

Sunday Worship
The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Led by the Rev Dr Lee Gatiss,
Director of Church Society, from Christ Church, Cambridge

WELCOME

Rev Dr Lee Gatiss

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you

All and also with you.

Welcome to our online service today. I'm Lee Gatiss. I'm the director of Church Society, and we're coming to you today from Christ Church here in Cambridge. We're just starting to tentatively re-open our church building, as many of us are. It's a strange time, a mixture of joy, and nervousness. Many of us are also nervous about A Level results coming out this week! I'm here with my family, Kerry, Joshua, Cara, and Lucy who will be joining in with us, with our prayers.

We'll also be having two readings from two ordinands, training for ministry: my friends Gideon Emmanuel from Oak Hill Theological College in London, and Niv Lobo from Wycliffe Hall in Oxford.

We're also blessed to have Liv Chapman from Emu Music who'll be singing a song for us by the 18th century hymn writer Augustus Montague Toplady, who died this August week in 1778.

My colleague, Dr Ros Clarke, will be leading us in prayer, she's the course leader of the Priscilla Programme, an online training course for women.

So let's commit our time to the Lord.

Lord, direct our thoughts, and teach us to pray.
Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

SONG

Here I am to worship

Sung by Katie Ritson

Light of the world,
You stepped down into darkness,
opened my eyes, let me see
beauty that made this heart adore You,
hope of a life spent with You.
Here I am to worship;
here I am to bow down;
here I am to say that You're my God.

You're altogether lovely,
altogether worthy,
altogether wonderful to me.

And I'll never know
how much it cost
to see my sin
upon that cross.

And I'll never know
how much it cost
to see my sin
upon that cross.

Here I am to worship;
here I am to bow down;
here I am to say that You're my God.
You're altogether lovely,
altogether worthy,
altogether wonderful to me.

Words and Music: Tim Hughes

The president says

The letter to the Romans, which we've been reading over the last few Sundays, is a great leveller. It says "There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Regardless of who we are or where we come from, the same God made us all. And regardless of our ethnic background, our class, or our wealth, we have all fallen short of what God intended. We've not loved God with all our hearts, we've not loved our neighbours as ourselves. So, let us turn away from our sins and turn to Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith:

Silence is kept.

All **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 you, our God,
Amen.**

The Bible says, "There's no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." He forgives all who truly repent of their sins and turn to him.

So, may the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
enable us by his Spirit to walk the way of Jesus
and lead us safely through all the difficulties of this life
for Jesus' sake,

All Amen.

SONG

Let the vain world

Sung by Liv Chapman, Emu Music

Let the vain world applaud or frown,
still may I Heaven's path pursue:
still may I stand unshook, and keep
the centre of my hopes in view!

O light of Life, still guide my steps-
without your friendly aid I stray;
lead me, my God, for I am blind,
direct me and point out my way.

What is the world's good word to me,
if by my God from glory driven?
Can that redeem my soul from Hell,
or recompense my loss of Heaven?

Resolved to tread the sacred Way
that Jesus watered with his blood,
I bend my fixed and cheerful course
through that rough path my saviour trod

The way that leads to glory lies
through ill report, contempt and loss:
assist me to deny myself,
to follow you and bear your cross.

Words: Augustus Montague Toplady

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Read by Gideon Emmanuel

A reading from the Letter to the Romans, chapter ten, verses five to fifteen.

Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: "The person who does these things will live by them." But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down) "or 'Who will descend into the deep?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile, the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring Good News!"

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Read by Niv Lobo

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 14. (14.22-33)

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

"Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came towards Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshipped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev Dr Lee Gatiss

SONG

Cornerstone

Recorded at home by Geraldine Latty and Carey Luce

My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
but wholly trust in Jesus' name.

Christ alone, Cornerstone,
weak made strong, in the Saviour's love.
Through the storm, he is Lord, Lord of all.

When darkness seems to hide his face
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale
my anchor holds within the veil,

Christ alone, Cornerstone,
weak made strong, in the Saviour's love.
Through the storm, he is Lord, Lord of all.

Through the storm, he is Lord, Lord of all.

*Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan (born 1975) and Eric Liljero
with verses from 'The Solid Rock' by Edward Mote (1797-1874)
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Now, let's do something revolutionary! Let's join together with Christians around the world, and throughout history, to declare our faith, in the words of the Creed:

All I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and 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.**

PRAYERS

Led by Dr Ros Clarke

Let us pray together.

Our heavenly father we pray to you that you sovereign Lord over all creation, that the whole earth is yours and under your tender care.

We thank you for the many ways we see and experience your gracious provision for us, in the sun that shines and the rain which falls. In the food we eat and the beauty we enjoy. More than anything we praise and thank you for your son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who came to seek and save the lost, who cares for us as the great shepherd of his sheep.

In his name we praise you. Amen.

The Lord Jesus warned his disciples that following him would be costly, that it would lead to persecutions, and hardships and so now we pray for our brothers and sisters in parts of the world who are experiencing those persecutions, in far greater measure than most of us.

We pray in particular for the church in China, forged through the fire of persecution and now facing a new wave of attack. We pray for Christian parents there who are afraid that their children maybe forcibly removed from them by the authorities, please give them courage to hold on to Christ, please grant those families your protection.

And Father, we pray for an end to all religious persecution in China, thinking especially of the Uighur Muslims, those forcibly detained under harsh conditions in re-education camps in northern China. We pray for Gospel transformation, to bring justice, peace and freedom in the name of Jesus. Amen.

As the Covid-19 pandemic continues to spread around the world we pray not only for our own communities, but also for those facing this disease without the benefit of good, accessible healthcare. Heavenly father, our ever present help in trouble, our fortress and our God, calm the anxious fears of all who turn to you, give strength and healing to those who are sick, courage and skill to those who care for them, grant wisdom and clarity to those in authority and humble us all to call upon you that we may be saved, not only in this life, but also for that which is to come ,through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Father, we give you thanks for this technology which enables us to meet together this morning, and which has been such a great blessing to so many congregations over the past few months. We thank you especially for the way online gatherings allow many of those who are not normally able to be present in offline church services to be part of the body. We pray that those improvements in accessibility will not be lost as buildings are opening up again, that those who've too often been overlooked in the past will now be recognised as valued members of our churches.

Please grant wisdom to our Bishops, Ministers and all in authority as they seek to lead your church. That they may take forward the lessons that have been learnt during lockdown. That this hardship and suffering may prove to be the basis of a new season of flourishing and fruitfulness in your church. We pray for it, for Jesus' name and for his glory, Amen.

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

And so now we join together in saying the prayer that our saviour himself taught us.

All Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is 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 yours is the kingdom,
the power and the glory
for ever and ever.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Rev Dr Lee Gatiss

Well, thank you for joining us today. And thank you to all who have played a part in putting this service together today for us.

I hope you will be able to enjoy the goodness of God in this coming week, perhaps some August sunshine! And remember: "the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'"

Let us pray.

Gracious Father,
revive your Church in our day,
and make her holy, strong and faithful,
for your glory's sake
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
All Amen.

And may the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us, always.
All Amen.

HYMN

How Great thou Art

Sung by the musicians from Holy Trinity Platt, Manchester, led by Olly Hamilton

O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*

And when I think that God His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in.
That on that cross my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin:

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then shall I bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*

*Words: Stuart K Hine (1899-1989)
Tune: How great thou art*

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