

All-Age Service Sunday 2 April 2017 'Friendship'

The service is led by Revd Gareth Atha, Ben Merrell and the All-Age team

★We Gather Together

Welcome and Notices

Lord, speak to us
that we may hear your word.
Move among us
that we may behold your glory.
Receive our prayers
that we may learn to trust you.
Amen.

Opening Hymn

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

Words and Music: Dan Shutte © 1981

★ Introduction to the Theme

Lord, I come to you,
Let my heart be changed, renewed,
Flowing from the grace that I found in You.
And Lord, I've come to know
The weaknesses I see in me will be stripped away
By the power of Your love.

*Hold me close,
Let Your love surround me.
Bring me near, draw me to Your side.
And as I wait I'll rise up like the eagle,
And I will soar with You,
Your Spirit leads me on
In the power of Your love.*

Lord, unveil my eyes,
Let me see You face to face,
The knowledge of Your love as You live in me.
Lord, renew my mind
As Your will unfolds in my life,
In living every day
By the power of Your love.

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Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.

God shows his love for us
in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Let us then show our love for him
by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Let us return to the Lord our God and say to him:

**Father,
we have sinned against heaven and against you.
We are not worthy to be called your children.
We turn to you again.
Have mercy on us,
bring us back to yourself
as those who once were dead
but now have life through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Words of forgiveness then follow.

My Jesus, my Saviour,
Lord there is none like you
all of my days, I want to praise
the wonders of your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter,
tower of refuge and strength;
let every breath, all that I am,
never cease to worship you.

*Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing,
power and majesty, praise to the King:
mountains bow down, and the seas will roar
at the sound of your name.
I sing for joy at the work of your hands,
forever I'll love you, forever I stand.
Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.*

Words and Music: Darlene Zschech © 1993 Hillsong Publishing

Collect (*Prayer for the Day*)

Gracious Father,
you gave up your Son out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

★We Listen to God's Word

Bible Reading: *John 11.1-45*

A dramatised version of the passage will be read by members of the All- Age team.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *Ben Merrell*

★We Respond to God's Word through Praise & Worship

Such love, pure as the whitest snow
Such love, weeps for the shame I know
Such love, paying the debt I owe
O Jesus, such love

Such love, stilling my restlessness
Such love, filling my emptiness
Such love, showing me holiness
O Jesus, such love

Such love, springs from eternity
Such love, streaming through history
Such love, fountain of life to me
O Jesus, such love

Graham Kendrick, © 1988 Make Way Music

Great, is the Lord and most worthy of praise,
the city of our God, the Holy place,
the joy of the whole earth.

Great, is the Lord in whom we have the victory,
he aids us against the enemy,
we bow down on our knees.

And, Lord we want to lift your name on high,
and, Lord we want to thank you
for the works you've done in our lives,
and, Lord we trust in Your unfailing love,
for you alone are God eternal,
throughout earth and heaven above.

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★ We Affirm Our Faith & Pray Together

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

**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

cf Philippians 2.6-11

Prayers of Intercession

The intercessions end as we say

God of mercy,
**you know us and love us
and hear our prayer:
keep us in the eternal fellowship of
Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.**



Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us.

**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.**

★ We Go Out Into the World

Summing Up

Offertory Hymn

1. Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise;
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.
2. O loving wisdom of our God!
when all was sin and shame,
a second Adam to the fight,
and to the rescue came.
3. O wisest love! that flesh and blood,
which did in Adam fail,
should strive afresh against the foe,
should strive and should prevail.
4. And that a higher gift than grace
should flesh and blood refine,
God's presence and his very self,
and essence all-divine.
5. And in the garden secretly,
and on the cross on high,
should teach his brethren, and inspire
to suffer and to die.
6. Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise;
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.

Words: John Henry Newman

Tune: GERONTIUS

Closing Response

Cast your burden upon the Lord:

he will sustain you.

Create in us clean hearts, O God;

renew a right spirit within us.

Cast us not away from your presence;

take not your Holy Spirit from us.

Give us the joy of your saving help;

sustain us with your life-giving Spirit.

May God keep you in all your days.

May Christ shield you in all your ways.

May the Spirit bring you healing and peace.

May God the Holy Trinity drive all darkness from you
and pour upon you blessing and light.

Amen.

Prayer of Blessing



You are invited to coffee in the South Transept after the service.

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Please use this space during the week to write down prayers for your friends, and ask God for opportunities for them to discover what a faithful friend Jesus is to us.

Father, I pray for this friend who needs Your help at the moment:

Lord God, I pray for this friend who doesn't yet know You::

I thank you Lord for this friend, who is always faithful to me:

I pray for opportunities to be a good friend to this person:

Thank you Lord that you sent your Son, to save us, and to show us through his example how to be good friends to everyone around us. Please give us the strength and courage to live the same way. Amen.