

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH
LOWESTOFT



Service of Holy Communion

(Alternative Service)



Sunday 16th August
Week 4

Summer Sermon Series on the Beatitudes

Preacher: Sarah Presiding: Simon

“Blessed Are Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness”

Matthew 5:6

Theme: Jesus blesses those whose deepest longing is for God’s justice, holiness and right relationships.

Sermon focus: Righteousness is not a religious accessory but a holy appetite God promises to satisfy.

WELCOME & Introduction (please remain seated)

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

HYMN 716 Lord, I lift your name on high

*Lord, I lift your name on high,
Lord, I love to sing your praises;
I’m so glad you’re in my life,
I’m so glad you came to save us.
You came from heaven to earth
to show the way,
from the earth to the cross
my debt to pay,
from the cross to the grave,
from the grave to the sky:
Lord, I lift your name on high.*

RICK FOUNDS

Prayers of Penitence

We are invited to confess what we have done wrong

We come to God from whom no secrets are hidden,
and ask for forgiveness and peace.

Therefore, let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments
and to live in love and peace with all.

Confession (please sit or kneel)

Father, you come to meet us when we return to you:
Restore us when we are lost.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, you died on the cross for our sins:
Forgive us when our lives don't reflect your love.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Spirit, you give us life and peace:
Free us from the turmoil of our hearts.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen.

THE PERUVIAN GLORIA (please stand)

This may be omitted or another version used

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Father!
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Father!

To Him be glory for ever!
To Him be glory for ever!

Alleluia. Amen.
Alleluia. Amen. Alleluia. Amen. Alleluia. Amen.

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to Christ Jesus...
Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to Christ Jesus...

To Him be glory for ever!
To Him be glory for ever!

Alleluia. Amen.
Alleluia. Amen. Alleluia. Amen. Alleluia. Amen.

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to the Spirit...
Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to the Spirit...

To Him be glory for ever!
To Him be glory for ever!

Alleluia. Amen.
Alleluia. Amen. Alleluia. Amen. Alleluia. Amen.

THE COLLECT

God of glory,
the end of our searching,
help us to lay aside
all that prevents us from seeking your kingdom,
and to give all that we have
to gain the pearl beyond all price,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD (please sit)

Introduction to the Philippians reading

BIBLE READING

New Testament: Philippians 3: 7-14 (Read by Christine)

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ - the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. I want to know Christ - yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN Lord, I come to you (separate sheet)

**Lord I come to You
Let my heart be changed, renewed
Flowing from the grace
that I've 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**

***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***

GOSPEL READING (please remain standing) (**Read by Rev Pauline**)

Matthew 5: 1 – 12

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.

The Beatitudes

He said:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Sarah

Sermon Focus: *Righteousness is not a religious accessory, but a holy appetite God promises to satisfy.*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (please stand)

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION Led by Sue

(please sit or kneel)

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

At the end:

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

NOTICES AND TIME OF SHARING

THE PEACE (please stand)

Deep peace be in your hearts,

Deep peace with God's good earth,

Deep peace with friend and stranger,

Deep peace with God - Creator, Redeemer and life-giving Spirit.

The deep peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN 559 God of freedom, God of justice

(During the hymn the altar is prepared)

**1 God of freedom, God of justice,
you whose love is strong as death,
you who saw the dark of prison,
you who knew the price of faith —
touch our world of sad oppression
with your Spirit's healing breath.**

**2 Rid the earth of torture's terror,
you whose hands were nailed to wood,
hear the cries of pain and protest,
you who shed the tears and blood —
move in us the power of pity
restless for the common good.**

**3 Make in us a captive conscience
quick to hear, to act, to plead;
make us truly sisters, brothers
of whatever race or creed —
teach us to be fully human,
open to each other's need.**

Shirley Erena Murray (b.1931)*

With this bread that we bring,
we shall remember Jesus.

With this wine that we bring,
we shall remember Jesus.

Bread for his body, wine for his blood,
gifts from God to his table we bring.
We shall remember Jesus.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER (please sit or kneel)

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 thanks and praise.

Almighty God, good Father to us all,
your face is turned towards your world.
In love you gave us Jesus your Son
to rescue us from sin and death.

Your Word goes out to call us home
to the city where angels sing your praise.
We join with them in heaven's song:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna, in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna, in the highest.***

Father of all, we give you thanks for every gift that comes from heaven.
To the darkness Jesus came as your light.
With signs of faith and words of hope
he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean.

Sing

***Blessèd assurance, Jesus is mine:
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation purchase of God;
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood:***

***This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour, all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour, all the day long.***

The crowds came out to see your Son,
yet at the end they turned on him.
On the night he was betrayed he came to table with his friends
to celebrate the freedom of your people.

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food.
He took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
This is my body, given for you all.
Do this in remembrance of me.



Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;
He took the cup, gave it and said:
This is my blood, shed for you all for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.



Sing

***Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.***

***This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour, all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour, all the day long.***

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate the cross on which he died to set us free.
Defying death he rose again
and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.

Send your Spirit on us now
that by these gifts we may feed on Christ
with opened eyes and hearts on fire.
May we and all who share this food
offer ourselves to live for you
and be welcomed at your feast in heaven
where all creation worships you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

Sing

***Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blest;
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love***

***This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour, all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour, all the day long.***



THE LORD'S PRAYER

United as one body we pray for the coming of God's Kingdom in heaven and on earth, using the words 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 forever. Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body
because we all share in one bread.**

The Agnus Dei is sung:

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
grant us peace.***

All are welcome to come forward to receive the bread and the wine or a blessing. It is helpful for us if you say your name when you come to the front.

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

HYMN 247 Holy Spirit, gift bestower (please remain seated)

***1 Holy Spirit, gift bestower,
breathe into our hearts today.
Flowing water, dove that hovers,
Holy Spirit, guide our way.
Love inspirer, joy releaser,
Spirit, take our fears away.
Reconciler, peace restorer,
move among us while we pray.***

***2 Holy Spirit, Christ proclaimer,
wisdom bringer, light our way.
Fire that dances, wind that whispers,
Holy Spirit, come today.
Ease disturber, comfort bearer,
move among us while we pray.
Truth revealer, faith confirmer,
rest within our hearts today.***

Author unknown

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord of all mercy,
we your faithful people have celebrated that one true sacrifice
which takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace:
by our communion
keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel
and preserve us from all sin;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

**Lord, we have broken your bread
and received your life.
By the power of your Spirit,
keep us always in your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

HYMN 650 Great is thy faithfulness

**1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.**

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided;
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**2 Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.**

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided;
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided;
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

THOMAS O. CHISHOLM (1866 – 1960)

THE BLESSING

The Lord bless us and keep us.

The Lord make his face to shine upon us, and be gracious to us.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon us and grant us peace.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon us and remain with us,
be upon those we love,
pray for and care for
now and for evermore.

Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

or

By the power of the Spirit, we take into our community the peace
and love of God.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

