



UNITED BENEFICE OF CUDHAM & DOWNE

Farewell Service for

Rev John Musson

Sunday 21st July 2024

St Peter and St Paul Cudham



*During our service please say the words in **bold***

Opening prayer

As we gather in this place, let us open our minds to God.

Blessed be God **who sets us free.**

As we gather in this place, let us open our hearts to God.

Blessed be God **who sets us free.**

As we gather in this place, let us open ourselves to new possibilities.

Blessed be God **who sets us free.**

God offers us holiness.

Blessed be God.

God offers us forgiveness.

Blessed be God.

God offers us love.

Blessed be God.

Know then, that through love God saves us,
that, in tenderness, God shines light upon us,
and in mercy, guides us into peace.

God rescues us from death.

Blessed be God for ever.

Song: Our God is a great big God,

Our God is a great big God,

Our God is a great big God

And He holds us in His hands.

He's higher than a skyscraper

And deeper than a submarine.

He's wider than the universe

And beyond my wildest dreams.

He's known me and He's loved me

Before the world began.

**How wonderful to be a part
Of God's amazing plan.**

Jo & Nigel Hemming

Prayer of confession

For every blessing, Lord, **I praise your holy name.**
For each day of my life, **I praise your holy name.**
With each breath I take, **I praise your holy name.**

**Lead me into a 'praising' life, Lord,
for I forget you when you should be foremost in my mind.
Lead me into a 'praising' life, Lord,
for I am silent when your word should be upon my lips.
Lead me into a 'praising' life, Lord,
for I ignore you when you should be the mainspring of my actions.**

As you bless my life, let me bring blessing to the world.
Forgive my failings, forgive my faults.
Inspire me to live a 'blessing' life.
Give me grace to remember you and bless your name at every turn.

Give me the will to live a 'praising' life.
Fill me with the power of your Spirit,
so that for every blessing, Lord, **I praise your holy name.**
So that for each day of my life, **I praise your holy name.**
So that with each breath I take, **I praise your holy name.**
Amen.

May the God of love
bring you back to himself,
forgive you your sins,
and assure you of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First reading – Philippians 3:1-11

³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. ⁸ God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Hymn: Chosen by Kim and John Curle

**Love Divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.**

**Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit,
Let us find Thy promised rest.**

**Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.**

**Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all Thy grace receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love.**

**Finish then Thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee!
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place;
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love and praise.**

Charles Wesley

Gospel reading – Matthew 11:25-30

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord

²⁵ Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. ²⁶Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

²⁷ “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon – Rev John Musson

Creed

Let us declare our faith in God.
**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.
We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

John and Kim renew their wedding vows and ask for God's blessing

John and Kim,

I invite you now to recall the vows that you made at your wedding

John and Kim come to the front, face each other and hold hands.

Prompted by the minister, John says

I, John, took you, Kim to be my wife;

Kim says

I, Kim, took you, John to be my husband;

The couple say together

to have and to hold from that day forward,
for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish,
till death us do part, according to God's holy law,
and this was our solemn vow.

Today, in the presence of our family and friends,
we affirm our continuing commitment to this vow.

The minister says to the congregation:

Will you, the family and friends of John and Kim
continue to support and uphold them
in their marriage now and in the years to come?

The congregation says

We will.

The minister blesses the rings

Heavenly Father, let these rings be to John and Kim a symbol of
unending love and faithfulness,
to remind them of the vows they have renewed today.
In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Prompted by the minister, John says to Kim:

I gave you this ring

as a sign of our marriage.
With my body I honour you,
all that I am I give to you,
and all that I have I share with you,
within the love of God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Kim says to John:

I gave you this ring
as a sign of our marriage.
With my body I honour you,
all that I am I give to you,
and all that I have I share with you,
within the love of God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Prayer of Blessing

John and Kim remain standing

John and Kim, may God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit,
bless, preserve and keep you;
the Lord mercifully grant you the riches of his grace
that you may please him both in body and soul,
and, living together in faith and love,
may receive the blessings of eternal life.

John and Kim return to their seats

Prayers of intercession ending with:

**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.

The peace

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts
since as members of one body you are called to peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you

Let us offer one another a sign of God's peace

Song: In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! – who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,

**The wrath of God was satisfied –
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine –
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand:
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.**

Stuart Townend

Communion prayer

The Lord is here **His Spirit is with us.**
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.

Lord of all life, you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us happy times and things to celebrate.
In these we taste your kingdom, a feast for all your children.

You made us all, each wonderfully different, to join with the angels and sing your praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We thank you, loving Father, because,
when we turned away, you sent Jesus, your Son.
He gave his life for us on the cross and shows us the way to live.
Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us
Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen,
Jesus took bread. He gave thanks, broke it,
and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks,
and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate his love,
his death, his risen life.

As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit,
and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Help us, Father, to love one another, as we look forward to that day
when suffering is ended, and all creation is gathered in your loving
arms. And now with St Peter, St Paul, St Mary and all your saints
we give you glory, through Jesus Christ,
in the strength of the Spirit, today and for ever. **Amen.**

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.

The minister will dip the wafer into the wine so that all continue to receive both bread and wine. If you wish to receive bread only or a prayer of blessing, please indicate this when you come forward as directed to form a semi-circle. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please come forward first.

During the administration of communion, please join in with the song:

**Be still, for the presence of the Lord
Come bow before Him now with reverence and fear.
In Him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground;
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.**

**Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire, with splendour He is crowned.
How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.**

**Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place;
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister His grace.
No work too hard for Him, in faith receive from Him;
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.**

David J Evans

Prayer after communion

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise
that when we were still far off you met us in your Son
and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace,
and opened the gate of glory.

May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The notices

Closing song:

**Brother, sister, let me serve you,
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace
To let you be my servant, too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey,
We're together on the road;
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christlight for you
In the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
Speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping,
When you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we've seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven
We shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony.**

**Brother, sister, let me serve you,
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace
To let you be my servant, too.**

Richard Gillard

Closing responses

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
In the name of Christ, Amen!

***Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. Please stay for
lunch to say goodbye to John and Helen.***

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