

St Michaels and All Angels, Galleywood, 3rd March, 2024 (3rd Sunday of Lent)

Service of the Word: Knowing Christ

Welcome and introduction

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.

Here we are Lord; your people, your Church meeting together in your presence. We welcome each other and we welcome You. Make yourself known to us in new ways through our worship, our prayers and our understanding of your Word today. **Amen**

Song: I behold your power and glory

I behold your power and glory,
Bring an offering, come before You;
Worship You, Lord,
In the beauty of Your holiness. **(Repeat)**

Whenever I call, You're there,
Redeemer and Friend;
Cherished beyond all words,
This love never ends.
Morning by morning
Your mercy awakens my soul.

I lift up my eyes to see
The wonders of heaven
Opening over me,
Your goodness abounds;
You've taken my breath away
With Your irresistible love.

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Song: Your love shining like the sun (MP1384)

Your love, shining like the sun,
Pouring like the rain,
Raging like the storm,
Refreshing me again.
I receive Your love.

Your grace frees me from the past,
It purges every sin,
It purifies my heart
And heals me from within.
I receive Your grace.

*Pour over me,
Pour over me,
Let Your rain flood this thirsty soul.
Pour over me Your waves of love,
Pour over me.*

I come and lay my burden down
Gladly at Your feet,
I'm opening up my heart;
Come make this joy complete.
I receive Your peace.

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Song: Jesus we enthrone you (MP388)

Jesus, we enthrone you
We proclaim You our King.
Standing here in the midst of us,
We raise You up with our praise.
And as we worship, build a throne,
And as we worship, build a throne,
And as we worship, build a throne:
Come, Lord Jesus, and take Your place.

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Confession and absolution

**Father God, You are a great and awesome God.
Today we come to you in a prayer of confession.
We are sorry for the many things that we have done that are wrong in your eyes.
We are also sorry for all the things we should have done but we didn't do.
We are asking now for forgiveness for those things
and other things that we have done wrong and don't even know about.
Please forgive us.
In your name alone we pray, Amen.**

When we sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. Thank you Lord. Amen.

Mission Update: Bible Society (Travers)

Prayer for Sonlight

The Collect of the day is said

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
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 for ever. **Amen.**

Song: His mercy is more

*Praise the Lord
His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness
New every morn'
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more*

What love could remember, no wrongs we have done
Omniscient, all-knowing, He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

Chorus

What patience would wait as we constantly roam
What Father so tender is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

Chorus

What riches of kindness He lavished on us
His blood was the payment His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

Chorus

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Bible readings: (Sally)

Psalm 11

¹In the LORD I take refuge.

How then can you say to me:

“Flee like a bird to your mountain.

²For look, the wicked bend their bows;

they set their arrows against the strings

to shoot from the shadows

at the upright in heart.

³When the foundations are being destroyed,
what can the righteous do?”

⁴The LORD is in his holy temple;
the LORD is on his heavenly throne.
He observes everyone on earth;
his eyes examine them.

⁵The LORD examines the righteous,
but the wicked, those who love violence,
he hates with a passion.

⁶On the wicked he will rain
fiery coals and burning sulfur;
a scorching wind will be their lot.

⁷For the LORD is righteous,
he loves justice;
the upright will see his face.

Philippians 3: 4b-14

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

⁷But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Sermon (David)

Affirmation of faith:

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.

Song: All I once held dear (MP799)

All I once held dear, built my life upon
All this world reveres, and wars to own
All I once thought gain I have counted loss
Spent and worthless now, compared to this:

*Knowing you, Jesus
Knowing you, there is no greater thing
You're my all, you're the best
You're my joy, my righteousness
And I love you, Lord*

Now my heart's desire is to know you more
To be found in you and known as yours
To possess by faith what I could not earn
All-surpassing gift of righteousness

Chorus

Oh, to know the power of your risen life
And to know You in Your sufferings
To become like you in your death, my Lord
So with you to live and never die

Chorus

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Intercessions (Karen)

Lord's prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray
**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.**

Thanksgiving for our offering

Gracious God, use this money and all that we have for the building up of your work in this church and the wider world, for your glory. **Amen.**

Banns, notices and family news

Prayer ministry: Sue K and Karen

Song: My heart is filled with thankfulness (MP1209)

My heart is filled with thankfulness
To Him who bore my pain;
Who plumbed the depths of my disgrace
And gave me life again;
Who crushed my curse of sinfulness
And clothed me in His light
And wrote His law of righteousness
With power upon my heart.

My heart is filled with thankfulness
To Him who walks beside;
Who floods my weaknesses with strength
And causes fears to fly;
Whose every promise is enough
For every step I take,
Sustaining me with arms of love
And crowning me with grace.

My heart is filled with thankfulness
To him who reigns above,
Whose wisdom is my perfect peace,
Whose every thought is love.
For every day I have on earth
Is given by the King;
So I will give my life, my all,
To love and follow him.

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Conclusion and blessing

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,
and keep us in eternal life.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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