

MORNING SERVICE

The Revd J L Hepburn

* * * * *

Call to Prayer God is spirit:
and those who worship God
must worship in spirit and in truth.

God is light:
if we live in the light
as God is in the light,
then we share a common life,
and the blood of Jesus,
God's Son,
cleanses us from all sin.

God is love:
everyone who loves
is a child of God
and knows God;
if we love one another,
God dwells in us.

Approach Gracious God,
we come together to worship you.
We thank you for the light of this new morning.
Help us to see in it a token of your love.
Teach us today something more about your love;
help us to love you better,
and to love our neighbour for your sake and in your way;
so that every day of the week we may serve you
and live in your light as you want us to live;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

Confession

Gracious God,
we give you thanks
that you have made known your will
for human beings
in the life and teaching of Jesus;
and we ask your forgiveness
for everything in which we fall short
of what we ought to be.

For every foolish word,
every malicious thought,
every unloving act,
every neglect of human need,
every arrogant assertion
of our own rights and our own goodness,
Lord, forgive us.

Praise be to you, O God,
that you do not grow weary of us,
for you have said,
'I will never fail you or forsake you'.
Out of your abundant grace
give us pardon,
an end to guilt and anxiety,
a new beginning to endeavour,
and a fresh vision of your purpose for our lives;
and by the power of your Holy Spirit
enable us to grow closer to what you want us to be.

God be in my head,
and in my understanding.
God be in mine eyes
and in my looking.
God be in my mouth
and in my speaking.
God be in my heart
and in my thinking.
God be at mine end
and at my departing.

AMEN.

Thanksgiving and Dedication

Let us give thanks to God:
for all life's blessings . . .
health and strength . . .
everything that meets our needs
of body, mind and spirit . . .
everything that brings joy and enrichment
into life . . .
above all,
for God's forgiving love
shown to us in Jesus . . .

Loving God,
you have loved us
and held out forgiveness to us again and again.
Help us to love and forgive
in all our relationships with other people,
so that everything we do and say,
and the offerings we lay before you now,
may express our gratitude to you
and do honour to the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

Intercession

Let us remember before God the world which he loves.

Let us pray for the Church here and in all the world.

God of all,
you have called us into your world-wide Church
that with people of different races, colours and languages,
different experiences and different traditions,
we may be one body
to the glory of Christ on earth.
Father, renew us by your Spirit,
and help us to be what you have called us to be.

God, in your mercy;
Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the peace of the world.

Merciful God,
we hold before you the nations of the world,
with their divisions, enmities, fears and suspicions,
injustices and sufferings.
We pray for them
and for all in positions of authority and power
in the world.
Lord, guide the nations and their rulers
in ways of justice,
mutual helpfulness and peace,
and make all who exercise power
adequate to further the true well-being
of their own people
and of the whole human race.

God, in your mercy;
Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for people of all sorts and conditions.

Gracious God,
you are present in every part of human experience.
We hold before you
children and their parents,
young people seeking to make their way in life,
couples planning for marriage
and newly-married couples,
people for whom old age is increasingly real,
all whose lives are nearing their end,
and all who mourn the death of dear ones.

We hold before you
all who are ill,

all who daily contend with disability,
all whose lives are overshadowed by poverty,
hunger, disaster, injustice, violence,
unemployment or overwork,
their own weaknesses
or the ill-will or inadequacies of other people.

We hold before you
all who are dear to us,
wherever they are,
whatever their circumstances.

Gracious God,
we ask you to bless them all in their particular needs.

God, in your mercy;
Hear our prayer.

Let us remember all whom God's love embraces
beyond this present life.

Eternal God,
God of the spirits of all humankind,
we remember before you
all who have passed from this world . . .
we give thanks
for all the faithful followers of Christ
and all dear to us who are now with you . . .
As we have all received from you the gift of life,
so we pray that you will bring us all to the life eternal.

God, in your mercy;
Hear our prayer.

Let us gather up all our prayers
for ourselves and for the whole human family -
past, present and to come -
in the words which our Saviour taught us:

Our Father . . .