

Order of Service for Sunday morning – 4th October 2026

James Townsend is leading and Tom Watts is preaching this morning

This morning we celebrate Holy Communion

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Song: 'O praise the name' (Anástasis)

ICAST MY MIND TO CALVARY

Where Jesus bled and died for me
I see His wounds His hands His feet
My Saviour on that cursed tree

His body bound and drenched in tears
They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb
The entrance sealed by heavy stone
Messiah still and all alone

*O praise the Name of the Lord our God
O praise His Name forevermore
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord oh Lord our God*

Then on the third at break of dawn
The Son of heaven rose again
O trampled death where is your sting
The angels roar for Christ the King

*O praise the Name of the Lord our God
O praise His Name forevermore
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord oh Lord our God*

He shall return in robes of white
The blazing sun shall pierce the night
And I will rise among the saints
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face

*O praise the Name of the Lord our God
O praise His Name forevermore
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord oh Lord our God*

Children's song: 'It's a light and a hammer'

HOLD THE POWER OF THE UNIVERSE IN YOUR HANDS

Hold the words that shaped the sky and sea and land
The King has given words to us, to tell us what he's like
Open up your ears and let his Spirit strike

It's a light and a hammer
It's a fire and a sword
It's the voice of our Father
The word of the Lord
The blade of the Spirit can cut to the soul
And God will use it to make us whole

Hear the news of the promised king who came to save
Hear the news of Jesus who rose from the grave
Our King has come to live on earth and rescue us from sin
Open up your mind and let his Spirit in

It's a light and a hammer
It's a fire and a sword
It's the voice of our Father
The word of the Lord
The blade of the Spirit can cut to the soul
And God will use it to make us whole

Know the name of Jesus Christ that makes us new
Know the Son of God, the Word whose word is true
Our King has spoken to us, so there is no place for pride
He gives hearts of flesh and changes us inside

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Children aged 0-Year 9 leave for their own activities downstairs.

Church family news

Confession

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.*

Declaration of Forgiveness

Song: 'Great is your faithfulness'

GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS, O GOD MY FATHER,

you have fulfilled all your promise to me;
you never fail and your love is unchanging
all you have been you for ever will be.

*Great is your faithfulness,
great is your faithfulness,
morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed your hand has provided -
great is your faithfulness, Father, to me.*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in eloquent witness
to your great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Great is your faithfulness...

Pardon for sin, and a peace everlasting,
your living presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today, and bright hope for tomorrow
these are the blessings your love will provide.

Great is your faithfulness...

Thomas Chisholm and in this version Jubilate Hymns
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Prayers: Nate Burke

Reading: Ezra 4:1-5 on page 475 (Clare Ross)

Matthew 16:13-18 on page 983

After the reading This is the Word of the Lord

ALL *Thanks be to God*

Song: 'May the mind of Christ my saviour' (May the mind of Christ)

MAY THE MIND OF CHRIST MY SAVIOUR

Live in me from day to day
By His love and pow'r controlling
All I do and say
All I do and say

May the word of God dwell richly
In my heart from hour to hour
So that all may see I triumph
Only through His pow'r
Only through His pow'r

May the peace of God my Father
Rule my life in ev'rything
That I may be calm to comfort
Sick and sorrowing
Sick and sorrowing

May the love of Jesus fill me
As the waters fill the sea
Him exalting self abasing
This is victory
This is victory

May I run the race before me
Strong and brave to face the foe
Looking only unto Jesus
As I onward go
As I onward go

May His beauty rest upon me
As I seek the lost to win
And may they forget the channel
Seeing only Him
Seeing only Him

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Sermon: Opposition begins

Holy Communion

Song: 'Here we stand'

HERE WE STAND THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMED

Ransomed by the blood that sets us free
From the darkness brought into the light
Enemies of God now his delight
From the depths called to highest heights
Here we stand the church of the redeemed
We are his precious in his sight
Here we stand the church of the redeemed

Here we stand contending for the faith
Standing for the truth in every age
We are weak but Jesus he is strong
In the Spirit's power we labour on
And we know victory will be won
Here we stand contending for the faith
And we know truth will overcome
Here we stand the church of the redeemed

Here we stand but here we don't belong
Journeying toward our lasting home
Now we weep with weary saints who mourn
Telling all the world the hope of dawn
Christ will come all will be restored
Here we stand but here we don't belong
We will wait ready for our Lord
Here we stand the church of the redeemed
Every heart overflows with praise
When at last we stand before the throne
With our King evermore we'll reign
Here we stand the church of the redeemed

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Prayer of Dedication