



# A Liturgy of the Word Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost

Date: 5 November 2023

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

## Processional Hymn

1 For the beauty of the earth,  
for the beauty of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies.  
**Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.**

2 For the beauty of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale and tree and flower,  
sun and moon and stars of light,  
**Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.**

3 For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above,  
pleasures pure and undefiled:  
**Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.**

4 For each , perfect gift of thine,  
to our race so freely given,  
graces human and divine,  
flowers of earth and buds of heaven.  
**Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.**

5 For thy Church which evermore  
lifteth holy hands above,  
offering up on every shore  
her pure sacrifice of love,  
**Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.**

Author: [F. S. Pierpoint](#)

Source: [Ancient and Modern New Standard](#)

### Greeting and Call to Worship (Psalm 107)

Give thanks to God, for God is good.  
**God's love endures forever!**

God has come to God's people with blessings and hope.  
**Praise God for the many ways God touches our lives.**



The Lord be with you.

**And also, with you.**

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

God, our guide and our protector,  
as we enter into this time of worship,  
we ask that you fill us with your Holy Spirit.  
Help us to lift our eyes to you,  
the author and perfecter of our faith.  
Help us to sing your praises with passion and sincerity.  
Help us to listen to your word with reverence and obedience.  
**Amen.**

The Collect for Purity:

**Almighty God  
to whom all hearts are open  
all desires known  
and from whom no secrets are hid:  
cleanse 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**

Call to confession

We are good at rules: making them and then breaking them. Paul reminds us that, when we gain Christ Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we receive exactly what we need – forgiveness, grace, hope. Let us confess our sins to God, that we might know God's healing love for us!

**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:** *(based on Colossians 2:13,14)*

Hear the good news: God has forgiven us all our sins, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. This God set aside, nailing it to the cross. In Jesus Christ, therefore, we are forgiven.

**Collect of the Day:**

Righteous and holy God, your Spirit speaks through your prophets:  
raise up new voices in our time to speak with justice and power,  
and to challenge our arrogance that seeks status above service; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**



Readings:

Joshua 3:7-17

Psalm 107:1-7; 33-37

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

**Gospel:** Matthew 23:1-12

**Sermon:** The Revd Dave Edwards

**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 the People:

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, all authority comes from you and is to be used to glorify your name. We pray for our all Bishops, priests, deacons and who minister in your name, that they may always radiate Your glory in their lives and continue to endeavour to turn the hearts of people toward you.

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

Heavenly Father, we grieve when your people suffer, and your peaceable kingdom seems like an impossible dream. We pray for all areas of the world where there is conflict, especially at this time Ukraine, Gaza and Israel. We pray for all governments of the world and all in authority, that they may use their positions conscientiously to serve all entrusted to their care and have the courage to free the oppressed, always remembering that God is our Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for this community we call home. Fill us with the spirit of humility, true love for one another and of charity



in all our dealings.

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

We pray for the youth of our parish and of our diocese and the world. Lord, help them in their struggles and choices in life, as you enkindle the fire of faith in their hearts. Draw them to yourself that they may know you and come to understand themselves better in your light.

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

We pray for all children, that God may guide and protect them and ensure that they fulfil their potential for which He brought them into the world. Through them may He recreate the face of the earth for a better tomorrow.

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

God of grace, even as wars rage, there is suffering close to home, as well. We pray for those who worry about loved ones and care for their sick. We lift up those in our community receiving treatment, and those who live in fear. Bring peace to their hearts and bring them words of encouragement from those who know them best.

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

Jesus, you blessed those who weep. We pray for those around the world and in our community who are dying, and for those who weep for their loved ones who have died.

We name in silence those on our hearts this day, including those saints who have blessed us in days and years gone by:

*(A time of silence is kept.)*

Keep us united in love with all who rest from life in this world but live with you.

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

Father, hear the prayers of your people. Help us to walk in your ways that we may be a people of faith, hope, love, and conscientious service for the promotion of your kingdom in the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen!**

#### **Prayer over the offering:**

*Let us thank God for the gifts given to support our church.*

Generous God, we give you thanks for your steadfast love which has inspired so many lives to give generously, too. Bless the gifts we bring and bless our lives so that our discipleship will also be marked by generosity of heart and hands that witnesses to your love in Christ's name. 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**



**Hymn:** Let there be love share among us: **AMNS 411**

1 Let there be love shared among us  
Let there be love in our eyes  
May now Your love sweep this nation.  
Cause us oh Lord to arise  
Give us a fresh understanding  
Filled with your love that is real,  
Let there be love shared among us,  
Let there be love.

2 Let there be hope shared among us  
Let there be hope in our eyes  
May now Your hope sweep this nation.  
Cause us oh Lord to arise  
Give us a fresh understanding  
Filled with your love that is real,  
Let there be love shared among us,  
Let there be love.

3 Let there be peace shared among us  
Let there be peace in our eyes  
May now Your peace sweep this nation.  
Cause us oh Lord to arise  
Give us a fresh understanding  
Filled with your love that is real,  
Let there be love shared among us,  
Let there be love

4 Let there be joy shared among us  
Let there be joy in our eyes  
May now Your joy sweep this nation.  
Cause us oh Lord to arise  
Give us a fresh understanding  
Filled with your love that is real,  
Let there be love shared among us,  
Let there be love

Words and Music: [Dave Bilbrough](#)

Music arranged: [David Peacock](#)

**The Blessing:**

Go into the world, blessed by  
the guidance of God  
the humility of Jesus Christ  
the passion of the Holy Spirit.  
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen**

Dismissal:

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