

Help us, Father, to love one another, as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended, and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with all your saints we give you glory, through Jesus Christ, in the strength of the Spirit, today and for ever. **Amen.**

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.**

Distribution of Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Church family News

Closing Hymn **O for a thousand Tongues to sing**

Blessing

Pour out your blessings upon us,
Lord, as we go on our way,
so that we can be your disciples,
building your kingdom wherever we are.
Loving others as you loved us,
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us now and always.
Amen.



St Michael's Church, Highworth
10.15am service — Sunday 8th September 2024

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Lord, we yearn to hear your voice.
Enfold us in your presence, and hear our voices, too:
the voices of the sick, the oppressed and marginalised;
those who have no voice, who cannot plead their needs.
Lord, let your voice be heard among us. **Amen.**

Opening Response

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.

Today Lord

**Let our eyes be opened to see you
Let our ears hear your words
Let our hearts rejoice in your presence.
Let us leap like the deer and sing for Joy Amen.**

Opening Hymn **Vagabonds (Stuart Townend)**

Confession

Forgive us, Lord, for not listening properly.
In the clamour of a needy world,
we become deaf to individual voices.
Lord hear us and forgive us

We fail to hear those who are under our feet;
the ones who are different from us,
whose culture or face or ability don't fit,
Lord hear us and forgive us

We judge those who don't believe what we do
whose creed is a threatening mystery
or whose lifestyle is disagreeable
Lord hear us and forgive us

Open our ears, Lord, so that we may know their need,
and respond in the fullness of healing love.
Amen.

Pause for silence

Absolution

Almighty God
Who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy on us,
pardon and forgive us from all our sins,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness
and keep us in life eternal. **Amen**

Collect of the day

Reading - James 2: 1—10, 14-17 (NRSV)

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

Gradual Hymn **Give thanks with a grateful heart**

Gospel Reading - Mark 7: 24—37 (NRSV)

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

(After the reading)

This is the Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you, O Christ**

Sermon

Creed

**I believe in God the Creator,
who divided earth and sea, light and darkness,
who created all that lives and breathes and moves.
I believe that I am part of, and have responsibility towards
God's continuing creation.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, the divine Son of God,
born in human form, living, dying,
showing God's unconditional love, available for all.
I believe that I should try to follow Christ's commandments
to love God with all my being, and my neighbour as myself.**

**I believe in the Spirit
who manifests God's wisdom and power,
yesterday, today and tomorrow.
I believe that I need the Spirit, to enable and inspire me in life
and to be with me in death.**

**I believe in the Trinity of God,
the one in three wholeness,
the three in one diversity.
I believe that the mystery of the Trinity will be revealed
when we are transformed to eternity.**

What has God been doing?

Prayers and Intercessions

The Peace

Offertory Hymn **O let the son of God enfold you**

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Why is it right to give thanks and praise?

Listen, and we will hear.

Lord of all life, you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth,
to discover and to cherish.

You give us the fish in the sea, the birds of the air,
and every plant and tree; the life that sleeps in the winter earth,
and awakens again in the spring.

You give us friends and families busy streets for young and old,
the life of an earthly city fulfilled in your city to come.

You give us your love, even when things go wrong.
Jesus knew hurt and pain.
Through him you wipe away our tears, and fill us with your peace.

You made us all, each wonderfully different,
to join with the angels and sing your praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We thank you, loving Father, because, when we turned away,
you sent Jesus, your Son.

He gave his life for us on the cross and shows us the way to live.
Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

Why do we share this bread and wine?

Listen, and we will hear.

On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen,
Jesus took bread.
He gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.
As you feed us with these gifts,
send your Holy Spirit, and change us more and more
to be like Jesus our Saviour.

How do we follow Jesus Christ?

Listen, and we will hear.