

A Service for 5th July
The Fourth Sunday after Trinity

The theme for today's service is the invitation that Jesus gives to come to him and find rest. An invitation to learn from him and receive his yoke.

Welcome and Call to worship

Jesus says: 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.'

Let us come to the Lord Jesus today, with a teachable heart and a humble mind that we may truly find the rest that he promises.

Let us pray.

Loving God,

Our Lord Jesus Christ taught us that you are the Lord of heaven and earth yet also our Father.

We desire to come before you today with a child-like dependence upon you, asking you to reveal yourself to us in our homes and deep within our hearts.

Help us to come before you with grateful thanks and praise for the grace in Jesus Christ that has led us to know you.

Inspire our worship that it may glorify you.

Amen

Hymn 'All my hope on God is founded'

- 1 All my hope on God is founded;
He doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
Only good and only true.
God unknown,
He alone
Calls my heart to be his own.

- 2 Pride of man and earthly glory,
Sword and crown betray his trust;
What with care and toil he buildeth,
Tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power,
Hour by hour,
Is my temple and my tower.

- 3 God's great goodness ay endureth,
Deep his wisdom, passing thought:
Splendour, light, and life attend him,
Beauty springeth out of nought.
Evermore,
From his store
New-born worlds rise and adore.

- 4 Daily doth the almighty giver
Bounteous gifts on us bestow;
His desire our soul delighteth,
Pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand
At his hand;
Joy doth wait on his command.

5 Still from man to God eternal
Sacrifice of praise be done,
High above all praises praising
For the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call
One and all:
Ye who follow shall not fall.

Meine Hoffnung stehet feste Joachim Neander (1650-1680) paraphrased Robert Bridges (1844-1930)
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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 Confession

As we come to our time of confession today, we reflect
on the times we have heard of the amazing grace and
power of Jesus but have not been willing to take his yoke
upon us or to follow in his path and learn his way.

All **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you,
through our own fault,
in thought, and word, and deed,
and in what we have left undone.**

**We are heartily sorry,
and repent of all our sins.
For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

First Bible Reading

Psalm. 145.8-16

⁸ The Lord is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.

⁹ The Lord is good to all;
he has compassion on all he has made.

¹⁰ All your works praise you, Lord;
your faithful people extol you.

¹¹ They tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might,

¹² so that all people may know of your mighty acts
and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.

¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures through all generations.

The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises
and faithful in all he does.

¹⁴ The Lord upholds all who fall
and lifts up all who are bowed down.

¹⁵ The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food at the proper time.

¹⁶ You open your hand
and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

A hymn – ‘How sweet the name of Jesus sounds’.

- 1 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,
and drives away his fear.
- 2 It makes the wounded spirit whole,
and calms the troubled breast,
'tis manna to the hungry soul,
and to the weary, rest.
- 3 Dear name, the rock on which I build,
my shield, and hiding place,
my never-failing treasury, filled
with boundless stores of grace.
- 4 Jesus, my Shepherd, Saviour, Friend,
my Prophet, Priest, and King,
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
accept the praise I bring.

- 5 Weak is the effort of my heart,
and cold my warmest thought;
but when I see thee as thou art,
I'll praise thee as I ought.
- 6 Till then I would thy love proclaim
with every fleeting breath;
and triumph in that blessèd name,
which quells the power of death.

John Newton (1725-1807)
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2nd Bible Reading –

Matthew 11.16-30

⁶ “But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to their playmates,

¹⁷ “‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ ¹⁹ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds.”

²⁰ Then he began to denounce the cities where most of his mighty works had been done, because they did not repent. ²¹ “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in

sackcloth and ashes. ²² But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgement for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ²³ And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. ²⁴ But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgement for the land of Sodom than for you.”

²⁵ At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.^[b] ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸ Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The Sermon

A Sung Creed

- I We believe in God the Father,
Maker of the universe,
And in Christ His Son our Saviour,
Come to us by virgin birth.
We believe He died to save us,
Bore our sins, was crucified.
Then from death He rose victorious,

Ascended to the Father's side.

Jesus, Lord of all, Lord of all,

Jesus, Lord of all, Lord of all,

Jesus, Lord of all, Lord of all,

Jesus, Lord of all, Lord of all.

Name above all names,

Name above all names.

2 We believe He sends His Spirit,
On His church with gifts of power.

God, His word of truth affirming,

Sends us to the nations now.

He will come again in glory,

Judge the living and the dead.

Every knee shall bow before Him,

Then must every tongue confess.

Jesus, Lord of all, Lord of all,

Jesus, Lord of all, Lord of all,

Jesus, Lord of all, Lord of all,

Jesus, Lord of all, Lord of all.

Name above all names,

Name above all names.

Name above all names.

Graham Kendrick (born 1950)

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The Intercessions and The Lord's Prayer

Jesus said 'come to me'. We thank you, Lord for that merciful invitation. May we speedily heed his invitation to come to him with a willingness to place his plans and purposes at the center of our lives

Living God, thank you for your call
May we hasten to you

We come to you today with our heavy burdens and loads and those things which are weighing heavily upon us at this time. You have promised us rest. May we find that rest by trusting in Jesus and hoping in you the Living God.

Living God where our hearts are restless
Help us to find true peace in you.

We bring before you O god our restless and troubled world.

We are so grateful that in many nations around the world, COVID-19 has been mitigated. Other precious cities and nations, however, are still being battered by this pandemic.

Furthermore, the world's economies are reeling, social unrest is erupting, and the historic tensions between nations are beginning to simmer and boil afresh.

So we ask you for your continued mercy upon the nations, and upon this nation. We pray for the deep fractures and fissures in our society and ask that the church through loving service and patient witness may be a source of healing. May others see in our lives the reality of the rest that Jesus promises.

Lord Jesus give us rest in our souls
Make us a witness to your peace in the world

We bring to God those needs of many kinds that exist in our local communities. Break down in family life, powerful addictions, fears and resentments, recent loss of employment, illness physical or mental, poverty and worry. We pray for those who are socially isolated in our society because of their lifestyle or needs, brokenness or pain Help to be like Jesus, gentle and lowly in heart. That we be not proud or afraid to offer help in your name.

Lord Jesus help us to share your humility
Help us to befriend those who don't yet follow your way.

Hasten, Lord, the day
when people will come from east and west,
from north and south,
and sit at the table in your kingdom
and we shall see your Son in his glory.
**Merciful Father, hear these our prayers
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever
Amen**

A Song.

'Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart'

Ending Prayer

Take the yoke of Jesus, and learn from him,
for his yoke is easy and his burden is light;
be gentle and humble in heart,
and find rest for your souls.

And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be with you wherever you are, this day.

Amen