

The Blofield Benefice

Service for Sunday

7th February 2021



Praise the name of the Lord;
ascribe greatness to our God.

Lord, open our lips
and we shall praise your name.

cf Deuteronomy 32.3; Psalm 51.15

Opening prayer

God of our days and years,
we set this time apart to worship you,
and hear your word.
Form us in the likeness of Christ
so that our lives may glorify you.
Amen.

All **Amen**

Hymn

- 1 Thou whose almighty word
 chaos and darkness heard,
 and took their flight;
 hear us, we humbly pray,
 and where the Gospel-day
 sheds not its glorious ray,
 let there be light.

- 2 Thou, who didst come to bring
 on thy redeeming wing
 healing and sight,
 health to the sick in mind,
 sight to the inly blind,
 O now to all mankind
 let there be light.

3 Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy Dove,
speed forth thy flight;
move on the water's face,
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.

4 Holy and blessed Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might;
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth far and wide
let there be light.

John Marriott (1780-1825), Thomas Raffles (1788-1863)
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Prayer of Confession

The gospel calls us to turn away from sin
and be faithful to Christ.

As we offer ourselves to him in repentance and faith,
we renew our confidence and trust in his mercy.

All **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,**
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
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,
who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,
bring *you* his pardon and peace, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Collect
Almighty God,
give us reverence for all creation
and respect for every person,
that we may mirror your likeness
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Psalm 104 26-37

- 26 O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
- 27 There is the sea, spread far and wide,
and there move creatures beyond number, both small
and great.
- 28 There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan
which you have made to play in the deep.
- 29 All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.

- 30 When you give it them, they gather it;
you open your hand and they are filled with good.
- 31 When you hide your face they are troubled;
when you take away their breath,
they die and return again to the dust.
- 32 When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth.
- 33 May the glory of the Lord endure for ever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works;
- 34 He looks on the earth and it trembles;
he touches the mountains and they smoke.
- 35 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will make music to my God while I have my being.
- 36 So shall my song please him
while I rejoice in the Lord.
- 37 Let sinners be consumed out of the earth
and the wicked be no more.
Bless the Lord, O my soul.
Alleluia.

A Reading from The Gospel of John.

John 1.1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that

light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

After the reading this response is used

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Praise Song

(You may like to listen this song and join in the refrain in italics)

I From the highest of heights to the depths of the sea,
creation's revealing your majesty.
From the colours of fall to the fragrance of spring,
every creature unique in the song that it sings.
All exclaiming:

*Indescribable, uncontainable,
you placed the stars in the sky,
and you know them by name:
you are amazing, God.*

*All-powerful, untamable;
awestruck, we fall to our knees
as we humbly proclaim:
you are amazing, God.*

*(2nd Time)
Incomparable, unchangeable,
you see the depths of my heart
and you love me the same;
you are amazing, God.*

- 2 Who has told every lightning bolt where it should go,
or seen heavenly storehouses laden with snow?
Who imagined the sun and gives source to its light,
yet conceals it to bring us the coolness of night?
None can fathom.

Refrain

Laura Story and Jesse Rivers
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The Sermon

The Confession 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.**

The Intercessions

(This week, offered by Simon Mutton)

Everliving God, our creator and redeemer, you love us and know us better than we know ourselves. With a word you created all things and so we pray that you will hear the words of your children as we pray; giving thanks to you for your church, the world and its peoples.

Mighty God, we pray for the worldwide Christian Church in all its wonderful diversity. We pray especially for those churches who meet together in difficult and dangerous circumstances and at this time of the Pandemic for all those churches who cannot meet in person but only online. May they feel your abiding presence to uphold their courage and strengthen their faith.

We pray for our Benefice as it embraces the changes that are coming. We bring before you all those who lead and inspire our worship, those who visit and pray for the sick and bereaved and those who carry out the maintenance and administration of all the churches that will make up our expanded Benefice family.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Creator God we pray for your world and its peoples with all their needs, questions and longings. So often we struggle to understand the reasons behind things like Coronavirus; and yet we know that in the midst of such events your love is shown in the acts of bravery, selflessness and compassion which follow. We pray for all who suffer in such dreadful circumstances and for those who are tasked with providing medical and community support and, eventually, the long task of recovery that will surely follow this devastating Pandemic.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Father God we pray for our Benefice communities, that each of us might make use of our individual talents enabling each church group to flourish as a witness to the “One Body” of the church. Help us to spread the warmth of your love to everyone we meet whether in person or online.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Loving God we pray for those in need in our own community, the sick and the dying, the elderly, the housebound and those in care homes, hospitals and hospices and for the work and devotion of those who care for them. We thank you for Carers whose love and compassion bring both material and spiritual comfort at times of need. We bring before you now those in our own hearts and minds in a moment of silent prayer

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Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God be close to those who feel the pain of grief at the loss of a loved one whether recent or as each

anniversary passes. Help us to support all those who mourn with our prayers, with words of comfort and with practical help as they struggle to come to terms with their loss.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Help us during the coming week to live the Good News. Give us the will each day to live our lives as you would have us do, to the Glory of Your name.

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

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

All

**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 hymn is sung.

- 1 In our darkness light has shone,
Alleluia ,
still today the light shines on,
Alleluia ;
Word made flesh in human birth,
Alleluia ,
Light and Life of all the earth,
Alleluia !

- 2 Christ the Son incarnate see,
Alleluia ,
by whom all things came to be,
Alleluia ;
through the world his splendours shine,
Alleluia ,
full of grace and truth divine,
Alleluia !

- 3 All who now in him believe,
Alleluia ,
everlasting life receive,
Alleluia ;
born of God and in his care,
Alleluia ,
we his Name and nature share,
Alleluia !

4 Christ a child on earth appears,
Alleluia ,
crown of all creation's years,
Alleluia ;
God's eternal Word has come,
Alleluia ,
he shall lead his people home,
Alleluia !

Timothy Dudley-Smith (born 1926) from *John 1*
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Concluding prayer

Now may the Lord of peace himself
give you peace at all times and in every way.
The Lord be with you all;
and the blessing of God, father, Son and Holy Spirit
remain with you this day and always.

Amen.