

Service for Trinity 14: Creationtide



**The Parishes of
St Paul's Clifton and Cotham**

The Gathering

Psalm of Praise: 103

Refrain:

Bless the Lord oh my soul

Oh my soul

Worship His Holy name

Sing like never before

Oh my soul

I'll worship Your Holy name

Matt Redman

Words of welcome, introduction and invitation

In the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Penitence

Let us confess our forgetfulness of the needs of the poor,
and repent of the ways in which we waste the resources of the world.

Pause for silent reflection

God has blessed us, but still God's children go hungry.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

God has blessed us, but still the poor cry out for justice.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

God has blessed us, but still we see inequality and oppression in the earth.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May the God of love and mercy bring us back to himself,
forgive us our sins,
and embrace us in his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Collect

Almighty God,
whose only Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your presence:
give us pure hearts and steadfast wills
to worship you in spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

New Testament Reading: Romans 14.1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written,

‘As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.’

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn:

1 PRAISE to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:
Come ye who hear,
Brothers and sisters draw near,
Praise him in glad adoration.

2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth:
Hast thou not seen
All that is needful hath been
Granted in what he ordaineth?

3 Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work, and defend thee;
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
Ponder anew
All the Almighty can do,
He who with love doth befriend thee.

4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen
Sound from his people again:
Gladly for ay we adore him.

Joachim Neander (1680); Tr. Catherine Winkworth (1863)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18.21-35

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

Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'

'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." But he refused; then he went and threw him into

prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, “You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?” And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.’

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

Reflection: Pippa

Profession of faith

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

I believe and trust in God.

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

I believe and trust in Jesus Christ.

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?

I believe and trust in the Holy Spirit.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith:

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

The Intercessions: Alice Chapman

Anthem: Farrant – Lord, for thy tender mercy’s sake

Soprano: Esther, Xinyu, Becka, Anne

Alto: Esther, Xinyu, Margaret, Jill

Tenor: Esther, Xinyu, Richard, Isaac

Bass: Tim, Isaac

Closing Prayer

Loving God, help us to change.
To change ourselves and to change our world.
To know the need for it.
To deal with the pain of it.
To feel the joy of it.
To undertake the journey
without understanding the destination.
Amen

Blessing and Dismissal

The Blessing

May the Spirit bless you with discomfort at easy answers,
half truths and superficial relationships
so that you will live deep in your heart. **Amen**

May the Spirit bless you with anger at injustice and oppression,
the exploitation of people and earth
so that you will work for justice, equity and peace. **Amen**

May the Spirit bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer
so that you will reach out your hand to comfort them. **Amen**

May the Spirit bless you with foolishness
to think that you can make a difference in the world
so that you will do the things which others say cannot be done. **Amen**

And the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer, Life Giver
Be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.