



10th July 2022
Fourth Sunday after
Trinity - Service of
Thanksgiving for
the Gift of
Maisie Easton-Parsons

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

In the name of Jesus who was born to be our Saviour, Christ the Lord, we welcome you.

Grace, mercy and peace be with you **and also with you.**

We are here today to give thanks for Maisie, with her family and friends, and to support her parents in their responsibilities with prayer and love. God became one of us in Jesus, and understands all that surrounds the arrival and upbringing of children. It is God's purpose that children should know love within the stability of their home, grow in faith, and come at last to the eternal city where his love reigns supreme.

The works of the Lord are great:
his mercy endures for ever.

Mary gave birth to a child and called him Jesus:

he will save his people from their sins.

He will be called the Prince of Peace:
his kingdom will last for ever.

♪ Hymn ♪

Great is Thy faithfulness,
O God my Father,
there is no shadow of
turning with Thee;
Thou changest not,
Thy compassions, they fail not;
as Thou hast been,
Thou for ever wilt be.

Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning
new mercies I see;
all I have needed
Thy hand hath provided,
great is Thy faithfulness,
Lord, unto me.

Summer and winter,
and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars
in their courses above,
join with all nature
in manifold witness
to Thy great faithfulness,
mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and
a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence
to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and
bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine,
with ten thousand beside!

Thomas Obadiah Chisholm (1866-1960)
© 1951 Hope Publishing Company

We remain standing to pray together

Opening prayer

Loving God,
you hold all things in life
and call us into your kingdom
of peace;

help us to walk the path of your truth and fill our lives with gratitude and faith, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

Prayer of Confession

God our Father,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins.

For turning away from you,
and ignoring your will for our lives;
Father, forgive us:

save us and help us.

For behaving just as we wish,
without thinking of you;
Father, forgive us:

save us and help us.

For failing you by what we do,
and think and say;
Father, forgive us:

save us and help us.

For letting ourselves be drawn away
from you by temptations in the world
about us;

Father, forgive us:

save us and help us.

For living as if we were ashamed
to belong to your Son;

Father, forgive us:

save us and help us.

May the God of love
bring you back to himself,
forgive you your sins,
and assure you of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Collect

Gracious Father,
by the obedience of Jesus
you brought salvation to our wayward
world:

draw us into harmony with your will,
that we may find all things restored in
him, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

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

Psalm 139.1-18

O Lord, you have searched me and
known me.

²You know when I sit down and when I
rise up;

you discern my thoughts from
far away.

³You search out my path and my lying
down,

and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴Even before a word is on my tongue,

O Lord, you know it completely.

⁵You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for
me;

it is so high that I cannot attain it.

⁷Where can I go from your Spirit?

Or where can I flee from your
presence?

⁸If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are
there.

⁹If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the
sea,
¹⁰even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.
¹¹If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover
me,
and the light around me become
night',
¹²even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.
¹³For it was you who formed my inward
parts;
you knit me together in my mother's
womb.
¹⁴I praise you, for I am fearfully and
wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.
¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the
earth.
¹⁶Your eyes beheld my unformed
substance.
In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.
¹⁷How weighty to me are your
thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
¹⁸I try to count them—they are more
than the sand;
I come to the end—I am still with
you.
This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We stand to sing

♪ Song ♪

As the deer pants for the water,
so my soul longs after You.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship You.

*You alone are my strength, my shield,
to You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship You.*

I want You more than gold or silver,
only You can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy-giver
and the apple of my eye.

You're my Friend and You're my Brother,
even though You are a King.
I love You more than any other,
so much more than anything.

*Martin J. Nystrom (b. 1956) © 1983 Restoration
Music Ltd Administered by Sovereign Music UK*

Please be seated

Second Reading

Matthew 18.1-5

At that time the disciples came to Jesus
and asked, 'Who is the greatest in the
kingdom of heaven?' ²He called a child,
whom he put among them, ³and said,
'Truly I tell you, unless you change and
become like children, you will never
enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever
becomes humble like this child is the
greatest in the kingdom of heaven.
⁵Whoever welcomes one such child in
my name welcomes me.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

**Choir - The Lord's my
Shepherd - Goodall**

Let us stand to affirm our faith in God.

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is
named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through
faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy
Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Please be seated

Thanksgiving and Blessing

Do you receive Maisie as a gift from God?

We do.

Do you wish to give thanks to God and seek his blessing?

We do.

God our creator,
we thank you for the wonder of new life and for the mystery of human love. We thank you for all whose support and skill surround and sustain the beginning of life.

We thank you that we are known to you by name and loved by you from all eternity.

We thank you for Jesus Christ, who has opened to us the way of love. We praise you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

What name have you given this child?

Her name is Maisie Grace Elizabeth.

As Jesus took children in his arms and blessed them, so now we ask God's blessing on Maisie.

Heavenly Father, we praise you for Maisie's birth;
surround her with your blessing that she may know your love,
be protected from evil,
and know your goodness all her days.

May Maisie learn to love all that is true, grow in wisdom and strength and, in due time, come through faith and baptism to the fullness of your grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May God the Father of all bless Laura and Andy and give them grace to love and care for Maisie.

May God give them wisdom, patience and faith, help them to provide for Maisie's needs and, by their example, reveal the love and truth that are in Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Giving of the Bible

Receive this book.

It is the good news of God's love.

Take it as your guide.

Will you do all that you can to help and support Laura and Andy in the bringing up of Maisie?

With the help of God, we will.

Will you do all that you can to help and support this family?

With the help of God, we will.

We stand to sing

🎵 Song 🎵

Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here;
come bow before Him now
with reverence and fear:
in Him no sin is found,
we stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire,
with splendour He is crowned.
How awesome is the sight,
our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place:
He comes to cleanse and heal,
to minister His grace.
No work too hard for Him,
in faith receive from Him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place.

David J Evans (b.1957) © 1986 Kingsway's Thankyou Music

Prayers

**God our creator,
we thank you for the gift of
Maisie, entrusted to our care.
May we be patient and
understanding, ready to guide
and to forgive, so that through
our love she may come to know
your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

God our Father, we pray for Maisie
that in due time she may be received by
baptism into the family of your Church,

and become an inheritor of your
kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth
the life of an earthly home:
bless the home of this child,
and help all the family to live together in
your love.

Teach them to serve you and each
other, and make them always ready to
show your love to those in need;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

God our Father, we pray to you
for all who have the care of Maisie.
Guide them with your Holy Spirit,
that they may bring her up
in the ways of truth and love.

Through their care enable her to grow
in grace and become daily more like
your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Father God, from whom every family
in earth and heaven is named,
we thank you for the rich variety
of the families you have created for us,
and for the relationships which we see
and enjoy within them.

Help us to respect and learn from each
other, that we may come to maturity
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Lord's Prayer

Jesus taught us to call God our Father,
and so in faith and trust we say

**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

We stand to sing

♪ **Hymn** ♪

Thine be the glory,
risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory
Thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes
where Thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
Endless is the victory,
Thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo! Jesus meets us,
risen from the tomb;
lovingly He greets us,
scatters fear and gloom;
let the Church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing;
for her Lord now liveth,
death hath lost its sting:

No more we doubt Thee,
glorious Prince of Life;
life is naught without Thee:
aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors,
through Thy deathless love:

bring us safe through Jordan
to Thy home above:

*Edmond Budry (1854-1932) trans. Richard Hoyle
(1875-1939) © Copyright Control*

¶ **The Dismissal**

Blessing

The Lord bless you and watch over you,
the Lord make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you,
the Lord look kindly on you and give
you his peace;
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.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ.

Amen.

Please take this service sheet with you.



I praise you, for I am fearfully and
wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.

Psalms 139.14

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