

DORSET SOUTH and WEST

Written Service Revd Ruth Farrant

Sunday 21st September 2025

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm (827) 113 1,3,4

Praise the Lord!

Praise, O servants of the Lord;

Praise the Name of the Lord.

From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the Name of the Lord is to be praised.

HYMN 17 With gladness we worship

With gladness we worship, rejoice as we sing,
Free hearts and free voices how blessed to bring;
The old, thankful story shall scale thine abode,
Thou King of all glory, most bountiful God.

Thy right would we give Thee-true homage Thy
due,

And honour eternal, the Universe through,
With all Thy creation, earth, heaven and sea,
In one acclamation we celebrate Thee.

Renewed by Thy Spirit, redeemed by Thy Son,
Thy children revere Thee for all Thou hast done.
O Father! Returning to love and to light,
Thy children are yearning to praise Thee aright.

PRAYER Almighty God, our Heavenly
Father, it is with a deep sense of gratitude that
we come before You. In your love You made us
in Your Image. In the life of Jesus You know
me, and understand all that I experience, the
many emotions, joy and sadness. You feel my
discomfort, even my pain, You recognise my
sense of loss at not meeting with others in Your
Family, You understand my regret for things
said or left unsaid, done or failed to do.

**In the silence, You hear my prayer, of
gratitude, or regret, my need for forgiveness,
and in Your mercy and tender Love You
answer....**

SILENCE

Lord Jesus, Thank you for loving me, giving
Your life for me on the cross, and setting me
free to worship and live for You.

Thank you for the deep joy of Knowing Your
Forgiveness, Your acceptance, Your Presence
with me.

In the Name of Jesus Christ , **Amen**

READING 1 Timothy 2;1-82 I urge, then,
first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession
and thanksgiving be made for all people—

²for kings and all those in authority, that we may
live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and
holiness. ³This is good, and pleases God our
Savior, ⁴who wants all people to be saved and
to come to a knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there
is one God and one mediator between God and
mankind, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave
himself as a ransom for all people. This has now
been witnessed to at the proper time. ⁷And for
this purpose I was appointed a herald and an
apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—
and a true and faithful teacher of the
Gentiles. ⁸Therefore I want the men everywhere
to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or
disputing.

Recently I had the privilege of leading the
Thanksgiving Service for a dear friend who had
been on Palliative care for some time. He was a
Lay Reader in the Anglican Church and for
many years had 'Pastored' a small village Church
until health issues meant he could no longer
fulfil that role.. As you can imagine, he planned
his own Service, choosing Hymns and
Readings! One of the readings was unusual for
a funeral! John 8; 1-11; But even in death he
wanted to pass on the Good news of Jesus-
'*Woman, where are they?*' Jesus declared '*Has
no one condemned you?*'

'No one Sir', she said... '*Then neither do I
condemn you. Go now and leave your life of sin*'.
What a burden Jesus lifted! Can you imagine
how this woman would have felt! All those
fingers of the righteous people pointing at her,
and Jesus, defending her, -not condoning her
way of life, but, neither did He condone the
judgment of those who wanted to stone her to
death!

I wonder did she instinctively want to throw her
arms around Jesus and thank Him. I can only
imagine her life was transformed by the love and
care Jesus showed her that day. The care Jesus
shows is evident in the way He later met with
His Disciples, washing their feet, even though
he knew one would betray Him, one would deny
Him and the others would run away in His time
of need. Then later, after His resurrection, how
he met with them on the beach and cooked
breakfast for them, no reprimand, just love and
concern for their well being. *Peter, do you love
me? feed my sheep!* And you will remember he
asked that question, three times and gave the

commission 3 times, perhaps in recognition of the 3 times Peter had denied him.

And so God deals with each, not as we deserve but because of what Jesus has done on the cross, with deep love and compassion. Paul's words in his letter to Timothy, his Spiritual son, confirms this... *'Here is a trustworthy saying, that deserves full acceptance; Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners-of whom I am the worst. BUT for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display His unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. Now to the King, eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever'. Amen !*

1 Timothy, 1; 15-17

It takes the amazing GRACE of God to accept people as they are and be willing to help them as they face the consequences of their actions.

And so Paul, urges Timothy to continue the work, urging him to ***Pray, with Thanksgiving, interceding for Kings and those in authority!*** Why?

So that we can live peaceably which is what pleases God our Saviour Wow!

When we see, and hear, of what is going on around the world --- we are left feeling, there is not much PEACE! Every day we have reports of war crimes, people being killed, and unbearable suffering, in Ukraine and Russia, Gaza and Israel, and so many other places. And so much more that we don't hear on the news- Christians being persecuted and killed, in Nigeria, Nicaragua, India, Syria, and suffering from hunger and isolation in Yemen.

AND YET, what we also don't hear is that Beach Missions have been taking place during the summer; thousands have gathered in recent weekends to Worship God and be encouraged in their faith- many coming to Faith in Jesus and being baptised in the sea! And young people are returning to Church- seeking a better way.

And around the world, in September, PEOPLE ARE PRAYING, setting up 24/7 Prayer Rooms, crying out to God for His Holy Spirit to move across our land, and the world, bringing Justice and Peace.

LET IT BEGIN IN US...

PRAYER

*Lord Help me not to judge so much as to listen;
To condemn, so much as to understand,
To reject so much as to embrace; and*

*Thank you for forgiving me, and setting me free.
Keep me faithful in Praying that You the Prince
of Peace may be glorified.
For Your Glory Amen*

HYMN 416 There's a wideness in God's
Mercy...like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in His justice
Which is more than liberty.

There is plentiful redemption
In the blood that has been shed;
There is joy for all the members
In the sorrows of the Head.

For the love of God is broader
Than the measures of the mind;
And the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

But we make His love too narrow
By false limits of our own;
And we magnify His strictness
with a zeal He will not own.

God's forgiveness and freedom, His
deep love, means our lives can be transformed
Jesus says to His followers,
***By your love for one another shall all people
know that you are my disciples.***

As Jesus' time on earth was coming
to an end, He showed such care for his
disciples... How would they, His closest
friends cope? In our reading He gives
reassurances, teaching, and such comfort .

READING John 14; 1-10, 27

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You
believe in God, believe also in me. ² My Father's
house has many rooms; if that were not so,
would I have told you that I am going there to
prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and
prepare a place for you, I will come back and
take you to be with me that you also may be
where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place
where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord,
we don't know where you are going, so how can
we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the
way and the truth and the life. No one comes to
the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really
know me, you will know my Father as well. From
now on, you do know him and have seen
him." ⁸ Philip said, "Lord show us the Father and
that will be enough for us. ⁹ Jesus

answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

REFLECTION

Not many of us would take kindly to an uninvited visitor turning up on Christmas Day! But on Christmas day 12 yrs ago our neighbours had a 4 legged visitor –my sister's dog, Paddy! He had got through a gap in the fence between our gardens! Fortunately they were dog lovers, and so began a very special and greatly valued friendship! When the fence needed mending a few years later, we had a gate put in so that there would be easy access, -for in these neighbours we found true Christian friends who cared enough to pray with, and for us and our family and concerns, visiting, spending time together. Whether over coffee, or a delicious meal, -often prepared by the man of the house, who was disabled, we felt uplifted, filled with wonder that someone who had so many health in life, and had so much to contend with on a daily basis, could have such a positive outlook on life. He enjoyed what he could do, rather than regretting what he could no longer do! I will admit we probably thought it a bit crazy when in his 70's he wanted to learn to fly!!

BUT we made the right noises, and remembered Christ's words, - ***John 10;10 I have come that you might have life, and have it to the full..***

What is abundant life? Too often it is seen as living the good life! When everything is rosy! But when hardships come-ill health, the aging process, mobility issues, difficulties, or when things don't work out the way we expect, we lose heart!

For many, 'Fulness of life' is experienced through our relationship with God, a relationship that starts when we realise God's amazing love for us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ; Christ's death is sometimes thought of as 'the end, linking it with Jesus' words from the cross... ***It is Finished.*** But those words refer to ***His Work on Earth Completed!*** Christ's death on the cross was not the end, the defeat, nor was the resurrection the reversal of a defeat! Rather the cross and the resurrection are

the greatest victory, the greatest GIFT to have taken place in the history of the World!

The Evangelist David Watson, told the story of when he heard his young daughter crying, screaming in the Garden. She was frightened, being chased by a bee! He wrapped his arms around her and held her tight. She felt his body go tense. And then he let her go!. ***You don't need to worry any more, the bee has stung me! And bees only sting once.***

On the cross it was as though Jesus wrapped His arms of love around his disciples, yes those disciples who had spent 3 yrs with Him, and then betrayed Him, denied Him and deserted Him in His hr of need. When He appeared, as the risen Lord, there was no condemnation, only love and care and restoration. For he took the sting of death for us. And on the cross, that most cruel death, it is as though he wrapped His arms of love around each one of us, taking the punishment we deserve for all that separates us from God, taking the sting of death, and offering us ABUNDANT LIFE!

What is abundant life to you?

When Jesus offers Abundant life- He's promising us a life where He will be with us in all circumstances, to strengthen, to comfort, to guide; where He will always be trust worthy, Yes, He has plans for our good, and He is with us, when we mess up, ready to forgive and pick us up and show us a better way. Abundant life gives JOY that is deep, not dependant on what is happening in our lives, but the deep assurance that Jesus' Spirit, **The Holy Spirit** dwells in us and God's love is to be shared with others in our day to day life, not just as members of a Church. Our relationship with the Living Lord, is expressed through a life wholly committed to Serving our Lord and Saviour, with thankfulness, and purpose, in every aspect of our life, our outlook, in spite of physical restrictions; our love of nature; and appreciation of all the love and care we are shown; our love for our Lord and trust in God whatever life throws at us; our joy and prayer support for all that God is doing through His Church Family members. .

When we know from experience the Love of God in our lives, don't we want others to know that freedom, that Abundant life too?

God invites us to choose LIFE, in all its fullness, the life that is planned and guided and directed by God, for He knows the plans He has

for us, plans to prosper us and not to harm us, to give us a future that will go on throughout eternity. A future that we can enjoy now, when we know Jesus to be our Friend, who is ever present, for He has promised never to leave us; He is close at hand; He is the Prince of Peace.

PRAYER

Come Holy Spirit and fill me, that loving You,
I may radiate Your Beauty and share Your love
with all I am in contact with, whether here, or on
the phone or by letter. Keep me faithful in
Praying for those who are actively Serving You
through Your Church and in the Community.
For Your Glory we pray **AMEN**

HYMN 356

Jesus shall take the highest Honour,
Jesus shall take the highest praise;
Let all earth join Heaven in exalting
The Name which is above all other names.
Let's bow the knee in humble adoration
For at His Name every knee must bow.
Let every tongue confess He is Christ,
God's only Son.
Sovereign Lord, we give You glory now.
*For all honour and blessing and power
belongs to You, belongs to You.
All honour and blessing and power
belongs to You, belongs to You.
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God.*

INTERCESSIONS

Lord sometimes it feels as though the world is in a mess, so many people being killed, injured, losing their homes, starving, with wars and rumours of wars, people's lives being turned upside down. We despair of how human beings can treat one another in this way! Lord we cry out to You for those who are suffering... may they be comforted! Lord we pray for all who work for the relief of others, those in the Services, the medical Profession, the rescue teams, all who reach out with love, and practical help, those who go in Your Name to bring Your love and compassion. We pray for the leaders of the Nations. For those who have authority. May they exercise it for the good of all, and not for their own pride, greed or self-centredness. We pray for our King and the Royal Family, may they keep their eyes fixed on You and Your ways of Justice, Love and Peace. We pray for Healing within their family, and protection in

the many engagements they have throughout the land and the Commonwealth.

Almighty God and heavenly Father, I thank You for Your presence with us throughout life, and Your unfailing love, and care. I thank you for Your Presence in my life, in work and leisure interests, and in relationships. For protection, wisdom and guidance at every stage.

I thank you for all who have inspired and nurtured me.

Comfort, strengthen and fill me with that Peace that Passes all understanding, the Presence of the Prince of Peace, Jesus,

LORDS PRAYER

HYMN TURN YOUR EYES UPON JESUS

Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in His wonderful face;
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and Grace.

Turn your eyes to the hillside,
Where Justice and mercy embraced;
There the Son of God gave His life for us
And our measureless debt was erased.

Turn your eyes to the morning
And see Christ the Lion awake.
What a glorious dawn, fear of death is gone
For we carry His life in our veins

Turn your eyes to the heavens;
Our King will return for His own.
Every knee will bow, every tongue will shout
All Glory to Jesus alone!

*Jesus, to You we lift our eyes;
Jesus, our Glory and our Prize.
We adore You, behold You,
our Saviour Ever true!5
O Jesus, we turn our eyes to You.*

Psalm 40;

**I Take Joy in doing Your will, my God.
For Your instructions are written on
my heart.**

BLESSING – a Marilyn Baker song
**May the Blessing of the Lord our God
Rest upon you day by day;
May He keep and guide you, every step
of the way.**
**And may you know His peace,
deep within your heart
And may His love control
all you do and say. AMEN**