

**Communion Service 31st October 2021
with Revd. Peter Widdess
The Fourth Sunday before Advent**



Personal preparation before the service begins.

Please take time to remember where you are,
and why you are here.
Give thanks and become still
in the presence of God

Prelude: Goodness of God

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-f4MUUMWMV4&list=RDGMEMMib4QpREwENw3_jAc0YgNwVM-f4MUUMWMV4&start_radio=1

I love You Lord
Oh Your mercy never fails me
All my days
I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In darkest nights
You are close like no other
I've known You as a father
I've known You as a friend
I have lived in the goodness of God

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

Bridge:

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
 Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
 With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now, I give You
 everything

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
 Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
 Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
 With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now, I give You
 everything

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
 All my life You have been faithful
 All my life You have been so, so good
 With every breath that I am able
 I will sing of the goodness of God **(repeat once)**

Jenn Johnson, Ed Cash, Jason Ingram, Ben Fielding and Brian Johnson
 Bethel Music Publishing
 CCLI: 7117726

Gathering and Greeting

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

Grace, mercy and peace
 from God our Father
 and the Lord Jesus Christ
 be with you
and also with you.

Opening Song: Cornerstone

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=izrk-erhDdk>

My hope is built on nothing less
 Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
 I dare not trust the sweetest frame
 But wholly trust in Jesus' name
(repeat)

Christ alone, Cornerstone
 Weak made strong, in the Saviour's love
 Through the storm, He is Lord.
 Lord of all.

When darkness seems to hide His face
 I rest on His unchanging grace.
 I ev'ry high and stormy gale,
 My anchor holds within the veil
 My anchor holds within the veil

Christ alone, Cornerstone
 Weak made strong, in the Saviour's love
 Through the storm, He is Lord.
 Lord of all.
 When He shall come with trumpet sound
 Oh may I then in Him be found
 Dressed in His righteousness alone
 Faultless stand before the throne
Instrumental, then repeat refrain (Christ alone)

Reuben Morgan
 CCLI: 6158927

Almighty God,
 to whom all hearts are open,
 all desires known,
 and from whom no secrets are hidden:
 cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
 by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
 that we may perfectly love you,
 and worthily magnify your holy name;
 through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
 we have sinned against you
 and against our neighbour
 in thought and word and deed,**

**through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

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

Collect

Almighty and eternal God,
you have kindled the flame of love
in the hearts of the saints:
grant to us the same faith and power of love,
that, as we rejoice in their triumphs,
we may be sustained by their example and fellowship;
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 reading is taken from the Letter to the
Hebrews, chapter nine.**

Let us prepare ourselves for the word of God
Our hearts and our minds are open.

But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

[Hebrews 9.11-14]

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Song: *You are my strength when I am weak (Lamb of God) – ACF 72*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ScRmcpRip4>

You are my strength when I am weak
 You are the treasure that I seek
 You are my all in all
 Seeking You as a precious jewel
 Lord to give up I'd be a fool
 You are my all in all

Jesus, Lamb of God
 worthy is your name
 Jesus Lamb of God
 worthy is your name

Taking my sin, my cross, my shame
 Rising again, I bless Your name
 You are my all in all
 When I fall down, You pick me up
 When I am dry, You fill my cup
 You are my all in all

Jesus, Lamb of God,
worthy is your name
Jesus Lamb of God,
worthy is your name

Dennis Jernigam
CCLI: 825356

**Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Mark 12:30
Glory to you, O Lord.**

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

“The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

“Well said, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

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

Homily



The west wall of Westminster Abbey in London had a row of niches which had been empty since the statues of saints which had been in them were removed at the time of the reformation. In today's collect we read: "you have kindled the flame of love in the hearts of the saints". It was to celebrate this flame of love, that the decision was made at the end of the last century to put statues of modern-day saints in the niches. One of these modern saints is Archbishop Luwum of Uganda.

Luwum was Archbishop during the dictatorship of Idi Amin and was a major figure opposing the violence of Idi Amin and looking after the victims and their families. His main assistant was Abel Wilson, Dean of Kampala Cathedral. Luwum decided that Abel needed time to recoup strength and recover from the terrible things which he had experienced. Luwum arranged for Abel and his wife to go to Geneva and spend the winter

semester as students at the Ecumenical Institute of the World Council of Churches. In that semester I was also a student, and it was there that I met my future wife. On the final day of the semester there was due to be a ceremony where we would receive our certificates for the papers which we had written there. The General Secretary of the World Council of Churches came into the hall of the Institute and announced: “last night Idi Amin murdered Archbishop Luwum. The Wilsons will not return home as their lives are threatened. Luwum has given his life as a Christian for the good of his people in Uganda. A terrible sacrifice.”

There was a fellow student from Kenya, who had written his thesis on “sacrifice in the traditional religion of the Kikuyu people”. His intention was to show that the Holy Spirit had been present in the Kikuyu people long before the missionaries came, as in traditional religion the cleansing power of blood was very important. He had asked me to type his thesis for him, so I was well aware of his understanding of sacrifice and blood both in traditional religion as also in his understanding of Christianity. This student announced that Abel could have his job teaching in a theological college in Kenya. His giving up his teaching job was also a form of sacrifice, but bloodless.

The idea or reality of sacrifice are at the heart of the reading from the Letter to the Hebrews today. The author of the Letter was writing to people who knew well the rites of sacrifice in the temple in Jerusalem. We can read in the New Testament how often Jesus was in the temple and how often after the first Pentecost the apostles regularly went to the temple when they were in Jerusalem to take part in the worship there. They were well aware of the idea of sacrifice and of how “the blood of the sacrificed animals sanctified those who were ceremonially unclean”.

Jesus had a critical relationship to the temple liturgy and its customs. He and his friends were also well aware that in the first testament were not only the rules for the sacrificial liturgy but also the criticism of this practice in the prophets – put bluntly by Amos – God doesn’t want the stink of sacrificial animals but rather men and women who live good lives. It is significant

that after the Roman army destroyed the Temple in the year 70, very quickly the system of synagogues and rabbis established itself as a valid alternative to the temple as if the criticism of sacrifice in the prophets was widely held and understood amongst the Jews. The letter to the Hebrews does not mention the destruction of the temple, so we may assume that this was still in the unknowable future. The author wishes to understand and interpret the terrible event of the crucifixion of Jesus. His argument is that Jesus as the true high priest is at the same time the true sacrificial victim. Through his death on the cross, his self-sacrifice on the cross, Jesus has redeemed mankind once and for all time. He writes: ... the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanses our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

There are two ideas which we need to note here. Firstly: Jesus is unblemished. A good sacrificial animal had to be healthy and in good form, no blemishes. This doesn't mean that Jesus was a good looking and fit young man, but rather that he was without sin. He was not a notorious breaker of the laws and commandments, as the other two men were, who were crucified on that first Good Friday. Central to his understanding of how to behave, as we can read in today's gospel were the Schema Yisrael: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' and the golden rule: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

When Jesus was arrested, he did not use violence. He was angry that Peter slashed the ear off Malchus, the servant of the High Priest, with his sword (The first person injured by the church.) He was unblemished because throughout his trial and crucifixion he remained "authentic", in the sense that he remained true to himself and to God. He took responsibility and did not try to weasel himself out of the consequences. This is the transforming power for us of the death of Jesus on the cross. His unblemished death, his sacrificial death, cleanse our consciences.

Secondly: we are cleansed from “acts which lead to death, so that we may serve the living God”. All too often we celebrate the blood of Jesus on the cross, Jesus who died for us, the forgiveness of our sins, our justification, and forget that we are cleansed for a purpose. The intention of Jesus is that we turn away “from acts which lead to death” towards life, a life in service of the living God. There is no one correct way of service of the living God. Each of us is asked and challenged in our own personal life setting, whatever that may be, the family, the work situation, the sport club or fire brigade, the parish or politics.

Life as a Christian, in the service of the living God, can be costly. We are not to seek martyrdom, but it can happen. Archbishop Luwum had to be killed by Idi Amin as he showed very clearly the route away from death to life. In this sense Luwum remains for many people alive, despite his death, even as a stone statue on Westminster Abbey. The love of God, God’s love for us, is visible in him. Luwum was authentic.

With this in mind, let us pray the collect again:

Almighty and eternal God,
 you have kindled the flame of love
 in the hearts of the saints:
 grant to us the same faith and power of love,
 that, as we rejoice in their triumphs,
 we may be sustained by their example and fellowship;
 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.

The Creed

We believe in one God,
 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is,
 seen and unseen.
 We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from
heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and
glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of
sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

Prayers of intercessions (by Iris)

We pray for the world,
for the Church,
and all those in need.
And we thank God for his goodness.

Dear Lord,

In the Letter to the Hebrews and many other places in the bible we read of the struggle of people who tried to wrap their minds around the idea of sacrifice and the question how we can relate to you.

We also have our own ideas about sacrifices and how they work in our lives. We are influenced by the magical thinking of our ancestors and countless psychological, cultural and economic concepts that do not help.

Let us realise that you always draws us to yourself. Give us the trust that you - seeing us on the lookout for you - are as joyful as the woman who finally found her lost silver coin.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Dear Lord,

How often do we sacrifice to idols without even realising it? We endanger our health and the relationships with our loved ones to pursue a professional career, win social status or simply to prove to ourselves that we are capable and valuable.

Help us to return to you, to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with you by our side.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Dear Lord,

We sacrifice others, too. Our society and economic system are built on exploitation and many ways to take advantage of people who depend on us or are less qualified, less clever, less resourceful.

Graciously reshape our predatory mind and lead us in your love and wisdom.

Be the strength of the poor, the disadvantaged and the oppressed. Raise and empower them and give them resilience and persistence in their struggle.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

We thank you for the granted visas for Vinod, Molly and Dorothy Victor. Bless all their goodbyes. Let Giji join them soon in Germany. Grant that the logistical challenges and bureaucracy would run smoothly. Protect their journey and let us bubble over with ideas and creativity on how to receive them and make them feel welcome.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

In silence we pray for the people on our hearts.

Let us commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray, to the mercy and protection of God.

Amen.

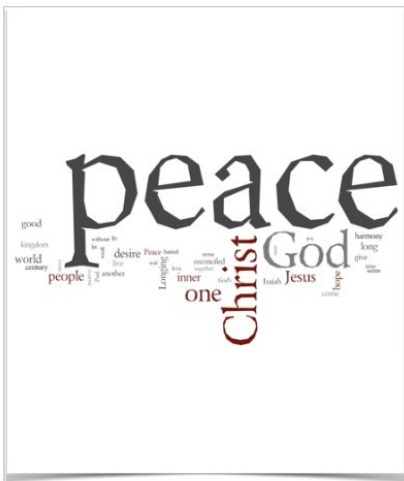
The Peace

We are the body of Christ.
In the one spirit we were all baptised into one body.
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace
and builds up our common life

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

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.

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;
in your love you made us for yourself.
When we turned away
you did not reject us,
but came to meet us in your Son.
**You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life
that we might live in him and he in us.
**He opened his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed,
at supper with his friends
he took bread, and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.
**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new
covenant,
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;
do this in remembrance of me.
**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in
glory,
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.
**As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you this sacrifice of praise
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

Sanctus Song: *Holy, holy, holy is the Lord – SoF*
182

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YY_0uWju3rU

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord
Holy is the Lord God Almighty

Holy, holy, holy in the Lord
Holy is the Lord God Almighty

Who was and is and is to come
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord

Margaret Evans
CCLI: 1156

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray
Our Father in heaven

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.**

**We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your
table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,**

that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his
body
and our souls washed through his most precious
blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in
us.
Amen.

Song during communion:

Make me a channel of your peace

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mT8bybL_DqY

Make me a channel of your peace
Where there is hatred let me bring love
Where there is injury, your pardon Lord
And where there's doubt, true faith in You.

Oh, Master grant that I may never seek
So much to be consult as to console
To be understood as to understand
Or to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope
Where there is darkness, only light
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Oh, Master grant that I may never seek
So much to be consult as to console
To be understood as to understand
Or to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
In giving to all men that we receive
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Oh, Master grant that I may never seek
So much to be consult as to console
To be understood as to understand
Or to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace
 It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
 In giving to all men that we receive
 And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Sebastian Temple
 CCLI: 6399315

Lord of heaven,
 in this eucharist you have brought us near
 to an innumerable company of angels
 and to the spirits of the saints made perfect:
 as in this food of our earthly pilgrimage
 we have shared their fellowship,
 so may we come to share their joy in heaven.
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessing



The peace of God,
 which passes all understanding,
 keep your hearts and minds
 in the knowledge and love of God,
 and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
 and the blessing of God almighty,
 the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
 be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Announcements

(see below)

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Closing Song:***Jesus Lover of My Soul***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jDZcBJH0vM>

Jesus – lover of my so - ul,
Jesus – I will never let you g - o,
You've taken me
From the miry cla - y
You've set my feed upon the rock
'n' now I know
I love you,
I need you,
Though my world may fall,
I'll never let you go;
My Saviour,
my closest friend,
I will worship you until the very end **(REPEAT all)**

I love you,
I need you,
Though my world may fall,
I'll never let you go;
My Saviour,
my closest friend,
I will worship you until the very end

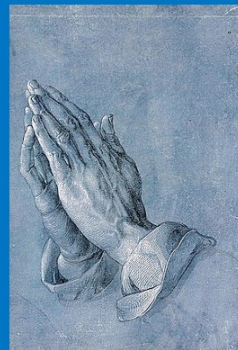
Daniel Grul, John Ezzy, Steve McPherson
CCLI: 1198817

Postlude

Look forward to our next service

with Klaus Warnatz

7th November 2021
The Third Sunday before Advent
11:30 hrs, Zoom link see website
and in person in the church 😊



Evening Prayer on Wednesdays

3rd November 2021
9pm (for 20-30min)

(Please use the usual
Sunday service link.)

ANGELICAN CHURCH FREIBURG
12th December 2021

LICENSING SERVICE

OF REV VINOD VICTOR

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