



All age Service of Thanksgiving

4th July 2021

Cudham Churchyard

Today is the National Day of Thanksgiving; due to continued Covid restrictions we are unable to hold the day we'd planned with the village and community, though keep Saturday 28th August free for a revised event. We meet to thank God and each other!

Opening Prayer (based on Psalm 66)

Today we offer our thanksgiving and gratitude to the Giver of all good and perfect gifts,

The Lord be praised.

For the tables we share and the bread we partake of within our communities, within our families, and within our homes,

The Lord be praised.

For the hands of friendship that have been extended to us and the grace we have received,

The Lord be praised.

For Your continual provision in our lives,

The Lord be praised.

For the embrace of love,

The Lord be praised.

For Your mercies that are new at dawn and sustain us through the day, echoing through the night,

The Lord be praised.

For the gift of Your Son and His blood poured out.

The Lord be praised.

For the new life that beats within us now.

The Lord be praised.

In all things, we give You thanks and join with creation's song,

Great is the Lord and most worthy to be praised!

After a moment to look around us the leader prays.

God of all creation,

Thank you for the wonderful things you have made.

Thank you for the universe full of stars and planets.

Thank you for our world, full of life.

Thank you for making each one of us.

Thank you for loving each one of us.

Take these gifts we now offer back to you.

May they be used to the glory of your name.

HYMN – as we are outside we can all sing!

Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,

Who wondrous things has done, in whom His world rejoices;

Who from our mother's arms has blessed us on our way

With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,

With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;

And keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed;

And free us from all ills, in this world and the next!

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given;

The Son and Him who reigns with them in highest Heaven;

The one eternal God, whom earth and Heaven adore;

For as it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

Prayer of Confession – with moments to pause and reflect

Father God,
you have given us so much,
but too often we take those gifts for granted,
or as something to which we are entitled.

You call us to live in caring community,
but too often we place our wants and needs first,
with those of others a distant second.

You call us to share Your gifts with the world around us,
but we are worried that there may not be enough,
and our worrying gets in the way of our sharing.

For all the times when we mistreat and misuse Your gifts,
for all the times we assume that we get what we have by ourselves,
forgive us and lead us back to the path of wisdom.

God is a gracious giver.

God is gracious in forgiveness.

God calls us to new patterns and new life.

We are a forgiven people! Thanks be to God! Amen.

Bible reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God!

Reflection – Rev John Musson

Creed

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.

Song

**I will offer up my life
In spirit and truth
Pouring out the oil of love
As my worship to You
In surrender I must give my ev'ry part
Lord receive the sacrifice of a broken heart**

**Jesus what can I give
What can I bring
To so faithful a friend
To so loving a King
Saviour what can be said
What can be sung
As a praise of Your name
For the things You have done
Oh my words could not tell
Not even in part
Of the debt of love
That is owed by this
Thankful heart**

**You deserve my every breath
For You've paid the great cost
Giving up Your life to death
Even death on a cross
You took all my shame away
There defeated my sin
Opened up the gates of heaven
And have beckoned me in**

**Jesus what can I give
What can I bring
To so faithful a friend
To so loving a King
Saviour what can be said
What can be sung
As a praise of Your name
For the things You have done
Oh my words could not tell
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Interactive Intercessions – Rev Rach Archer

Closing Responses

The world is filled with the glory of God, and we say,

Thank you!

The hills and valleys are filled with colour, and we say,

Thank you!

The vines and trees are filled with fruit, and we say,

Thank you!

Our tables are overflowing with food, and we say,

Thank you!

Our life is filled with love of family and friends, and we say,

Thank you!

We fill this house of God with our voices, saying,

Thank you!

Closing Song

**Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name**

**The sun comes up it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes**

**Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name**

**You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find**

**Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name**

**And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore**

**Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name**

Closing Blessing

Father, we want to thank you for the gift of life. Lord, you say where two or three are gathered in your name, you are in their midst, thank you for being with us. Thank you for our church and for the leaders you've given us. Thank you for all those who have been with us throughout the past year and during the ongoing Covid19 Crisis.

Thank you for allowing us to come to this place to meditate on your word.

Let grace and peace be upon our lives even as we depart from this place to our different destinations. Let everything we have learned bear fruit in our lives so that your light can shine upon us and all people that we may glorify you the true living God, and your Son Jesus Christ. Send us in the power of the Spirit to live and work to your glory. **Amen**

Go in the peace and power of Christ.

Thanks be to God!