will gnash his teeth and melt away;
The desire of the wicked shall perish.

At the end of the psalm these words are used

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

Gospel Reading Luke 14 vs 1, 7-14

Now it happened, as He went into the house of one of the rulers of the Pharisees to eat bread on the Sabbath, that they watched Him closely.

⁷So He told a parable to those who were invited, when He noted how they chose the best places, saying to them: ⁸“When you are invited by anyone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in the best place, lest one more honourable than you be invited by him; ⁹and he who invited you and him come and say to you, ‘Give place to this man,’ and then you begin with shame to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes

he may say to you, 'Friend, go up higher.' Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

¹² Then He also said to him who invited Him, "When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbours, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a feast, invite *the* poor, *the* maimed, *the* lame, *the* blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

Reflection (*by Jacky*)

In the part of the scripture we haven't read today, Jesus heals a man on the Sabbath and then tells a story about who gets invited to dinner. Here we see the quiet and radical revolution of Christianity, of following Jesus taking place in two distinct acts.

The first revolutionary act is he heals a suffering man on the **wrong** day. The second revolution comes in the story he tells the dinner guests: stop jostling for honour. Invite the poor, the outcast, the ones who can't pay you back. It's not polite. It's not strategic. But it *is* the kingdom of God.

And still today, we come up with reasons to do nothing. We have many reasons to not help the poor (those on benefits), the outcasts (the refugees crossing the Channel), the ones who can't pay us back (those starving in Gaza).

We say:

It's complicated

They are swindling us

We must protect our borders

It's not the right time

We don't know the whole story

We must leave it to someone else to deal with

These are the equivalent of the Sabbath excuses of the Pharisees of Jesus' time. These excuses are designed to keep things tidy while other people live in poverty, drown or starve.

But Jesus breaks that logic. He says: *Just do the good. Help them. Make room.* If you're looking for Jesus today, he's probably on the streets of our cities handing out food to the homeless; he is probably in a life boat rescuing those crossing the Channel; or he is probably part of an Aid Agency trying to get into Gaza.

And he's always asking us: Will you make space at your table?

How can we make space at our tables? Here are some thoughts.

Firstly, we can pray and lift these crisis' up to God.

We can make sure we are fully informed on these issues – don't just read or listen to one opinion, find out more.

Donate money, clothes or food to any of these causes – if its right for you to so. Research thoroughly and join a campaign, truly add your voice to asking for help for others.

Do as the children of Aston Rowant school, write to your MP. They wrote sharing how concerned they are at the lack of education for children in the Gaza.

So, follow Jesus.

Be radical. Be revolutionary.

Break the excuses.

Make space at your table.

Do what is compassionate, kind, and just for your neighbour

Not because it's easy, or popular, or safe, but because it's what love looks like in public.

And love, real love, will always stretch the table wider.

Amen

Prayers (*in the tradition of the Book of Common Prayer*)

The Lord be with you. And with thy spirit.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which 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 them that 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

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us. And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the King And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness. And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people. And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us. And take not thy Holy Spirit from us. **Amen**

The Collect of the Day

O God, who declarest thy almighty power most chiefly in shewing mercy and pity: Mercifully grant unto us such a measure of thy grace, that we, running the way of thy commandments, may obtain thy gracious promises, and be made partakers of thy heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Collect for Peace

O God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord,
in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect
freedom; defend us thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies;
that we, surely trusting in thy defence, may not fear the power of any
adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect for Grace

O Lord, our heavenly Father, Almighty and everlasting God, who hast
safely brought us to the beginning of this day; Defend us in the same with
thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run
into any kind of danger; but that all our doings may be ordered by thy
governance, to do always that is righteous in thy sight; through Jesus
Christ our Lord.

Amen

A prayer for the King and Parliament

Almighty God, fountain of all Goodness, we humbly beseech thee to bless
our sovereign lord thy servant Charles III, this parliament and all who set
authority under her; that they may order all things in wisdom,
righteousness and peace to the honour of thy holy name and the good of
thy Church and people.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

A prayer for the Royal Family

Almighty God, fountain of all Goodness, we humbly beseech thee to bless
our sovereign King Charles, and all the Royal Family; Endue them with
the Holy Spirit; enrich them with thy heavenly grace; prosper them with
all happiness; and bring them to thine everlasting kingdom; Through
Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen.

A Prayer for the clergy and people

Almighty and everlasting God, who alone workest great marvels: send down upon our Bishops, Priests and Deacons, and all Congregations committed to their charge, the healthful Spirit of thy grace; and that they may truly please thee, pour upon them the continual dew of thy blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honour of our advocate and mediator, Jesus Christ
Amen.

A prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications into thee; and dost promise, that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come to life everlasting. **Amen**

Final prayer

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Hymn

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.

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

3. I will hold the Christlight for you
in the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.