



## Okeford Benefice Morning Worship for Trinity 18

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

Be with us, Spirit of God;  
nothing can separate us from your love.  
Breathe on us, breath of God;  
fill us with your saving power.  
Speak in us, wisdom of God;  
bring strength, healing and peace.

*Silence*

**Come, Holy Spirit,  
fill the hearts of your faithful people,  
and kindle in us the fire of your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

Hymn – Father hear the prayer we offer  
**Father, hear the prayer we offer:  
not for ease that prayer shall be,  
but for strength, that we may ever  
live our lives courageously.**

**Not for ever in green pastures  
do we ask our way to be ;  
but the steep and rugged pathway  
may we tread rejoicingly.**

**Not forever by still waters  
would we idly rest and stay;  
but would smite the living fountains  
from the rocks along our way.**

**Be our strength in hours of weakness,  
in our wanderings be our Guide;  
through endeavour, failure, danger,  
Saviour, be thou at our side.**

*Confession*

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God,  
though we have rebelled against him.  
Let us then renounce our wilfulness and ask his mercy

by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**God of mercy,  
we acknowledge that we are all sinners.  
We turn from the wrong  
that we have thought and said and done,  
and are mindful of all that we have failed to do.  
For the sake of Jesus, who died for us,  
forgive us for all that is past,  
and help us to live each day  
in the light of Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Absolution*

*Collect*

*Readings:*

*Isaiah 25: 1 – 9*

O Lord, you are my God;

I will exalt you, I will praise your name;  
for you have done wonderful things,  
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

<sup>2</sup> For you have made the city a heap,  
the fortified city a ruin;  
the palace of aliens is a city no more,  
it will never be rebuilt.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;  
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

<sup>4</sup> For you have been a refuge to the poor,  
a refuge to the needy in their distress,  
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,

<sup>5</sup> the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,  
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;  
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

<sup>6</sup> On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines,  
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear.

<sup>7</sup> And he will destroy on this mountain  
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

<sup>8</sup> he will swallow up death for ever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,  
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
for the Lord has spoken.

<sup>9</sup> It will be said on that day,  
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.

This is the Lord for whom we have waited;  
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

*Philippians 4: 1 – 9*

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

<sup>2</sup> I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. <sup>3</sup> Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup> Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Hymn – Rejoice the Lord is King

**Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore;  
Mortals give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore;  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!**

**Jesus, the Saviour, reigns, the God of truth and love;  
When He had purged our stains He took His seat above;  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!**

**His kingdom cannot fail, He rules o'er earth and Heav'n,  
The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus giv'n;  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!**

**He sits at God's right hand till all His foes submit,  
And bow to His command, and fall beneath His feet:  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!**

**Rejoice in glorious hope! Jesus the Judge shall come,  
And take His servants up to their eternal home.  
We soon shall hear th'archangel's voice;  
The trump of God shall sound, rejoice!**

*Gospel: Matthew 22:1 - 14*

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: <sup>2</sup> 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. <sup>3</sup> He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. <sup>4</sup> Again he sent other slaves, saying,

“Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.”<sup>5</sup> But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business,<sup>6</sup> while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them.<sup>7</sup> The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.<sup>8</sup> Then he said to his slaves, “The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy.<sup>9</sup> Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.”<sup>10</sup> Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

<sup>11</sup> ‘But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe,<sup>12</sup> and he said to him, “Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?” And he was speechless.<sup>13</sup> Then the king said to the attendants, “Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”<sup>14</sup> For many are called, but few are chosen.’

### *Affirmation of Faith*

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,  
he did not cling to equality with God,  
but made himself nothing.  
Taking the form of a slave,  
he was born in human likeness.  
He humbled himself  
and was obedient to death,  
even the death of the cross.  
Therefore God has raised him on high,  
and given him the name above every name:  
that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bow,  
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### *The Peace*

God has made us one in Christ.  
He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come,  
has given the Spirit  
to dwell in our hearts.  
The peace of the Lord  
be always with you.

### *Intercessions*

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

*Ending with*

Merciful father,

**Accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

### *Prayer of invocation*

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
for all the benefits you have given us,  
for all the pains and insults you have borne for us.  
Since we cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
We ask you to come spiritually into our hearts.  
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,  
may we know you more clearly,  
love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly,  
day by day.  
Amen.

### **Lord's Prayer**

Hymn – Thy hand O God has guided

**Thy hand, O God, has guided  
thy flock, from age to age;  
the wondrous tale is written,  
full clear, on every page;  
our fathers owned thy goodness,  
and we their deeds record;  
and both of this bear witness:  
one Church, one faith, one Lord.**

**Thy heralds brought glad tidings  
to greatest, as to least;  
they bade men rise, and hasten  
to share the great King's feast;  
and this was all their teaching,  
in every deed and word,  
to all alike proclaiming  
one Church, one faith, one Lord.**

**Thy mercy will not fail us,  
nor leave thy work undone;  
with thy right hand to help us,  
the victory shall be won;  
and then, by men and angels,  
thy name shall be adored,  
and this shall be their anthem:  
one Church, one faith, one Lord.**

Closing prayers

**Almighty God,  
you have taught us through your Son  
that love is the fulfilling of the law:  
grant that we may love you with our whole heart**

**and our neighbours as ourselves;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*Blessing*