



Welcome to St Botolph's Church

Sunday 1 October 2023
17th Sunday after Trinity

We gather to worship

May the light and peace of Jesus Christ our Lord be with you.

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation. Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving and be glad in him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God and a great king above all gods. Come, let us worship and bow down and kneel before the Lord our maker. For he is our God; we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

Hymn

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth:
Hast thou not seen? All that is needful hath been
Granted in what he ordaineth.

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee:
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
If with his love he befriends thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen sound from his people again;
Gladly for aye we adore him!

We say sorry to God

Recognising the Lord's presence and power with us now, and knowing our own shortcomings, we turn to him and seek healing and forgiveness:

Gracious God, where bridges have been broken and relationships damaged, **forgive us and bring reconciliation.**

Where love has been compromised and hearts broken: **forgive us and bring healing.**

Where silence has allowed oppression to flourish: **forgive us and bring justice.**

Where we have turned away from you and been poor witnesses: **forgive us and bring understanding.**
In Jesus' name. Amen.

We remain seated as we sing

**Be still and know that I am God,
Be still and know that I am God,
Be still and know that I am God.**

I am the Lord that healeth thee

In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust

Recollection of forgiveness

For it is God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness", who has shone in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. We remember that we are the forgiven people of God; that this is God's overflowing grace and love for us.

**We thank you, Lord, that you forgive us and free us from our sins.
Enable us to accept your love, and to live our lives in your light, as your people. Amen.**

A Song of Ezekiel

The Spirit of God fills the whole world.

I will gather you from all nations, and gather you from all the countries. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses. A new heart I will give you, and put a new spirit within you, And I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. You shall be my people, and I will be your God.

(Ezekiel 36:24-26 7 28)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

The Spirit of God fills the whole world.

Hymn

'Thy kingdom come!' on bended knee
The passing ages pray;
And faithful souls have yearned to see
On earth that Kingdom's day.

But the slow watches of the night
Not less to God belong;
And for the everlasting right
The silent stars are strong.

And lo, already on the hills
The flags of dawn appear;
Gird up your loins, ye prophet souls,
Proclaim the day is near:

The day in whose clear-shining light
All wrong shall stand revealed,
When justice shall be throned in might,
And every hurt be healed;

When knowledge, hand in hand with peace,
Shall walk the earth abroad:
The day of perfect righteousness,
The promised day of God.

The Word of the Lord

Philippians 2:1-13. Imitating Christ's humility read by David Branson

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value

others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfil his good purpose.

This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Matthew 21:23-32 The authority of Jesus is questioned

Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. ‘By what authority are you doing these things?’ they asked. ‘And who gave you this authority?’

Jesus replied, ‘I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. John’s baptism – where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?’ They discussed it among themselves and said, ‘If we say, “From heaven”, he will ask, “Then why didn’t you believe him?” But if we say, “Of human origin” – we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.’ So they answered Jesus, ‘We don’t know.’ Then he said, ‘Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

The parable of the two sons

‘What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, “Son, go and work today in the vineyard.” “I will not,” he

answered, but later he changed his mind and went. 'Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, "I will, sir," but he did not go. 'Which of the two did what his father wanted?' 'The first,' they answered. Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Hymn

Enthroned thy God within thy heart,
Thy being's inmost shrine;
He doth to thee the power impart
To live the life divine.

Seek truth in him with Christlike mind;
With faith his will discern;
Walk on life's way with him, and find
Thy heart within thee burn.

With love that overflows thy soul
Love him who first loved thee;
Is not his love thy life, thy goal,
Thy soul's eternity?

Serve him in his sufficing strength:
Heart, mind, and soul employ;
And he shall crown thy days at length
With everlasting joy.

We declare our faith

Let us declare our faith in God:

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son who took our human nature, died for us, and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of intercession, including the Collect of the Day led by David Poppleton

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; 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. Amen.

and ending with The Lord's Prayer

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.

Hymn

O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end:
be thou for 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 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 Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be;
and, Jesus I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
my Master and my friend.

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 Savior and my Friend.

We send out one another

Almighty God, give us wisdom to perceive you, intellect to understand you, diligence to seek you, patience to wait for you, a vision to meditate upon you, and a life to proclaim you. Amen. (St benedict)

The blessing of God.....

Today's voluntary is Caprice by Boellmann

Please stay for refreshments in the hall (at the end of the corridor)

Giving is an important part of our worship.

Did you know, one of the easiest way to give is by using the Parish Giving Scheme?

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/colchester-st-botolph-colchester/>

NOTICES

At harvest on 8th October, we shall be collecting items for the Food Bank. Please pick up a list of what is needed from the Welcome Area. Our Red Bucket Collection on that day will be for the charity Médecins sans Frontières.

The Minutes of the September meeting are on the Notice board.

Tomorrow, October 2nd, WGT meets at Castle at 2.30 pm. and on Thursday 5th Soup 'n' Snack lunch, also at Castle. Midday until 1.15 pm. All welcome.

If you could help at the Licensing Service, please tell David Poppleton. There will be lots of jobs to do.

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

8th October Harvest at 10 am - Holy Communion led by Revd. Chris Smith

15th October at 0.30 am - Morning Worship led by Clive Joyce LLM

19th October at 7.30 pm - Licensing Service for Revd. Chris by the
Bishop of Colchester

22nd October at 10.30 am - Holy Communion led by Revd. Chris Smith

29th October at 10.30 am - We join our friends at Castle Methodist for a joint service.

Churchwardens: David Poppleton 01206 570725 and Colin Nicholson 01206 577905

Vicar: Revd Chris Smith 07458 197461

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