

# *A Liturgy of the Word Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost*

*Date: 13 August 2023*

**The full service or the sermon can be viewed on the website.**

## *Processional Hymn*

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.

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.

God's great goodness aye endureth,  
deep his wisdom, passing thought:  
splendour, light, and life attend him,  
beauty springeth out of naught.  
Evermore from his store  
new-born worlds rise and adore.

Daily doth th' 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.

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.

*Author: Robert Bridges (1844 – 1930)*

## *Call to Worship*

The Lord be with you.  
**And also, with you.**

We gather together to worship God,  
**who comes to us when we least expect it,**



We gather together to worship God,  
who calls us out of the safety of our ordered lives  
**and invites us to join Him in the adventure of faith.**

### *Introductory Rite*

Let us worship God together.

**Gathering prayer:** *(Let us pray)*

Gracious God,  
We gather once again to offer You praise and thanksgiving  
for Your unfailing love and faithfulness,  
shown most clearly through Your Son, Jesus Christ.  
Grant us grace to worship You in spirit and in truth.  
Through the power of Your Holy Spirit,  
open our eyes to recognize You here among us.  
Give us courage to step out in faith to meet You,  
and confidence to follow where You lead.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.  
Amen.

### *Collect for Purity*

**Almighty God  
to whom all hearts are open  
all desires known  
and from whom no secrets are hid:  
cleans the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit  
that we may perfectly love you  
and worthily magnify your holy Name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen**

### *The Penitence*

When the storms of life swirl around us,  
we forget God's unfailing goodness and power to save us.  
When we hear Jesus say, "Come," we make excuses about  
why it is too hard to follow him, especially when the way seems  
dangerous and challenging.  
Let us ask God to forgive our sins and to extend his saving hand.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father  
in penitence we confess  
that we have sinned against you  
through our own fault  
in thought, word, and deed  
and in what we have left undone.  
For the sake of your Son, Christ our Lord  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you  
in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.**



*Absolution*

Hear the good news: "If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved." and "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**" (Romans 10:9,10,13)

*The Collect*

God of awesome wonder:  
 bless us with bold belief even in the darkness of the night  
 and the assault of life's storms, that we may be messengers  
 of your peace and justice,;  
 in the name of the One whom winds and waves obey,  
 and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The Word of God*

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28  
 Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22  
 Romans 10: 5-15

*Gospel Reading*

Matthew 14: 22-33

*The Sermon*

The Revd Matthew Wright

*Affirmation of Faith*

Let us declare our faith in the words of the Apostles Creed

**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.

### *Prayers of Intercession*

God of grace and God of mercy, when life threatens to overwhelm us, we cry out as the psalmist did, "Save me, O God!" and as Peter did, "Lord, save me!" You are always there for us, reaching out and taking our hand, offering your peace, and calming our fears by your very presence in Jesus Christ. Thank you, Lord for hearing our prayers on behalf of the church and the world.

O God, we pray for your church throughout the world. When we are afraid to step out in faith, help us stay focused on Jesus Christ. When we are comfortable, stir us from our complacency. When we find ourselves sinking under the weight of our doubts, help us to reach out to you and take your strong hand that will lift us up. Faithful God, in this our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary we pray for your blessing to be upon our congregation and for your presence to be seen clearly in what we do and say each day. We pray that your joy and your love will flow freely in and through us.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Lord of love in this month of compassion our focus turns also to the women of our country whom we celebrate and honour. Gracious Father, we pray for a world in which, through the eyes of both men and women, the role of women, their inherent worth, dignity, and honour, would be rightly recognised and praised. We pray for the downfall and undoing of the deep-seated and destructive mindsets, prevalent in our country and in our world, which seek to cast women in any lesser light, and which make them objects of abuse and scorn.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Creator God, we pray for all in authority that they may never be tempted to abuse or misuse their power. We pray for the times when our fear prevents us from taking care of our immediate family and household or when through our busyness, we take no part in the life of our neighbourhood or wider community.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Loving God, friend of those in need, your Son Jesus can free us from our burdens and heal our bodies and spirits. We pray for those still burdened, those seeking healing, those in need within the church and the world. We pray too for those suffering from addiction of any kind and for their wholeness of body, mind, and spirit. We pray for those for whom life is difficult and stormy, who may be sinking. And we pray for those who are ill and those who have asked for our prayers...

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Merciful God, we commend into your hands those who have departed this life. You gave them breath and loved them through their journey of life. Receive them now at the end of that journey into your eternal presence and may their souls rest in everlasting peace.

*(Add names of the recently departed or on Anniversary list)*

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Gracious God, as we go out into the world, we pray that we may reflect your love in our families, our church, and our community; so that the world can witness that we are followers of Christ and draw others into God's loving care.

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

### *Prayer for Offering*

We have received so much from you, O God, and what we offer in return seems measly by comparison. But we offer these gifts and our lives to be blessed by you, rejoicing in the knowledge that you can accomplish great and wonderful things through them. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### *The Lord's Prayer*

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us:

**Our Father in heaven  
hallowed be your Name  
your kingdom come  
your will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
And deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen**

### *Final Hymn*

**1 Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us  
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;  
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,  
for we have no help but thee;  
yet possessing every blessing,  
if our God our Father be.**

**2 Savior, breathe forgiveness o'er us;  
all our weakness thou dost know;  
thou didst tread this earth before us;  
thou didst feel its keenest woe;  
yet unfearing, persevering,  
to thy passion thou didst go.**

**3 Spirit of our God, descending,  
fill our hearts with heavenly joy;  
love with every passion blending  
pleasure that can never cloy;  
thus provided, pardoned, guided,  
nothing can our peace destroy.**

*Author: J Edmeston (1791-1867)*



*Final Blessing*

Go into this week blessed by  
 the wondrous love of God,  
 the faithful love of Jesus Christ  
 the empowering love of the Holy Spirit  
 And the blessing of God Almighty,  
 the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
 be with you now and always.

**Amen**

*Dismissal*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**



*Giving*

Thank you for your continued financial contribution to the church at this time so as to enable St Michael's to meet its obligations in mission and ministry.

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