

**Parish of Steeple**  
**The Church of St Lawrence and All Saints**  
**Racial Justice Sunday 2023**

***The Gathering***

*Let us pause for a moment to bring ourselves and all that we offer to God and give Him thanks.*

**The Greeting**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

**All and also with you.**

**Hymn: The Kingdom of God (Taize)**

*(Click Link)* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nMaCK9JFAZc>

**Prayer of Preparation**

**All Almighty God,**  
**to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,**  
**and from whom no secrets are hidden:**  
**cleanse the thoughts of our hearts**  
**by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,**  
**that we may perfectly love you,**  
**and worthily magnify your holy name;**  
**through Christ our Lord.**  
**Amen.**

**Prayers of Penitence**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,

with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your

strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**All Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

## ***Invitation to confession***

Human sin disfigures the whole creation, which groans with eager longing for God's redemption. We confess our sin in penitence and faith.

## **Kyrie Confession**

You made us to be one family,  
yet we have divided humanity.

Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

You were born a Jew to reconcile all people,  
yet we have brought disharmony amongst races.  
Christ, have mercy.

**All Christ, have mercy.**

You rejoice in our differences,  
yet we make them a cause of enmity.  
Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon *you*,  
pardon and deliver *you* from all *your* sins,  
confirm and strengthen *you* in all goodness,  
and keep *you* in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

**Hymn: For the healing of the nations**

(Click link) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QXtfIE6jSYQ>

## ***The Liturgy of the Word***

**Reading: Amos 5:14-15,21-24**

<sup>14</sup> Seek good and not evil, that you may live;  
and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you,  
just as you have said.

<sup>15</sup> Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate;  
it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts,  
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

<sup>21</sup> I hate, I despise your festivals,  
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

<sup>22</sup> Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-offerings, I  
will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted  
animals I will not look upon.

<sup>23</sup> Take away from me the noise of your songs;  
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

<sup>24</sup> But let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

### ***Gospel Reading***

Alleluia, alleluia

We do not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

**All Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to  
**Matthew (15:21-28)**

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup> Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon.  
<sup>22</sup> Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started  
shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is  
tormented by a demon.' <sup>23</sup> But he did not answer her at all. And his  
disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps  
shouting after us.' <sup>24</sup> He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of  
the house of Israel.' <sup>25</sup> But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord,  
help me.' <sup>26</sup> He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and  
throw it to the dogs.' <sup>27</sup> She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the  
crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' <sup>28</sup> Then Jesus answered her,  
'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And  
her daughter was healed instantly.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All* Praise to you, O Christ.

## **Sermon**

(Click link) <https://youtu.be/Zpdg2vJOSuA>

*Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.*

## **The Creed**

*All* We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; of all  
that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit  
and the Virgin Mary and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified  
under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshipped and glorified,

**who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one  
holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

Let us pray for the Church and for the World,  
and let us thank God for his goodness:

God of all peoples, we pray for all victims of racial hatred and discrimination. Dispel the arrogance and animosity that shatter the unity of your Church and fill your faithful people with your truth and love.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**All hear our prayer.**

God of freedom, we pray for our nation and all the nations of the world. Free us from division, disunity, and distrust in our common life. Awaken compassion and urgency in those in authority and give them a vision of your justice and peace.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**All hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, we pray for all who have lost hope. Pour your love on the lost, the least, and the suffering and bring reconciliation and wholeness where there is division, sickness, and sorrow.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**All hear our prayer.**

God of eternity, we remember before you all who have died by acts of violence, war, and hatred, and honour the faithful in every generation who have worked tirelessly for justice and the equality of all peoples.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**All hear our prayer.**

God of love, we pray for ourselves. Awaken in us compassion and humility as we seek and serve Christ in all people. Help us to be instruments of reconciliation in our world and use us for the work of your kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy,

**All hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father,

**All accept these prayers**

for the sake of your Son

**our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

## **The Collect**

Merciful God, you are righteous and love justice:  
stir the hearts of your people that, rejoicing in our diversity, we  
may repent of the wrongs of the past,  
and, by your grace,  
seek the peaceable kingdom of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All 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:**      **It is well with my soul**

(Click link)      [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AHe\\_qmo3gX4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AHe_qmo3gX4)

## ***Conclusion***

## **The Blessing**

The blessing of God the Father,  
who made from one every nation  
that occupies the earth;  
of God the Son,  
who bought us for God  
from every tribe and language and  
people and nation;  
and of God the Spirit,  
who brings us together in unity,  
be with you and remain with you always.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

***All***      **In the name of Christ. Amen.**