



Trinity Church, Deal

Worshipping together

A service for Sunday 11 July to use at home

We thank Father Stephen Young for providing this service

Opening prayer:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessed are those who will come from east and west, from north and south, to feast in the kingdom of God.

A hymn to read, sing, or listen to:

Let All the World in every corner sing (StF 57)

Verse 1

Let all the world in every corner sing:

My God and King!

The heavens are not too high,

His praise may thither fly;

The earth is not too low,

His praises there may grow.

Let all the world in every corner sing:

My God and King!

Verse 2

Let all the world in every corner sing:

My God and King!

The Church with psalms must shout,

No door can keep them out;

But above all, the heart

Must bear the longest part.

Let all the world in every corner sing:

My God and King!

George Herbert (1593–1633)

Invitation to Confession:

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: ‘The first commandment is, “Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.” The second is this, “You shall love your neighbour as yourself”. There is no other commandment greater than these.’

‘I give you a new commandment, that, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.’

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Confession and Assurance of God’s Forgiveness:

Let us confess our sins to God, trusting in his mercy and forgiveness.

Holy and forgiving God, we have sinned against you and each other in thought and word and deed.

We have turned from your life-giving word, and ignored the message of those you sent.

We are unprepared for the coming of your Son. Have mercy upon us and forgive us, that strengthened by your love we may serve you more faithfully; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Silence

'I am making all things new,' says the Lord. This is Christ's gracious word: 'Your sins are forgiven.'

Amen. Thanks be to God.

A hymn to read, sing, or listen to:

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry (StF 182)

Verse 1

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings!

Verse 2

Then cleansed be every life from sin,
Make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.

Verse 3

For you are our salvation, Lord,
Our refuge, and our great reward;
Without thy grace we waste away
Like flowers that wither and decay.

Verse 4

To heal the sick stretch out your hand,
And bid the fallen sinner stand;
Shine forth, and let your light restore
Earth's own true loveliness once more.

Verse 5

To God the Son all glory be
Whose advent sets his people free,
Whom, with the Father, we adore,
And Holy Spirit, evermore.

John Chandler (1806–76)

New Testament reading:

Ephesians 1:3–14

- 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.
- 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love
- 5 he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will –
- 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.
- 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace
- 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding,
- 9 he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,
- 10 to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment – to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.
- 11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,
- 12 in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.
- 13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,
- 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession – to the praise of his glory.

Gospel reading:

Mark 6:14–29

- 14 King Herod heard about this, for Jesus' name had become well known. Some were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him."
15 Others said, "He is Elijah." And still others claimed, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago."
16 But when Herod heard this, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised from the dead!"
17 For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married.
18 For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."
19 So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to,
20 because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him.
21 Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee.
22 When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests. The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want, and I'll give it to you."
23 And he promised her with an oath, "Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom."
24 She went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?" "The head of John the Baptist," she answered.
25 At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: "I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter."
26 The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her.
27 So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison,
28 and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother.
29 On hearing of this, John's disciples came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

A hymn to read, sing, or listen to:

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (StF 287)

Verse 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.

Verse 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.

Verse 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?

Verse 4

His dying crimson, like a robe,
Spreads o'er His body on the tree;
Then am I dead to all the globe,
And all the globe is dead to me.

Verse 5

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.

Isaac Watts (1674–1748)

A Comment on the Gospel reading:

Long ago when I was a student and worked as a postman during the Christmas holidays, I was delivering letters to a pub and as I walked in someone in the bar shouted “Look, it’s John the Baptist”, or words to that effect!

Those were the days of long hair and beards, so on reflection it wasn’t surprising that I fitted the popular image of the famous biblical figure. Although I’m sure his message had far more of an impact than the letters I was delivering.

Today’s reading from the Gospel is the infamous account of Herodias’ daughter dancing and then demanding the head of John on a dish. To save face Herod has the prophet beheaded in prison.

The dance has been portrayed in many different ways, art, opera, film, and music.

Understandably it has fired popular imagination, not least because it is such a shocking story. Yet its true significance is about the nature of John’s mission in relation to Jesus.

John had already fallen foul of Herod and his illegal wife Herodias for drawing attention to the immorality of their union. His imprisonment and death was a direct result of his inability to keep quiet about this injustice.

After John’s martyrdom superstitious Herod feared that he had come back in the form of Jesus.

John was like so many prophetic figures in the Bible and in history. They begin by being popular but sooner or later come up against vested interest and opposition from established authorities. If they can’t keep their mouths shut then they may, like John, find themselves simply liquidated.

Yet John’s voice was not silenced, because his message is taken up and amplified by Jesus. Hence Herod’s fear.

Tragically John got himself mixed up with the power structures of his day. He just could not keep quiet about the things that he felt God was calling him to protest about.

This poses an awkward question for Christians in every age and particularly in our own. How far are we to accept or affirm the ‘status quo’ of our age and our society?

Traditionally the Christian Church has tended to ally itself with the powerful authorities that control our lives, and as a result it has often found itself compromised by suppressing the radical and disquieting side of Jesus’ message.

Yet the Bible teaches us that God puts the established authorities in charge for the good and stability of our society. Clearly there must be some truth in this view as a world without political structures at all would be a very terrifying place to live in.

So there needs to be a balance between authority and freedom to question those authorities.

The Church in today’s world has the demanding task of being a John the Baptist.

Not the flowing locks of hair or unkept beard, but the insight and nerve to discern what God is saying about justice, morality and ethics.

Not easy, especially when it’s not the political authorities alone who God calls us to challenge, but maybe also the popular culture of our times.

Jesus took John’s protest to another level, his self sacrifice on the cross gives the possibility of redemption to all human power and societies, and that is the message we Christians have to insist on offering to our world.

But beware, if we do rise to that challenge then we would do well to watch out for dancers and dishes.

Stephen

A hymn to read, sing, or listen to:

From Heaven You came (StF 272)

Verse 1

From Heaven you came, helpless babe,
Entered our world, your glory veiled,
Not to be served but to serve,
And give Your life that we might live.

Chorus

This is our God, The Servant King,
He calls us now to follow Him,
To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to the Servant King.

Verse 2

There in the garden of tears
My heavy load He chose to bear;
His heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not My will but yours,' He said.

Chorus

This is our God, The Servant King,
He calls us now to follow Him,
To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to the Servant King.

Verse 3

Come see His hands and His feet,
The scars that speak of sacrifice,
Hands that flung stars into space
To cruel nails surrendered.

Chorus

This is our God, The Servant King,
He calls us now to follow Him,
To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to the Servant King.

Verse 4

So let us learn how to serve
And in our lives enthrone Him,
Each other's needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving.

Chorus

This is our God, The Servant King,
He calls us now to follow Him,
To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to the Servant King.

Graham Kendrick (1950–) © 1983 Kingsway's Thankyou Music

Prayers of Intercessions:

In faith let us pray to God our Father, in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and in the power of the Holy Spirit.
God of love, we pray for the life of your Church throughout the world

...

May every congregation be a community of love and every Christian a witness to your grace. Renew all who
worship in this place that we may be a living fellowship in your Spirit and serve our neighbourhood.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done.

God of mercy, we pray for the life of the world

...

and for those who exercise power

...

Show us how to live as members of the human family; to reject the ways of war; to bear each other's burdens and
to work together for justice and peace.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done.

God of compassion, we pray for those who are ill or anxious at home or in hospital

...

We pray for those whose lives are filled with fear and despair

...

Draw near with your saving love and bring healing and hope.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done.

God of glory, we rejoice in the communion of saints; we remember all who have faithfully lived and all who have died in Christian hope, especially

...

Help us to follow their example and bring us with them into the fullness of your eternal joy.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done.

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding; pour into our hearts such love towards you that we, loving you above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

The Peace:

Our Lord Jesus Christ said to the apostles: 'I leave you peace, my peace I give to you.'

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

A hymn to read, sing, or listen to:

All my hope on God is founded (StF 455)

Verse 1

All my hope on God is founded;

He doth still my trust renew.

Me through change and chance he guideth,

Only good and only true.

God unknown,

He alone

Calls my heart to be his own.

Verse 2

Human pride and earthly glory,

Sword and crown betray our trust;

What with care and toil we fashion,

Tower and temple, fall to dust.

But God's power,

Hour by hour,

Is my temple and my tower.

Verse 3

God's great goodness aye endureth,

Deep his wisdom passing thought;

Splendour, light, and life attend him,

Beauty springeth out of naught.

Evermore

From his store

New-born worlds rise and adore.

Verse 4

Daily doth the almighty giver
Bounteous gifts on us bestow;
His desire our soul delighteth,
Pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand
At his hand;
Joy doth wait on his command.

Verse 5

Still from man to God eternal
Sacrifice of praise be done,
High above all praises praising
For the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call
One and all;
Ye who follow shall not fall.

Robert Bridges (1844–1930)

Blessing:

Christ the Son of Righteousness shine upon you and prepare your hearts and souls to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be yours, now and always.

Amen.

The day of the Lord is surely coming,. Be faithful in worship, unwavering in hope, fervent in the work of God's kingdom and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Amen. Come Lord Jesus.