



19th June 2022
First Sunday after Trinity
Father's Day

We welcome you to St Matthew's Church this morning and pray you are blessed as we worship the Lord together.

If you are with us for the first time we would love to keep in touch with you, so please fill in one of our Welcome Cards. Thank you.

Please join in the words in **bold print**.

Don't forget to silence your mobile!

Our Leader and Speaker is
Revd Simon Foster.

¶ The Gathering

Welcome and Introduction

Opening Prayer

We pray:
for our fathers who have loved and supported us.

We praise you O Lord and give you thanks today.

For our mothers who have cherished and nurtured us.

We praise you O Lord and give you thanks today.

For the children entrusted to our care as parents.

We praise you Lord and give you thanks today.

We praise you O Lord and give you thanks today.

For our godfathers and mothers and for all who first spoke to us of Jesus, and who have drawn us into the family of our heavenly Father.

We praise you O Lord and give you thanks today.

Help us to live as those who belong to one another and to you, now and always. **Amen.**

♪ Song ♪

Father God,
I wonder how I managed to exist
without the knowledge of your
parenthood and your loving care.
But now I am your child,
I am adopted in your family
and I can never be alone
'cause Father God,
you're there beside me.

I will sing your praises,
I will sing your praises,
I will sing your praises,
for evermore.

Repeat

Ian Smale © 1984 Kingsway's Thankyou Music

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

We remain standing to pray together

Opening prayer

**Eternal God, source of all blessing,
help us to worship you with all our heart and mind and strength;
for you alone are God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Please be seated

Prayer of Confession

We come to you in sorrow for our sins,
and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

Dear Lord, You are the King of the world, the Creator of all things, and the Giver of life. You have made us in Your

image and invited us to be Your children—the heirs of Your Kingdom—and we give You our thanks and praise.

We confess that we have sinned and fallen short of what You would have us be.

Please forgive us.

We have found our identity in earthly things like work, money, family, reputation, our homes, our friends, even our country. We have worshipped them more than You.

Please forgive us.

We have turned away from being part of Your Kingdom to satisfy our own agendas.

Please forgive us.

We have broken Your heart with our sin, and we are sorry.

Please forgive us.

Please forgive us. Help us open our hearts to receive the gift of forgiveness that You offer through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

Create in us clean hearts and fill us with Your presence.

In Jesus' Name we pray.

Amen.

Merciful Lord,
you know our struggle to serve you:
when sin spoils our lives
and overshadows our hearts,
come to our aid
and turn us back to you again;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Collect

God of truth,
help us to keep your law of love
and to walk in ways of wisdom,

that we may find true life
in Jesus Christ your Son.

Amen.

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

Let us prepare ourselves for the Word of God as it comes to us in the reading of Holy Scripture.

Our hearts and minds are open.

First Reading

1 Kings 19.9-12

At Horeb, the mount of God, Elijah came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' ¹⁰He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.'

¹¹He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; ¹²and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We stand to sing

🎵 Hymn 🎵

Father, Lord of all creation,
ground of Being, Life and Love:
height and depth beyond description
only life in You can prove:
You are mortal life's dependence:
thought, speech, sight are ours by grace;
Yours is every hour's existence
sovereign Lord of time and space.

Jesus Christ, the Man for others,
we, Your people, make our prayer:
help us love — as sisters, brothers —
all whose burdens we can share.
Where Your name binds us together
You, Lord Christ, will surely be;
where no selfishness can sever
there Your love the world may see.

Holy Spirit, rushing, burning
wind and flame of Pentecost,
fire our hearts afresh with yearning
to regain what we have lost.
May Your love unite our action,
never more to speak alone:
God, in us abolish faction,
God, through us Your love make known.

Stewart Cross (1928-1989) © Mrs M Cross

Please be seated

Second Reading

Galatians 3.23-29

Now before faith came, we were
imprisoned and guarded under the law
until faith would be revealed.
²⁴Therefore the law was our
disciplinarian until Christ came, so that
we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But now
that faith has come, we are no longer
subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶for in Christ
Jesus you are all children of God
through faith. ²⁷As many of you as were
baptized into Christ have clothed

yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There is no
longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer
slave or free, there is no longer male
and female; for all of you are one in
Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you belong to
Christ, then you are Abraham's
offspring, heirs according to the
promise.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Let us stand to affirm our faith in Jesus
Christ the Son of God.

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
**maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord,
Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
**God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,**
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came
down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and
the Virgin Mary
and was made man.

**For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
**he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand**

of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please be seated

Prayers of Intercession

Lord God, it's not easy being a father today, and so we pray:

for fathers in a society that is constantly redefining their role;
for fathers who stay at home and look after children;
for fathers who have been forced out of their families or away from their children;
for fathers with adult children who must relearn what it means to be a parent.

We pray also for families with fathers who are inadequate, violent, lazy or unkind;
for families where there is no father present at home;
for families in which there seems to be a succession of different 'fathers',

making it hard for the children to build lasting relationships or know their true identities.

Whatever their circumstances, may every family find wholeness and help as they look to God, the loving Father of us all.

Amen.

For those whose fathers are absent, through desertion, war, or imprisonment:

Lord have mercy.

For those whose fathers are abusive:

Christ have mercy.

For those for whom the word 'Father' is a word of fear:

Lord have mercy.

For those whose fathers have died:

Lord have mercy.

For those who are anxious at the prospect of fatherhood:

Christ have mercy.

For fathers who miss their children desperately:

Lord have mercy.

Loving God,
as a father feeds, nurtures and sustains his children,
so you feed us with the rich food of your heavenly banquet.
Help us who have tasted your goodness to grow in grace within the household of faith:
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We stand to sing

♪ Hymn ♪

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives Thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word,
rise up and follow Thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee,
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with Thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love!

With that deep hush subduing all
our words and works that drown
the tender whisper of Thy call,
as noiseless let Thy blessing fall
as fell Thy manna down.

Drop Thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and
stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of Thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and Thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind,
and fire,
O still small voice of calm.

John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892)

Please be seated

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
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.**

Notices

♪ Hymn ♪

To God be the glory,
great things He has done!
So loved He the world
that He gave us His Son;
who yielded His life
an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate
that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father,
through Jesus the Son,
and give Him the glory!
Great things He has done!*

O perfect redemption,
the purchase of blood,
to every believer
the promise of God.
The vilest offender
who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus
forgiveness receives.

Great things He has taught us,
great things He has done,
and great our rejoicing
through Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher,
and greater will be
our wonder, our rapture,
when Jesus we see.

Frances Jane van Alstyne (Fanny J. Crosby)
(1820-1915)

¶ The Dismissal

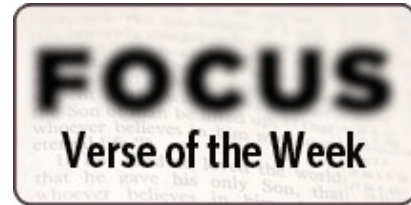
Blessing

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ, who is the source of all
goodness and growth,
pour his blessing upon all things created,
and upon you his children,
that you may use his gifts to his glory
and the welfare of all peoples;
and the blessing of God almighty, the
Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be
upon you and remain with you, and all
those whom you love and all those for
whom you pray this day and
for evermore.

Amen.

Glory to God,
**whose power, at work among us,
can do infinitely more
than all we can ask or conceive;
to him be glory in the Church and
in Christ Jesus,
for ever and ever.**
Amen.

Please take this service sheet with you.



There is no longer Jew or Greek, there
is no longer slave or free, there is no
longer male and female; for all of you
are one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3.28

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