

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

*Date : 23 July 2023*

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

## *Processional Hymn*

**For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies.**

**Refrain:  
Christ, our Lord, to you we raise  
this, our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the wonder of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale and tree and flower,  
sun and moon and stars of light, [Refrain ]**

**For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild, [Refrain]**

**For yourself, best gift divine,  
to the world so freely given,  
agent of God's grand design:  
peace on earth and joy in heaven. [Refrain]**

Author: Folliot Sandford Pierpoint (1864)

## *Call to Worship*

O LORD, you have searched me and known me!  
**You know when I sit down and when I rise up**

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me  
**It is high; I cannot attain it**

If I ascend to heaven, you are there!  
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

**If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts  
of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me**

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



*Gathering Prayer*

Creator God,  
 we commend into your hands this time of worship,  
 may it be to us a sacred time.  
 Wherever we find ourselves,  
 may we be so moved by your Spirit, that like Jacob,  
 we would see the angels ascending and descending  
 upon the Son of Man, and declare with him,  
 'Surely, God is in this place.'  
 Through Christ, our Lord.  
**Amen**

*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**

*The Penitence*

We are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.  
 For if we live according to the flesh we will die,  
 but if by the Spirit we put to death the deeds of the body,  
 we will live. For we did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back  
 into fear, but we have received the Spirit of adoption as God's children,  
 by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

Trusting in God's great mercy and forgiveness,  
 let us confess together:

**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*

Receive the Father's forgiveness  
 through the death of Christ;  
 be strengthened  
 to live in the power of God's Spirit,  
 in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**



*The Collect*

Lord of heaven and earth,  
 you sent your Holy Spirit  
 to be the life and power of your Church:  
 sow in our hearts the seeds of grace  
 that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

*The Word of God*

Genesis 28:10-19a  
 Psalm 139:1-11, 23-24  
 Romans 8: 12-25

*Gospel Reading*

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

*The Sermon*

The Revd Margaret Place

*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

With hearts and hands held out to God, let us now enter a time of prayer:

Gracious Lord, we pray that in our lives the weeds of self-doubt, envy and malice would not take root and choke that which you have planted in us. Remind us that we are your children, and that we have each been apportioned a measure of your Holy Spirit as a guarantee until your coming. Until then, may the fruits of the Spirit abound in us and may they bring peace and blessing to those around us.

Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer**

Lord of heaven and earth, so often we are distracted by the cares and concerns which each day brings. Sometimes we may even feel we have drifted away from you. Help us to see that you are not confined to places of worship but that we can seek your presence wherever we are. Remind us to pause where we can, to become aware of your presence, to give thanks for your provision, and to seek your guidance.

Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer**

We pray for our own parish, the parish of St Michael's. May you strengthen and equip its members that this would be a place of healing, encouragement, and spiritual nourishment. We commit into your hands our various parish portfolios, our Teen and Junior Church ministries, our outreaches, our Anglicare counsellors, as well as all our parish ministers. Equip and inspire those who teach and those who learn that, together, we would be brought to a deeper understanding of your Kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer**

We pray for the Anglican Communion. As the Church endeavours to remain faithful to the proclamation of your Word, and tend the needs of its members, may your Holy Spirit give us a common mind, the mind of Christ, that we would better understand our mission and calling. We pray for Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, for Archbishop of Cape Town, Thabo Makgoba, and for our Diocesan Bishop, Bishop Steve Moreo. Grant them an outpouring of your Spirit and hearts after your own heart.

Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer**

We pray for those the world over who are experiencing tumult and suffering through no fault of their own. We commit into your hands all countries affected by armed conflict: among them Sudan, Afghanistan, Syria and Haiti. We pray also for a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Ukraine. We pray for those affected by natural disaster and climate change. In our own country, we pray for those affected by crime, gang violence and GBV. Finally, we pray for the helpless millions throughout the world affected by human trafficking.

Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer**

Lord, we pray for those within our own parish who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit. Comfort them and bring them your healing, according to your gracious will. We pray especially for... We also pray for those who are mourning at this time. May they find peace and consolation in the warmth of your embrace. We remember those whose year's mind occurs today...

Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer**

Father, we know that you are a loving God who hears our prayers and answers them as is best for us. Accept these prayers, in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## Prayer for Offering

Heavenly Father, thank you that you satisfy our every need. Your word says that we should honour you with the first fruits of our wealth. Accept our tithes and offerings as a gift of worship to you. Multiply what we give for the effective growth of your kingdom. May Christ dwell in our hearts through faith so that we, being rooted and grounded in love, may have the strength to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge. May we be filled with all the fullness of God. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## *The Lord's Prayer*

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*

Thy kingdom come, O God,  
thy rule, O Christ, begin;  
break with thine iron rod  
the tyrannies of sin.

Where is thy reign of peace  
and purity and love?  
When shall all hatred cease,  
as in the realms above?

When comes the promised time  
that war shall be no more,  
and lust, oppression, crime  
shall flee thy face before?

We pray thee, Lord, arise,  
and come in thy great might;  
revive our longing eyes,  
which languish for thy sight.

Men scorn thy sacred name,  
and wolves devour thy fold;  
by many deeds of shame  
we learn that love grows cold.

O'er lands both near and far  
thick darkness broodeth yet:  
arise, O Morning Star,  
arise, and never set!

Author: Lewis Hensley

## *Final Blessing*

As we go out into the world,  
may we, like Jacob, each find our own Bethel.  
Indeed, may we experience the very world  
to be the home and house of God.  
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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