



Order of Service
21st August 2022

Introit: 693 (TiS) 'Come as you are'

Acknowledgement:

Call to worship:

Lord, I have come to you for protection; never let me be defeated!

Because you are righteous, help me and rescue me. Listen to me and save me!

Be my secure shelter and a strong fortress to protect me; you are my refuge and defence. (Ps. 71: 1-3)

Let us worship God.

Hymn: 124 (TiS) 'Great God we sing that mighty hand'

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Confession:

Healer of the world, hearer of the unheard, seer of the unseen, reaching the unreachable, touching the untouchable and welcoming sinners, we praise and adore you.

Jesus the Christ, our saviour and our friend.

Our hearts are full of thanksgiving and praise, O God, as we think about the wonder of your work within the world and for the world. We celebrate your presence among us and beyond us with your transforming and healing love.

Praise be to you, O God. Thanks be to you, Jesus Christ.

Loving Jesus, have patience with us. We are not the people you long for us to be. We need to be reminded of the truth, confronted by your expectations, and hopes for us and challenged by your steadfastness. Hear our prayers today.

We come in faith and ask for your forgiveness.

O God, we are no different from those who knew you first. We look at the task of being your people and we imagine great things for ourselves, a life which brings applause rather than the daily faithfulness which should be our joy.

We come in humility and ask for your forgiveness. Then, heal and transform us with your love and grace. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness:

In the heart of the forgiving Christ, we find grace upon grace. No matter who we are or have been, we are forgiven

Thanks be to God.

Doxology: 771 (TiS) 'Now to him who loved us, gave us'

Word with the children: 'Jesus was a refugee' (Lost sheep)

Readings: Jeremiah 1: 4-10, Luke 13: 10-17

Hymn: 599 (TiS) 'Take my life and let it be'

Sermon brief:

- We hear from the gospel about a woman who attended the synagogue where Jesus was teaching on this Sabbath day. She had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years.
- The presence of the spirit in this woman has caused her to be weak and bent over which Luke identifies as more than just a medical problem.
- The mention of the length of her suffering underscores the seriousness of the woman's condition and in that culture of the day – being a woman and suffering such illness makes her an outsider.



- Jesus notices her and immediately tells her that she is set free from her illness. Then he lays his hands on her and she straightens up immediately.
- Instead of rejoicing in what has just happened, the synagogue leader was disappointed and argues that the healing could have waited for in healing this woman, Jesus has violated the laws of the Sabbath (Exodus 20: 9-10, Deut. 5: 12-14)
- Jesus responds to those who agree with the synagogue leader as “hypocrites”, citing as an example their own practice. Don’t they lead their donkey or ox to water on the Sabbath?
- If people show that much compassion to animals on the Sabbath, how much more compassion should a human receive?
- Whilst the leadership stands humiliated because of Jesus had said and done, the crowd is delighted. The most appropriate day for this to happen to a daughter of Abraham, a daughter of the promise.
- The Sabbath is a day to remember and celebrate the goodness of God and of his healing grace. Legalism stands condemned as Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath exercises his ministry of release and deliverance.
- By being compassionate to this woman, Jesus is releasing her from the shackles of her illness whilst the leaders are bound up in their religious laws and customs.
- We must be careful therefore not to let our religious practices according to our preferred custom outweigh our responsibility to be compassionate.

Service of baptism

Hymn: 494 (TiS) ‘In water we grow’

Presentation (*The elder responsible for the care of the candidates brings them forward and introduces them to the congregation*)

Scripture:

The meaning of Baptism:

Renunciation and Affirmation:

Prayer of Thanksgiving: (*The elder pours water into the font*)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayer:

By the power of the Holy Spirit, bless this water and those who are to be baptised in it; that they may be born anew of water and the Spirit, be raised to new life in Christ, and continue to be his faithful disciples; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Baptism:

Aaronic blessing: (*Mother and baby are brought around to meet the congregation*)

Responses:



... I charge you the people of this congregation, to love, encourage and support those whom we have baptised, that they may continue to grow in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the knowledge and love of God.

With God's help, we will live out our baptism as a loving community in Christ: nurturing one another in faith, upholding one another in prayer, and encouraging one another in service

Presentation: *(Gifts from the congregation, including the presentation of the certificates of baptism be made)*

Hymn: 442 (TiS) 'All praise to our redeeming Lord'

Notices:

Joys and concerns:

Offering:

Receive our gifts, O God, and give to us more love for you and for others and greater commitment to justice. This we pray in your name. **Amen.**

Prayers of the people:

O God, we hardly know what to pray, so great is the need of the world. Holy Spirit pray for us when we do not have the words: Especially we bring before you today those who think they are not worthy to pray or not worthy of our prayers: we pray, O God, for people who often see themselves as outcasts in our world, people with mental illness or disability; people who are different in some capacity to work or study or achieve; and those whose poverty sets them apart.

We pray for your church, O God. May we truly be the Body of Christ, the Body which gathers in love all who long for compassion and welcomes all who may come in hope or fragile faith.

We pray for ourselves, for all that is lost or humiliated within us or among us, for all that in its failing, fears to look at your face.

Hear our prayer, Jesus Christ.

Be gracious to us, O God. We pray in your name. Amen.

Hymn: 217 (TiS) 'Love divine, all loves excelling'

Blessings:

Recessional Hymn – 779 (TiS) 'May the feet of God walk with you'

