



Christ Church Worthing

ORDER OF SERVICE

28th April 2024

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

10.30am

MORNING PRAYER with Derek Hansen

First Reading: Acts 8: 26 – 40 read by Sally T

Second Reading: John 15: 1 – 8 read by Janet A

Intercessions led by John B

*There is prayer in the organ vestry every Sunday
at 10am for 15 minutes before the service,
which you are welcome to join at any time*

The Organ Voluntary after the service this morning is:

*Medio registro de un baxo de mano izquierda de 1 Tono,
Ms1358 fol29, 1707, attributed to Andrés Lorente 1624-
1703, Alcalá de Henares, Spain*

Registered Charity no: 1152846

Parochial Church Council of Worthing Christ Church

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A Service of Morning Prayer

Preparation *Please stand*

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

All **and also with you.**

O God, you summon the day to dawn,
you teach the morning to waken the earth.
For you the valleys shall sing for joy,
the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
For you the monarchs of the earth shall bow,
the poor and persecuted shall shout for joy.
Your love and mercy shall last for ever,
fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise.

All **Great is your name.
Great is your love.**

HYMN [470]

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send? *Refrain*

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send? *Refrain*

*CCLI 2765 Dan Schutte b. 1947 © 1981 Daniel L. Schutte and
New Dawn Music*

The Family of God

We have come together as the family of God in our Father's presence, to offer him praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive his holy word, to bring before him the needs of the world, to ask his forgiveness of our sins, and to seek his grace, that through his Son Jesus Christ we may give ourselves to his service.

O Lord, open our lips.

All: and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

O God, make speed to save us.

All: O Lord, make haste to help us.

Praise the name of the Lord.

All: the Lord's Name be praised.

CONFESSION *[Please sit or kneel]*

The word of God is living and active.
It judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
All is open and laid bare before the eyes of him to
whom we give account.
We confess our sins in penitence and faith.

All **God our Father,
long-suffering, full of grace and truth,
you create us from nothing and give us life.
You give your faithful people new life
in the water of baptism.
You do not turn your face from us,
nor cast us aside.
We confess that we have sinned
against you and our neighbour.
We have wounded your love
and marred your image in us.
Restore us for the sake of your Son,
and bring us to heavenly joy,
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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. *All* **Amen.**

The love of God has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

All **We dwell in him and he in us.**

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name,

All **make known his deeds among the peoples.**

Sing to him, sing praises to him,
All **and speak of all his marvellous works.**

Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God almighty,
All **who was and is and is to come.**

BLESS THE LORD (Tune 493) [Please stand to sing]

**1. Bless now your fathers' God
And praise his glorious name:
Within heaven's holiest place
His wondrous works proclaim.
With angel hosts eternally
Lift up your hearts to him on high.**

**2. Between the cherubim
From heavenly realms above
He scans the depths of space,
The God of power and love:
With angel hosts eternally
Lift up your hearts to him on high.**

**3. Upon his royal throne
He reigns as Lord and King:
To heaven's eternal heights
Your loyal homage bring:
To God the Holy Trinity
Lift up your hearts eternally.**

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The First Reading – Acts 8: 26 – 40 *[Please sit]*

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

“How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but

went on his way rejoicing. Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and travelled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

At the end the reader says:

Here ends the First Lesson

All Thanks be to God.

WORSHIP SONG [*Stand to sing*]

As the deer pants for the water,
so my soul longs after you.

You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship you.

*You alone are my strength, my shield,
to you alone may my spirit yield.*

*You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship you.*

I want you more than gold or silver,
only you can satisfy.

You alone are the real joy-giver
and the apple of my eye. *Refrain*

You're my friend and you are my brother,
even though you are a King.

I love you more than any other,
so much more than anything.

*You alone are my strength, my shield,
to you alone may my spirit yield.*

*You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship you.*

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The Second Reading – John 15: 1 - 8 [Please sit]

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Here ends the Second Lesson *All Thanks be to God.*

Sermon [Sit]

There follows a short time of quiet reflection before..

Apostles' Creed [Please stand]

**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.**

Hymn [538] *to the tune of [606] Please stand to sing*

Choir please note v4 has been omitted from the hymn book

O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end:
be thou ever near me,
my Master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel thee near me!
the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but Jesus, draw thou nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.

O let me see thy footmarks,
and in them plant mine own;
my hope to follow duly
is in thy strength alone.
O guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
and then in heaven receive me,
my Saviour and my Friend.

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PLEASE SIT OR KNEEL TO PRAY

A prayer for Peace

O God, it is your will to hold both heaven and earth
in a single peace. Let the design of your great love shine on
the waste of our wraths and sorrows, and give peace among
nations, and peace in our hearts, through Jesus Christ our
Lord. **All Amen.**

God of mercy and compassion, of grace and reconciliation,
pour your power upon all your children in the Middle East:
Jews, Muslims and Christians, Palestinians and Israelis.
Let hatred be turned into love, fear to trust, despair to hope,

oppression to freedom, occupation to liberation, that violent encounters may be replaced by loving embraces, and peace and justice could be experienced by all.

Spirit of the living God, Come afresh on your holy land.

Help your people to restore broken relationships.

Give them patience to break down barriers of suspicion and mistrust; ability to discern personal prejudices and the courage to overcome fear. Teach them to respect each other's integrity and rights so that your kingdom may be established on earth. For Jesus' sake. **All Amen**

Collect

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **All Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

at the end, a short period of silence is kept, and then:

Merciful Father,

All Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Offertory Hymn [311] *[Please stand to sing]*

Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,
first-begotten from the dead.
thou alone, our strong defender,
liftest up thy people's head.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Jesu, true and living bread.

Here our humblest homage pay we,
here in loving reverence bow;
here for faith's discernment pray we,
lest we fail to know thee now.
Alleluia! Alleluia
thou art here, we ask not how.

Paschal Lamb, thine offering, finished
once for all when thou wast slain,
in its fullness undiminished
shall for evermore remain.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
cleansing souls from every stain.

Life-imparting heavenly manna,
stricken rock with streaming side,
heaven and earth with loud hosanna
worship thee, the Lamb who died.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
risen, ascended, glorified!

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Conclusion

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

**All All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.**

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

All Amen.

BLESSING

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

All: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ.

All: *Thanks be to God.*

Our thanks to Derek Hansen for leading our service of Morning Prayer today

Please stay for coffee or tea and a chat after the service in Waters' Hall

Sadly, Roy West died recently. His funeral will take place at Ian Hart Funeral Chapel at 20 Sompting Road, Broadwater, at 12 noon this Thursday, 2nd May. All are welcome. If you wish to go, please let Janine know as the family need to know how many to cater for at the refreshments afterwards upstairs.

Services in May in Christ Church:

5th 10.30am Holy Communion with baptisms

6.00pm Evensong

9th 10.30am BCP Holy Communion

12th 10.30am Morning Prayer

19th 10.30am Holy Communion

23rd 10.30am BCP Holy Communion

26th 10.30am Morning Prayer

Christ Church

Events coming up in 2024

Tuesday 14th May 2024 - from 12.30pm to 1.30pm
Richard Bowen - guitarist

Tuesday 11th June 2024 – from 12.30pm to 1.30pm
Brighton Guitar Quartet

Friday 21st & Saturday 22nd June An Exhibition of Arts to include Banners, Sculptures, paintings and photography
10.30am to 4.30pm

Tuesday 9th July 2024 from 12.30pm to 1.30pm
Zhanna (*pianist*) and **Evelyn** (*clarinet or alto saxophone*)

Tuesday 13th August 2024 from 12.30pm to 1.30pm
Serenata Jazz Group

Saturday 7th September 2024 from 10.30am to 2.30pm
Christ Church Autumn Fair

Tuesday 10th September 2024 from 12.30pm to 1.30pm
Paul Gregory – Guitarist

Tuesday 24th September 2024 from 12.30pm to 1.30pm
John Collins - Organist

Tuesday 8th October 2024 from 12.30pm to 1.30pm
Rob Campkin (Violin) and **James Buckham** (Piano),

Tuesday 19th November 2024 from 12.30pm to 1.30pm
The Inspired Instrumentalists

Many people who come to Christ Church may be unaware of all the groups that use the church throughout the week, and throughout the year.

Many people come to faith this way, merely by finding God in our beautiful building, something we can praise Him for.

One couple recently asked if they could have their marriage blessed in Christ Church, as one of them had been led to faith when attending AA meetings for a long time here.

A retired member of the clergy carried out the ceremony, blessing their union, blessing their rings and giving them and their family, in their own words, “a memory that will last for ever”.

Please pray for them, and for the many people who come through our doors, whose stories we will never know. Safe to say, God works in every one of us, and in this building, not just through services, but through all that takes place here.

We can only give thanks and marvel at His ways.

