

# 1st of August 2021



This short act of worship has been prepared for. We invite you to spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you

## Call to worship

Let us reach out in faith towards our God. To love and to worship to give ourselves anew into His service.

## Opening Hymn: StF 11 [Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!](#)

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee:

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around  
the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down  
before thee,  
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,  
Though the sinful human eye thy glory  
may not see,  
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,  
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name in  
earth and sky and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

*Reginald Heber (1783-1826) (alt.) Based on Revelation 4:8-11*

## ***Let us pray.***

Loving Father, we focus our hearts and minds towards you, bringing our gratitude and our joyful praise in offering. Thank you for revealing yourself to us in the world around, the universe beyond, the cosmos infinite; and yet your peace is within us. Thank you for the myriad ways you use to surreptitiously draw us into seeking and following you.

Thank you above all for showing your love in action through Jesus, for his selfless sacrifice.

He was broken that we may be healed, he was blamed for our sin, that we might be free, He still lives with us in Spirit, binding us to you with love.

Father, please forgive our sin, our selfishness, and all that grieves you about us. May the Spirit teach us how to walk, the more closely with you.

May we hear your absolution, within our hearts. All our thanks and gratitude we gladly give.

Almighty Trinity, stay within us, and lead us on the path you would have us tread.  
In the name of Our Lord, Jesus. Amen.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name;  
Thy kingdom come;  
Thy will be done;  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
For ever and ever. Amen

### **Reading from [John 6: 24 – 35](#)**

“Give us, this day, our daily bread.”

I know a thing or two about bread. Since my wife, Anne was diagnosed a Coeliac, Gluten intolerant. our daily bread supply are two different things entirely. Before the diagnosis, Anne was dying of her condition. The truth is Bread, and the gluten in it were killing her.

Her recovery involved changing to a bread that would heal and restore her. Thank God.

The fan club, which Jesus inadvertently caused, after the five thousand feast, was the last thing he wanted.

He was on a mission to save God's children from sin, loving us all into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Here we have the Gospel equivalent to 'Cupboard love'. Perhaps we and they, were short on spiritual understanding. Too bound up in the material world, seeing the spiritual life as a prospect rather than a reality in truth. We can read our Bibles, over and over again, until the 'penny drops,' they had only the teaching of the local Rabbi, and their understanding was hindered by a language with a very limited vocabulary. Little wonder that Jesus' teaching often fell on deaf ears.

When Jesus says, "I am the bread of life", he is talking about eternal life, and the nourishing of our spirits in preparation for it. He is living bread, ready to be sacrificed to nourish us, so that we will live in his kingdom.

Every day in our homes, we carve up a loaf, before eating it, it is sacrificed to nourish us. Sadly, today most of us forget to say grace. We eat without realising what the bread will do for us, not a thought about the 'staff of life', we take it for granted, don't we?

There are many thousands throughout the world today who are going hungry. Too little food, and inferior food at that; and to add to their suffering, this is *normal* to them; Daily.

Through a number of charities, we give to calm our conscience, and pray for God to seal the deal. We console ourselves with the vision of the boy, with five loaves and two fishes, and of Jesus making up the shortfall.

But what is he saying to us when he speaks of, "Going the extra mile"?

Yes, Jesus is the bread of life, we ask him to feed our spirit, daily, and he does. But remember, we are praying not in the singular, but as the family church universal. Our prayer must have *power* to be answered, but it must be offered for all God's children, the believers, and the unaware alike, we must include them too, "Who have not yet, their Saviour known".

If you were a top athlete in training, readying yourself for some national event, the food you would eat would be vital in contributing to your build up to readiness. If a slob like me were to eat the same amount, and do nothing much to burn the calories off, it could kill me.

So, if we ask our Father for our daily bread, the nourishment of our souls, and do nothing to share his 'bread' with the hungry, then we are in truth spiritual couch potatoes.

The bread he gives *comes to enable us to do his will*, not to make us fat.

To bond us to our Father, in a feasting family fellowship of mutual love.

"Give us, this day, our daily bread." And we will share YOU with all who you 'introduce' to us.

"Feed on him in your hearts, by faith, with thanksgiving, and be truly thankful."

Amen.

**Hymn: 157 Stf** [God has spoken-by his prophets](#)

God has spoken-by his prophets,  
Spoken his unchanging word;  
Each from age to age proclaiming  
God, the one, the righteous Lord.  
'Mid the world's despair and turmoil  
One firm anchor holding fast:  
God eternal reigns forever,  
God the first, and God the last.

God has spoken- by Christ Jesus,  
Christ, the everlasting Son,  
Brightness of the Father's glory,  
With the father ever one;  
Spoken by the Word incarnate,

God from God, ere time was born;  
Light from Light, to earth descending,  
Christ revealing God to all.

God is speaking- by the Spirit,  
Speaking to our hearts again,  
In the age-long word expounding  
God's own message, now as then.  
Through the rise and fall of nations  
One sure faith is standing fast;  
God still speaks, the Word unchanging,  
God the first, and God the last.

*George Wallace Briggs (1875-1959)*

**Prayers of Intercession.**

Heavenly Father, we praise you for your intimate involvement in our world, and in our lives. Thank you for the constant harvest you are providing for your children. Please take away from us the self-first attitude we have; may we share your unconditional love with all we meet in need; our food, our money, our medical resources, yes, and our surplus Covid vaccines with the neediest countries, with no strings attached. We ask your nearness, and love for all suffering from Covid, and for those bereaved by it. Help us to support all we hear of who are sick, bereaved, and lonely in our daily prayer. Open our eyes to see what you are calling us to do, enthuse us with you Holy Spirit.

*Let us take time out here to bring our personal prayers to God.*

Thank you for hearing, and in your infinite wisdom, answering our prayers.  
In Jesus' name.  
Amen.

**Hymn: 770 H&P** Go forth and tell! O church of God, awake!

Go forth and tell! O church of God, awake!  
God's saving news to all the nations take.  
Proclaim Christ Jesus, Saviour, Lord, and  
King,  
That all the world his worthy praise may  
sing.

Go forth and tell! God's love embraces all:  
He will in grace respond to all who call.  
How shall they call if they have never  
heard  
The gracious invitation of his word?

Go forth and tell! Some still in darkness  
lie:

In wealth or want, in sin they live and die.  
Give us, O Lord, concern of heart and  
mind,  
A love like yours which cares for all  
mankind.

Go forth and tell! The doors are open  
wide:

Share God's good gifts with people long  
denied.

Live out your life as Christ, your Lord shall  
choose,  
Your ransomed powers for his sole glory  
use.

*J.E.Seddon (1915-83)*

Go out in the strength of 'The bread of life,' which your heavenly Father gives you, Go  
with confidence, with joy, with love. Amen.