

FAITH THAT HELPS ME

FACE AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE



6th October 2024 | 20th Sunday of Pentecost

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the triune God, the Creator of heaven and earth and God's ownership of all things (Psalm 24:1). In God's sovereignty, God has allowed other groups to migrate to these shores. We acknowledge the cultures of our First Nations Peoples and are thankful for the community that we share together now.

Cantor's Welcome

Cantor: Thank you for joining our Service today as we continue in our series exploring how to develop a faith that works when life doesn't. Today we welcome Bishop Charlie who will lead our worship and minister amongst us. We also welcome those joining us via livestream. If you would like to stand as we sing our opening hymn ...

Opening Song: Holy Holy Holy, Lord God Almighty

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty,
early in the morning to you our praise shall be;
holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore you,
casting down their golden crowns
around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before you,
God everlasting through eternity.

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide you,
though the sinful human eye
your glory may not see,
you alone are holy, there is none beside you
perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty,
all your works shall praise your name
in earth and sky and sea;
holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

© Together in Song CCL Licence no: 89934

Welcome

Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks;

for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus

Glory to God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: **as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.**
Blessed be the name of the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Blessed be the name of the Lord.**

Sentence

The Apostle James writes, "Come near to God and he will come near to you. ... Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up." (James 4: 8, 10)

Prayer of Approach

Deacon: Let us prepare our hearts for worship,

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

O God, your Son has taught us that we must receive your sovereign rule like a little child: help us to turn to you in faith and simplicity of heart, so that we may receive your blessing and enter the kingdom your Son has promised; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

Ministry of the Word

The first reading is from the book of Job chapter 1, verse 1, then chapter 2: 1-10.

¹In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.

²On another day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them to present himself before him. ²And the Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the Lord, "From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it." ³Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason." ⁴"Skin for skin!" Satan replied. "A man will give all he has for his own life. ⁵But now stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face." ⁶The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life." ⁷So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head. ⁸Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes. ⁹His wife said to him, "Are you still maintaining your integrity? Curse God and die!" ¹⁰He replied, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?" In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.

Hear the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm of the day number 26 which will be read in alternate verse.

¹Vindicate me, Lord, for I have led a blameless life;
I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.

²Test me, Lord, and try me, examine my heart and my mind;

³for I have always been mindful of your unfailing love
and have lived in reliance on your faithfulness.

⁴I do not sit with the deceitful, nor do I associate with hypocrites.

⁵I abhor the assembly of evildoers and refuse to sit with the wicked.

⁶I wash my hands in innocence, and go about your altar, Lord,

⁷proclaiming aloud your praise and telling of all your wonderful deeds.

⁸Lord, I love the house where you live, the place where your glory dwells.

⁹Do not take away my soul along with sinners, my life with those who are bloodthirsty,

¹⁰in whose hands are wicked schemes, whose right hands are full of bribes.

¹¹I lead a blameless life; deliver me and be merciful to me.

¹²My feet stand on level ground; in the great congregation I will praise the Lord.

May your word live in us **and bear much fruit to your glory.**

The New Testament reading comes from the book of James, chapter 4 verses 1-17.

⁴1What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? **²2**You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want,

so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. ³When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁴You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? ⁶But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favour to the humble."

⁷Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom.

¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

¹¹Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. ¹²There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbour?

¹³Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." ¹⁴Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. ¹⁵Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." ¹⁶As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Song: You Are The Vine

You are the Vine, we are the branches,
keep us abiding in You.

*You are the Vine, we are the branches,
keep us abiding in You.*

Then we'll grow in Your love,
then we'll go in Your name,
that the world will surely know
that You have power to heal and to save.

You are the Vine

© Mission Praise CCL Licence no: 89934

Hearing the Good News

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark, chapter 10, verses 2-16. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

²Some Pharisees came and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?"

³"What did Moses command you?" he replied. ⁴They said, "Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away." ⁵"It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law," Jesus replied. ⁶"But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.' ⁷'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, ⁸and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

¹⁰When they were in the house again, the disciples asked Jesus about this. ¹¹He answered, "Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. ¹²And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery."

¹³People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

¹⁶And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

This is the Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon: Bishop Charlie will deliver the reflection

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Offertory Hymn: Brother, Sister, Let Me Serve You

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.

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.

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.

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.

I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

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.

©Together in Song: CCL Licence no.89934

Giving and Offerings

Prayer of the Week

Generous God, whose hand is open to fill all things living with plenteousness: make us ever thankful for your goodness, and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers for the World and Our Community

The Intercessor on the roster will lead our time of prayer.

We conclude by praying as our Saviour taught us:

**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.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Preparation for the Lord's Supper

Deacon will lead our preparations saying,

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on

them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. (Isaiah 55:6-8).

Confession and promise of forgiveness

Knowing the goodness of God and our failure to respond with love and obedience, let us confess our sins, saying together,

Heavenly Father, you have loved us with an everlasting love, but we have broken your holy laws and have left undone what we ought to have done.

We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them.

For the sake of your Son, who died for us, forgive us, cleanse us and change us.

By your Holy Spirit, enable us to live for you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Bishop will declare the promise of forgiveness:

God is slow to anger and full of compassion, forgiving all who humbly repent and trust in his Son Jesus as Saviour and Lord. God therefore forgives you in Christ Jesus, in whom there is no condemnation. **Amen.**

Greeting of Peace

Our Lord Jesus Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness; by his wounds we have been healed. We have been washed. We have been sanctified. Let us therefore share in the peace we have received.

We are the body of Christ. **His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Thanksgiving and Communion

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, making us in your own image.

We praise you for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by his death on the cross and rising to new life offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

Therefore, we lift our voices to praise you, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

And now, gracious God, we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine, and pray that we who receive them, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, according to our Saviour's word, in remembrance of his suffering and death, may share his body and blood.

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and when he had given you thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying,

'Take and eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

The Breaking of the Bread and the Communion

We who are many are one body in Christ. **For we all share in the one bread.**

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks he gave it to his disciples, saying,

'Drink from this, all of you.

This is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith,

We eat this bread and drink this cup **to proclaim the death of the Lord.**

We do this until he returns. **Come, Lord Jesus!**

Father as we recall his saving death and glorious resurrection,
may we who share these gifts be renewed by your Holy Spirit
and united in the body of your Son.

Bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom,
there to feast at your table and join in your eternal praise:

**Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive
praise and honour and glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.**

Let us draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in your hearts with thanksgiving.

Announcements: Please refer to the church newsletter for notices.

Commitment to live out our worship of the Lord

Gracious God, thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Thank you for assuring us of your goodness and love, and that we are living members of Christ's body.

Father, **we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.**

The Blessing

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, **in the name of Christ. Amen.**

Closing Hymn: The Church's One Foundation

The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord:
she is his new creation by water and the word;
from heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation one Lord,
one faith, one birth:
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses
with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder
the world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping,
their cry goes up, 'How long?'
and soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.

Through toil and tribulation
and tumult of her war
she waits the consummation
of peace for evermore,
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blessed,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give to us the grace
like them, the meek and lowly,
in heaven to seek your face.

© Together in Song CCL Licence no: 89934