

**The National (Church of England) Multilingual Service
on the Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity, 18th October 2020
Luke the Evangelist**

‘Work of faith, labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus’

CALL TO WORSHIP

In Urdu with English subtitles

Rev Sarah Gill

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.
Know that the Lord is God.
It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name.
For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Good morning, (Sub-ba-khair, Salam, Jai Masih di).

I am Sarah Siddique Gill from Pakistan. I am vicar of the United Benefice of St Stephen's, little Harwood with St James' Church, in North of Blackburn. These are Presence and Engagement parishes in a predominant Muslim surroundings.

A warm welcome (Khush-am-deed, Ji ayan non) in this National service of Praise and Worship. The service this morning is partly recorded at St James' Church, in COVID safe environment and also at homes and school.

Today, we celebrate the life and witness of St. Luke the Evangelist, a disciple of Jesus, a dear friend of the Apostle Paul. Paul describes him as 'the beloved physician' and, in his second Letter to Timothy, as his only companion in prison. Luke is known through his writing of the Gospel which stands in his name and also the Book of Acts of the Apostles. Luke in his writing highlights that the Good News of salvation is for all, regardless of gender, social position or nationality. This service is planned to give you all a cross-cultural Christian experience. Jesus Christ is believed by people from different ethnicity, race, culture and languages.

We will begin with a traditional Urdu worship song used in worship services by South Asian Christians. The song speaks about the spirit of humility and surrender to the Almighty God who is a great healer of our body, mind and spirit. This song for this service is sung by Reverend Arun John.

WORSHIP SONG

Aa chukka hon tere daar per, ab dua ke wastay

Sung by Arun John

*O Lord, I come to you to pray,
with complete submission and tears in my eyes*

*O gracious God, I come to you with empty hands,
be gracious to me, O my prophet King*

*O Lord, cleanse me and grant me your Holy Spirit,
I plead you, O bless me Christ the King*

*O Lord, fill my heart with your righteousness,
be gracious to me, O our High priest*

*O Lord, my sins have wounded my heart deeply,
let your blood shed on the cross heal my wounds*

*O Lord, I come to you to pray
with complete submission and tears in my eyes.*

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful people,
and kindle in us the fire of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

PREPARATION

We say the prayer of preparation:

We stand before the throne of God
with countless crowds
from every nation and race, tribe and language.
Blessing and glory and wisdom,
thanksgiving and honour, power and might
be to our God for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Lay Worship Leader at St Stephen's Church, Blackburn

God the Father forgives us in Christ and heals us by the Holy Spirit.
Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness,
all slander and malice,
and confess our sins to God our redeemer.

cf Ephesians 4.30, 32

Silence for reflection

We have wandered from your paths, yet your truth leads us home.

Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

We have failed to live as your children, yet your love restores us.

Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

We are disfigured by our sin, yet your power heals us.

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

ABSOLUTION

We hold a moment of silence.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw *us* to himself,
and cleanse *us* from all *our* sins
that we may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

HYMN

Cannot measure how you heal

Sung by St Martin's Voices

We cannot measure how You heal
Or answer every sufferer's prayer
Yet we believe Your grace responds
Where faith and doubt unite to care
Your hands though bloodied on the cross
Survive to hold and heal and warn
To carry all through death to life
And cradle children yet unborn.

The pain that will not go away
The guilt that clings from things long past
The fear of what the future holds
Are present as if meant to last
But present too is love which tends
The hurt we never hoped to find
The private agonies inside
The memories that haunt the mind.

So some have come who need Your help
And some have come to make amends
As hands which shaped and saved the world
Are present in the touch of friends
Lord let Your Spirit meet us here
To mend the body mind and soul
To disentangle peace from pain
And make Your broken people whole.

*Words and Music: John L Bell (born 1949) and Graham Maule (1958-2019)
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THE COLLECT

Said by Janet Chester

Almighty God,
you called Luke the physician,
whose praise is in the gospel,
to be an evangelist and physician of the soul:
by the grace of the Spirit
and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel,
give your church the same love and power to heal;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

All: Amen

FAITH TESTIMONY

Rev Sarah Gill

I am a Pakistani Christian born and brought up in a Christian family, in the city of Gujranwala, region of Punjab in Pakistan. My faith, was nurtured from very early age by my parents, Ulfat and Siddique. There were many ups and downs in my faith journey, but God sustained me. I started my personal faith journey with Jesus at the age of 14. Many individuals have contributed in my faith journey. Surrounded by majority Muslim community in Pakistan has helped me to value my faith in Jesus Christ.

After completing graduation, I joined the United Bible Training Centre, in Gujranwala, Pakistan as a bible teacher and taught for seven years. During this period, I completed my Post Graduation M.A, in Islamic Studies.

In 2006, I was invited by the Church Mission Society as a volunteer to be a resource for cross-cultural ministry in Bradford with an ecumenical Church group called, 'The Inner Ring Group of Churches in Bradford'. However before starting my volunteer work in Bradford, UK, I was sent for a cross-cultural exposure to work in a predominantly Muslim area in Lenasia, (which was a group area during apartheid) in Johannesburg, South Africa.

I never realised that after my cross-cultural training in ministry under the guidance of the Reverend Canon Dr Arun John in Johannesburg will find me eventually working with him as a volunteer for nearly four years. He requested the Church Mission Society to invite me to work at St. Paul's Church in Manningham, Bradford in their ministry amongst vulnerable women and South Asian Christian Community.

During my time in Manningham, I felt a call for ordained ministry. St. Paul's Church Manningham prayerfully recommended me to then the Diocese of Bradford, and the Diocese graciously sponsored me. After National Selection Process, I started ministerial formation training at the Queen's Foundation Theological College, Birmingham from 2008' till 2011. I was ordained deacon in 2011 and served my curacy at St Paul's Church Shipley, Bradford.

My First post of responsibility from June 2015 'till October 2019 was at Woodhouse Close Church, Bishop Auckland as Priest-in-Charge and Associate Priest of the Parish of Bishop Auckland, Durham Diocese. Since October 2019, I am serving as vicar of the United Benefice of St Stephen's with St James', Blackburn, in the Diocese of Blackburn.

As I continue to minister in cross-cultural context in the Church of England, I realise that Christians from different racial and cultural backgrounds are a great asset. We have a testimony of our faith lived in the most difficult social and political circumstances. I feel privileged to work in this country and my presence becomes enabling both for me and others to confess the love and saving power of Jesus is not confined to any particular culture, race, or regional boundaries. For God, love the whole world and we are all part of God's world, engaged in building His Kingdom.

We are going to have our Bible readings. The first reading is done by Canon Herrick Daniel and our Gospel reading is done by Reverend Joanne Macholc.

OLD TESTAMENT READING (Acts 16:6-12a)

Read by Canon Herrick Daniel

The reading is taken from Acts chapter sixteen, beginning to read from verse six to twelve a. The Apostle Paul extraordinary vision in Troas and the desperate cry to help in Macedonia.

They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. When they had come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them; so, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the Good News to them.

We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony.

May god in his mercy add a blessing to his Holy Word.

GOSPEL READING (Luke 10:1-9)

Read by Rev Joanne Macholc

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke, chapter ten, and verses one to nine.

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you."

This is the gospel of our Lord,
All Praise to you O Christ.

SERMON

The Rt. Rev Dr. Jill Duff, Bishop of Lancaster

We continue to ponder on the Word of God shared by Bishop Jill as we listen reflectively and prayerfully the coming hymn.

HYMN

Heal me, Lord

Sung by the Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir

*Lord, I come sick to the Doctor of Life
And I come unclean to the fountain of your mercy,
To the radiance of eternal light;
Lord, you know how I'm blind.*

*So I come, though I'm poor and I'm needy,
To the Lord of heaven and earth.*

*Heal my sickness, wash away my defilement,
Enlighten my blindness, enrich my poverty;
Heal my sickness, wash away my defilement,
Enlighten my blindness, heal me, Lord.*

*Lord, I come sick to the Doctor of Life
And I come unclean to the fountain of your mercy,
To the radiance of eternal light;
Lord, you know how I'm blind.*

*So I come, though I'm poor and I'm needy,
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Enlighten my blindness, enrich my poverty;
Heal my sickness, wash away my defilement,
Enlighten my blindness, heal me, Lord.*

*Heal my sickness, wash away my defilement,
Enlighten my blindness, enrich my poverty;
Heal my sickness, wash away my defilement,
Enlighten my blindness, heal me, Lord.*

*Heal my sickness, wash away my defilement,
Enlighten my blindness, enrich my poverty;
Heal my sickness, wash away my defilement,
Enlighten my blindness, heal me, Lord.*

Words and Music: Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir

AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God

All: 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Children from St Stephen's School

Children from St Stephen's Church of England Primary School from Little Harwood are going to lead us in our Prayers of Intercessions.

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life,
be with us and all who follow you in the way you saw graciously taught us
Deepen our appreciation of your truth
and fill us with your life.

Jesus, Lord of life,
All: in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep,
recover the straggler,
bind up the injured,
strengthen the sick
and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures.

Jesus, Lord of life,
All: in your mercy, hear us.

We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity.

Jesus, Lord of life,
All: in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, light of the world,
bring the light and peace of your Gospel to the nations.

Jesus, Lord of life,
All: in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, bread of life,
give food to the hungry
and nourish us all with your word.

Jesus, Lord of life,
All: in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, the resurrection, and the life,
we give you thanks for all who have lived and
believed in you, we give thanks for the life of Matthew and all
those who have gone before us
Raise us with them to eternal life.

Jesus, Lord of life,
**All: in your mercy, hear us,
accept our prayers and be with us always. Amen.**

We conclude our prayers by saying the Lord's Prayer together. You are welcome to join in whichever version or language you are familiar with. I am going to say the Lord's Prayer in Urdu.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Said in Urdu (with English subtitles)

**All: 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.**

Today, once again we are reminded that, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. If God is calling you, take heart and step forward in faith to participate in building God's Just Kingdom on this earth.

FINAL HYMN

I, the Lord of sea and sky
Sung by St Martin's Voices

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my words to them.
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will send the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
'til their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

THE BLESSING

The Rt. Rev Julian Henderson, Bishop of Blackburn

A Christian act of worship that uses different languages conveys a clear message that Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the world. And using the words recorded by Luke the Evangelist, Christians are sent as His witnesses to the ends of the earth. So let us pray for his blessing.

God give you grace to follow his saints
in faith and hope and love;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

FINAL ACCLAMATION

We go into the world
to walk in God's light,
to rejoice in God's love
and to reflect God's glory.

All: Amen

Thank you to Sarah, and to Jill for leading us and to you for joining us in this service of the Word celebrating Luke the Evangelist. Be assured that 'God is good all the time, all the time, God is good.'

Acknowledgments

Service led by Rev Sarah Gill.

*Contributions from The Rt. Rev Julian Henderson (Bishop of Blackburn), Rev Joanne Macholc, David Lloyd, Janet Chester, Prayer of intercessions led by children from St Stephen's CoE Primary School.
Sermon preached by Th Rt. Dr. Jill Duff (Bishop of Lancaster).*

British Sign Language Interpretation provided by Naomi Barry.

Music performed by Andrew Earis and St Martin's Voices and the Soul Sanctuary Choir.

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Bible readings accessed from <https://bible.oremus.org/> (New Revised Standard Version).