

# Blofield Church

## A Service for The 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity

Be filled  
with the fruit  
of righteousness  
that comes through  
Jesus Christ to the  
glory and praise  
of God



Philippians 1:11

[Knowing-Jesus.com](http://Knowing-Jesus.com)

## Call to worship

The prophet Isaiah says:

Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust and not be afraid.

The Lord, the Lord himself, is my strength and my defence;  
he has become my salvation.'

With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.

Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion,  
for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.'

*Isaiah. 12.1-3, 6*

## Opening prayer

Almighty God,  
your Son has opened for us  
a new and living way into your presence.  
Give us new hearts and constant wills  
to worship you in spirit and in truth;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Hymn.

1 Fill thou my life, O Lord my God,  
In every part with praise,  
That my whole being may proclaim  
Thy being and thy ways.

2 Not for the lip of praise alone  
Nor e'en the praising heart  
I ask, but for a life made up  
Of praise in every part:

3 Praise in the common things of life,  
Its goings out and in;  
Praise in each duty and each deed,  
However small and mean.

4 *Fill every part of me with praise;  
Let all my being speak  
Of thee and of thy love, O Lord,  
Poor though I be and weak.*

5 *So shalt thou, gracious Lord, from me  
Receive the glory due;  
And so shall I begin on earth  
The song for ever new.*

We will read these  
verses together

6 So shall no part of day or night  
From sacredness be free;  
But all my life, in every step,  
Be fellowship with thee.

Horatius Bonar (1808-1889)  
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## **Prayers of Confession**

We come to God as one from whom no secrets are  
hidden,  
to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

**God of mercy,  
we acknowledge that we are all sinners.  
We turn from the wrong that we have thought and  
said and done,  
and are mindful of all that we have failed to do.**

**For the sake of Jesus, who died for us,  
forgive us for all that is past,  
and help us to live each day  
in the light of Christ our Lord.  
Amen**

May the God of love  
bring us back to himself,  
forgive us our sins,  
and assure us of his eternal love  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

The Collect

Merciful God,  
your Son came to save us  
and bore our sins on the cross:  
may we trust in your mercy  
and know your love,  
rejoicing in the righteousness  
that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

The First Reading

*Philippians 1.1-20*

*Paul expresses his thanksgiving and joy for his Christian brothers  
sisters at Philippi and rejoices in the continued advance of the  
Gospel, despite his own difficult circumstances*

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,  
To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi,

together with the overseers and deacons:

<sup>2</sup> Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup> In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy <sup>5</sup> because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup> being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

<sup>7</sup> It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. <sup>8</sup> God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

<sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, <sup>10</sup> so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God.

<sup>12</sup> Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. <sup>13</sup> As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. <sup>14</sup> And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

<sup>15</sup> It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. <sup>16</sup> The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defence of the gospel. <sup>17</sup> The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me

while I am in chains. <sup>18</sup> But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, <sup>19</sup> for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. <sup>20</sup> I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

*After each reading this response is used*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

A Song is sung

*In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,  
in the Lord I will rejoice!  
Look to God, do not be afraid;  
lift up your voices, the Lord is near;  
lift up your voices, the Lord is near.*

Jacques Berthier (1923–1994)  
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## **The second Reading**

*Jesus tells a parable that speaks of God's generous mercy and forgiveness and he reminds his hearers that all who have received such generous mercy must likewise be willing to share the same with others.*

Matthew. 18.21-35

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?'

<sup>22</sup> Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.'

<sup>23</sup> 'Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup> As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. <sup>25</sup> Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.'

<sup>26</sup> 'At this the servant fell on his knees before him. "Be patient with me," he begged, "and I will pay back everything." <sup>27</sup> The servant's master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go.'

<sup>28</sup> 'But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. "Pay back what you owe me!" he demanded.'

<sup>29</sup> 'His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, "Be patient with me, and I will pay it back."

<sup>30</sup> 'But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

<sup>32</sup> 'Then the master called the servant in. "You wicked servant," he said, "I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. <sup>33</sup> Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?" <sup>34</sup> In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

<sup>35</sup> 'This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

## The Sermon

A hymn is sung

- 1 How deep the Father's love for us,  
How vast beyond all measure,  
That He should give His only Son  
To make a wretch His treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss -  
The Father turns His face away,  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One  
Bring many sons to glory.
- 2 Behold the man upon a cross,  
My sin upon His shoulders;  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held Him there  
Until it was accomplished;

His dying breath has brought me life -  
I know that it is finished.

- 3 I will not boast in anything,  
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,  
His death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from His reward?  
I cannot give an answer;  
But this I know with all my heart -  
His wounds have paid my ransom.

Stuart Townend

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An affirmation of our faith.

Let us declare our faith in God:

**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

We give thanks to God for the Gospel and for the privilege of sharing in God's grace. We praise you, O God, for the work you have begun in each of our lives. May you bring it to completion on the day of Jesus Christ.

Surely God is our salvation;  
**Help us to trust and not be afraid.**

We pray our, Heavenly Father, that your love in our hearts may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that we may always be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.

Surely God is our salvation;  
**Help us to trust and not be afraid.**

We pray that though our way is sometimes difficult and with many challenges, that we will never cease rejoicing in the hope of the gospel. Teach us how to pray for one another with great persistence and faith.

Surely God is our salvation;  
**Help us to trust and not be afraid.**

Today, specifically, we ask for your help in our human struggle against the covid virus. We thank you for the break throughs that you have given in answer to the prayers of many. We ask you to continue to bless, guide and inspire all those who care for the sick in body or mind and those who are searching for a successful and proven vaccine.

As we face a continuing set of restrictions and necessary precautions give us grace to bear the burdens of the present time and loving compassion to reach out to those whom we can comfort, strengthen and help in your name.

Surely God is our salvation;  
**Help us to trust and not be afraid.**

We ask that as the apostle Paul continued to preach the gospel despite his chains, that you will inspire and encourage us, through your Spirit, in all the work of your church to proclaim the gospel in these times. Strengthen us to overcome our fears. Bless the socially distanced services, those led with the aid of modern technology such as Zoom and bless our own service and that of many others being live-streamed today.

Surely God is our salvation;  
**Help us to trust and not be afraid.**

We ask for insight and discernment for those who are responsible for the oversight of dioceses and churches at this time. Especially remembering this diocese of Norwich, our own deanery, this benefice and this church of Blofield. Give us a unity of love and purpose together.

Surely God is our salvation;  
**Help us to trust and not be afraid.**

Finally, we bring to you, O God, our own burdens - the needs of our families, our loved ones, our relatives and our friends. Lord grant your healing to the sick, peace of mind to the anxious, strength to those whose burdens are heavy and the light of the gospel to shine in the lives of them all.

Surely God is our salvation;  
**Help us to trust and not be afraid.**

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

I Now thank we all our God  
with hearts and hands and voices;  
such wonders he has done!  
in him the world rejoices.  
He, from our mother's arms,  
has blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.

- 2 So may this generous God  
through all our life be near us;  
to fill our hearts with joy,  
and with his peace to cheer us:  
to keep us in his grace,  
and guide us when perplexed;  
to free us from all ills  
in this world and the next.
- 3 All praise and thanks to God  
who reigns in highest heaven,  
to Father and to Son  
and Spirit now be given,  
the one eternal God  
whom heaven and earth adore;  
for so it was, is now,  
and shall be evermore.

*Nun danket alle Gott* Martin Rinkart (1586-1649) translated by Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)  
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## **The final acclamation**

To him who is able to keep us from falling  
and to present us without blemish  
before the presence of his glory with rejoicing,  
to the only God, our Saviour through Jesus Christ our  
Lord,  
be glory, majesty, dominion and authority,  
before all time and now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

*Jude.24-25*