

January 17th – God Who Reaches Out

Gathering

Words from JT

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all

All: Amen

HYMN: Will You come and follow me by John Bell and Graham Maule (1987) sung by the choir of St Martins in the fields.

Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown?
will you let my name be known?
will you let my life be grown?
in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go

where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

We come now to a time when we call to mind the ways in which we have damaged our relationships this week – with God, with each other or with the world but we come to him in the confident knowledge that he loves us.

Prayers of Penitence

God shows his love for us
in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Let us then show our love for him
by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought,
in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love,
and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed,
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 lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light.
Amen.**

The president declares God's forgiveness.

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse *us* from *our* sins,
and restore *us* in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Peruvian Gloria – recorded by our junior choir

The Collect:

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory;
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.

All: Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

Readings – Mike Baldwin

Acts 17 vs 16-32,

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

John 1 vs 43-end

This is the Gospel of Christ

All: Praise be to you O Christ

Sermon – Garry Walton

HYMN: Give thanks with a grateful heart by Don Moen (1986) sung by Don Moen

Give thanks with a grateful heart

Give thanks to the Holy One

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son

Give thanks with a grateful heart

Give thanks to the Holy One

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"

Let the poor say, "I am rich

Because of what the Lord has done for us"

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"

Let the poor say, "I am rich

Because of what the Lord has done for us"

Affirmation of 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 Led by Polly Richardson

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Family News –

Ian writes: *'Many thanks indeed for all of the cards, messages and prayers following my hip operation on Monday January 4th. I was discharged home on Thursday 7th where I am making a good recovery. I aim to be back in action sometime this month, but I am under my nurse's instructions as to when exactly that might be. With love and prayers. Ian'*

If you are celebrating your birthday this week, we would like to wish you a very happy birthday.

The Peace

Jesus says to his disciples, 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.
Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled or afraid.'

The peace of the Lord be always with you:

All and also with you.

Spiritual communion

We pause together to rest in the presence of Christ in us and all around us; trusting that wherever we are, however we are, whoever we are with, Jesus comes to meet us as he has promised. Jesus invites us to receive him in our hearts by faith; to unite our prayers and our wills with his; and to rest in his perfect and eternal love.

Music: 'Be still for the presence of the Lord' by David Evans from a recording by Aled Jones

Be still for the presence of the Lord
The Holy one is here
Come bow before him now
In reverence and fear
In Him no sin is found
We stand on Holy ground

Be still for the presence of the Lord
The Holy one is here.

Be still for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around
He burns with Holy fire
With splendour He is crowned
How awesome is the sight
Our radiant King of light
Be still for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around.

Be still for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place
He comes to cleanse and heal
To minister His grace
No work too hard for Him
In faith receive from Him
Be still for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place.

God of compassion, you came into the world to share our life. In the person of Jesus Christ, you walked with us and gave your life for our salvation. May we, who have made spiritual communion with you, know our wounds to be healed, our souls strengthened, and our lives transformed by your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our final hymn is 'There is a new song in my mouth' a song of praise to God for reaching out to us in love.

HYMN 'There is a new song in my mouth' by Kate and Miles Simmonds (2001) sung by virtual choir directed by David Wesley.

When I was lost you came and rescued me,
reached down into the pit and lifted me.
Oh Lord, such love;
I was as far from you as I could be.

You know all the things I've ever done,
but Jesus' blood has cancelled every one.
Oh Lord, such grace
to qualify me as your own.

*There is a new song in my mouth,
there is a deep cry in my heart,
a hymn of praise to Almighty God – Alleluia!
And now I stand firm on this Rock,
my life is hidden now with Christ in God,
the old has gone and the new has come – Alleluia!
Your love has lifted me.*

Now I have come into your family,
for the Son of God has died for me.
Oh Lord, such peace;
I am as loved by you as I could be.

In the full assurance of your love,
now with every confidence we come.
Oh Lord, such joy
to know that you delight in us.

Blessing

Christ the son of righteousness shine upon you,
Scatter the darkness from before your path,
And make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory.
And the blessing.....

Go in the peace to love and serve the Lord
***All* Thanks be to God.**

Music to go out by:

With thanks to Peter Heaps our sound engineer and Sylvia our web site manager.

A service taken in part from New Patterns for Worship. Compilation copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2002.