

Call to Worship

As we come together today,
let us be mindful of our words and actions
and the impact they have on those around us.
Let us seek God's wisdom and love
to guide us in all that we seek to do,
today and in days to come.

Welcome

Gathering Prayer

Almighty God, we praise you
that you show us how to use power wisely.
Help us, as we worship together,
to learn more of your ways,
to understand that our actions have consequences,
and to seek your wisdom in making decisions
that may impact on others.
This we ask in Jesus' name.
Amen.

1st Hymn StF 255 by Bryn Rees

1 The kingdom of God is justice and joy;
For Jesus restores what sin would destroy.
God's power and glory in Jesus we know;
And here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.

2 The kingdom of God is mercy and grace;
The captives are freed, the sinners find place,
The outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share;
And hope is awakened in place of despair.

3 The kingdom of God is challenge and choice:
Believe the good news, repent and rejoice!
God's love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross:
Our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.

4 God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal;
In Jesus begun, in heaven made whole.
The heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call;
And all things cry "Glory!" to God all in all.

Activity & Joys & Concerns

Prayer of Confession

Powerful God, forgive us
when we have not used our power to influence for
good, but for our own purposes;
when our actions have hurt and excluded others;
when we have allowed greed, fear and pride
to get in the way.
God, forgive us.
Let our thoughts, our words and our actions
glorify you and reveal your presence and purposes.
Amen

The Practice of Power

Christ Church Stocksbridge

Together at Home

With

Green Moor & Crane Moor

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Almighty God,
we thank you for never giving up on us,
even when we let you down.
Thank you for your faithfulness and love.
Thank you that your actions are always noble and
selfless,
drawing us in to sit beside you.
Thank you that you love us even when – like Herod – we
get it wrong.
Thank you that you used John the Baptist to bring many
people
to you – help us to do the same.
Amen.

Reading: Amos 7.7-15

Song: Based on Psalm 85

Reading: Ephesians 1.3-14

Today's Gospel: Mark 6.14-29

¹⁴ King Herod heard about this, for Jesus' name had become well known. Some were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him."

¹⁵ Others said, "He is Elijah."

And still others claimed, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago."

¹⁶ But when Herod heard this, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised from the dead!"

¹⁷ For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married. ¹⁸ For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹ So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to, ²⁰ because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him.

²¹ Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. ²² When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased

The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want, and I'll give it to you." ²³ And he promised her with an oath, "Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom."

²⁴ She went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?"

"The head of John the Baptist," she answered.

²⁵ At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: "I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

²⁶ The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷ So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, ²⁸ and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother. ²⁹ On hearing of this, John's disciples came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

Word

2nd Hymn: StF 353 by David John Mansell

Jesus is Lord! Creation's voice proclaims it,
For by His power each tree and flower was planned and made.

Jesus is Lord! The universe declares it;
sun, moon and stars in heaven cry: Jesus is Lord!

Jesus is Lord! Jesus is Lord!

Praise Him with alleluias for Jesus is Lord!

Jesus is Lord! Yet from His throne eternal
In flesh he came to die in pain on Calvary's tree.
Jesus is Lord! From Him all life proceeding-
Yet gave His life a ransom, thus setting us free.

Jesus is Lord! Jesus is Lord!

Praise Him with alleluias for Jesus is Lord!

Jesus is Lord! O'er sin the mighty conqueror,
From death He rose: and all His foes shall own His name.
Jesus is Lord! God sends His Holy Spirit
To show by works of power that Jesus is Lord.

Jesus is Lord! Jesus is Lord!

Praise Him with alleluias for Jesus is Lord!

Prayers of Intercession

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.
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.

3rd Hymn: by Isaac Watts Tune: StF 182 Winchester New

Salvation is forever nigh
the ones who trust in God's great care;
let grace, descending from on high
bless all with hope and glory here.

Let earth know truth and mercy met
when Christ the Lord came down from heaven.
By his obedience, so complete,
is justice pleased, and peace is given.

Now truth and honor shall abound,
devotions fill the earth again,
and heavenly influence bless the ground
in our Redeemer's gentle reign.

His righteous ways will lead before,
to give us free approach to God;
our wandering feet shall stray no more;
we'll mark his steps, and keep his road.

Closing Prayer & The Grace

We say together

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

Vesper

Take Oh take me as I am;
Summon out what I shall be;
Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.
(sung three times)

Closing Words & Hymn Tune: Abridge(St Stephen) StF 507

1 Be thou my guardian and my guide,
and hear me when I call;
let not my slippery footsteps slide,
and hold me lest I fall.

2 The world, the flesh, and Satan dwell
around the path I tread;
O save me from the snares of hell,
thou quickener of the dead.

3 And if I tempted am to sin,
and outward things are strong,
do thou, O Lord, keep watch within,
and save my soul from wrong.

4 Still let me ever watch and pray,
and feel that I am frail;
that if the tempter cross my way,
yet he may not prevail.

Now let's all enjoy a coffee or tea together.