

# Stoke Poges Church

St Giles' and St Andrew's



**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2020**  
**Led by Simon McDowell**

Welcome to our service of Morning Prayer. Please join in using the words in **bold**.

## Opening Hymn

"All my hope on God is founded"

All my hope on God is founded;  
he doth still my trust renew,  
me through change and chance he guideth,  
only good and only true.  
God unknown, he alone  
calls my heart to be his own.

Pride of man and earthly glory,  
sword and crown betray his trust;  
what with care and toil he buildeth,  
tower and temple fall to dust.  
But God's power, hour by hour,  
is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness aye endureth,  
deep his wisdom, passing thought:

splendor, light and life attend him,  
beauty springeth out of naught.  
Evermore from his store  
newborn worlds rise and adore.

Still from man to God eternal  
sacrifice of praise be done,  
high above all praises praising  
for the gift of Christ, his Son.  
Christ doth call one and all:  
ye who follow shall not fall.

Songwriter Herbert Howells  
Recorded for BBC Songs of Praise

### Prayer of Preparation

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

This is the day that the Lord has made  
**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

We have come together in the name of Christ  
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,  
to hear and receive God's holy word,  
to pray for the needs of the world,  
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins,  
that by the power of the Holy Spirit  
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

### Prayers of Penitence

Jesus says, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand"  
So let us turn away from our sin and turn to Christ,  
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Almighty and most merciful Father,  
we have wandered and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.  
We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.  
We have offended against your holy laws.**

We have left undone those things that we ought to have done;  
and we have done those things that we ought not to have done;  
and there is no health in us.

But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us sinners,  
Spare those who confess their faults.  
Restore those who are penitent,  
according to your promises declared to mankind  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,  
that we may live a disciplined, righteous and godly life,  
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

May the Father of all mercies  
cleanse us from our sins,  
and restore us in his image  
to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,  
so may the light of your presence, O God,  
set our hearts on fire with love for you;  
now and for ever.

**Amen**

### Hymn

“Forth in the peace of Christ we go”

Forth in the peace of Christ we go;  
Christ to the world with joy we bring;  
Christ in our minds, Christ in our lips,  
Christ in our hearts, the world's true King.

King of our hearts, Christ makes us kings;  
kingship with Him His servants gain;  
with Christ, the Servant-Lord of all,  
Christ's world we serve to share Christ's reign.

Priests of the world, Christ sends us forth  
the world of time to consecrate,  
the world of sin by grace to heal,  
Christ's world in Christ to recreate.

Prophets of Christ, we hear His word:  
He claims our minds, to search His ways,  
He claims our lips, to speak His truth,  
He claims our hearts, to sing His praise.

We are the Church; He makes us one:  
here is one hearth for all to find,  
here is one flock, one Shepherd-King,  
here is one faith, one heart, one mind.

Songwriter James Quinn, tune Duke Street  
Organist Harvey Stansfield and the Vox Angelica Quartet

## Psalm

Psalm 119:129-136 (NIVUK)

<sup>129</sup>Your statutes are wonderful;  
therefore I obey them.  
<sup>130</sup>The unfolding of your words gives light;  
it gives understanding to the simple.  
<sup>131</sup>I open my mouth and pant,  
longing for your commands.  
<sup>132</sup>Turn to me and have mercy on me,  
as you always do to those who love your name.  
<sup>133</sup>Direct my footsteps according to your word;  
let no sin rule over me.  
<sup>134</sup>Redeem me from human oppression,  
that I may obey your precepts.  
<sup>135</sup>Make your face shine on your servant  
and teach me your decrees.  
<sup>136</sup>Streams of tears flow from my eyes,  
for your law is not obeyed.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen**

Scripture Reading read by Kate Holliday

Romans 8:26-39 (NIVUK)

<sup>26</sup>In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. <sup>27</sup>And he who

searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

<sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who<sup>28a</sup> have been called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. <sup>30</sup> And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup> What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written:

'For your sake we face death all day long;  
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.'

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### Song

"Our God"

Water You turned into wine  
Opened the eyes of the blind  
There's no one like you  
None like you  
Into the darkness You shine  
Out of the ashes we rise  
There's No one like you  
None like you

Our God is greater, our God is stronger  
God You are higher than any other  
Our God is Healer, awesome in power  
Our God, Our God

Into the darkness you shining  
Out of the ashes we Rise  
No one like you  
None like you

Our God is greater, our God is stronger  
God You are higher than any other  
Our God is Healer, awesome in power  
Our God, Our God  
Our God is greater, our God is stronger  
God You are higher than any other  
Our God is Healer, awesome in power  
Our God, Our God

And if Our God is for us, then who could ever stop us?  
And if our God is with us, then what can stand against?  
And if Our God is for us, then who could ever stop us?  
And if our God is with us, then what can stand against?  
Then what can stand against?

Our God is greater, our God is stronger  
God You are higher than any other  
Our God is Healer, awesome in power  
Our God, Our God  
Our God is greater, our God is stronger  
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Then what can stand against?  
Then what can stand against?

Source: [LyricFind](#)  
Songwriters: Chris Tomlin / Jesse Reeves / Jonas Myrin / Matt Redman  
Our God Lyrics © Universal Music Publishing Group

## Sermon

Bishop Olivia is opening God's word for us today, with thanks to the Diocese for sharing this resource. If you wish, you can donate to the Disasters Emergency Committee at <https://www.dec.org.uk/>

## The Creed

I believe in God, The Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
He ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Prayers

Prepared and read for us by John Wheatley

The response is: God of love ~ Hear our prayer

## 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.

## The Collect

For the Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Lord of all power and might,  
the author and giver of all good things:  
graft in our hearts the love of your name,  
increase in us true religion,  
nourish us with all goodness,  
and of your great mercy keep us in the same;  
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**

## Final Hymn

“Be thou my vision”

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art -  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night;  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
Thou my great Father; thine own may I be,  
Thou in me dwelling and I one with thee.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
Thou and thou only first in my heart,  
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Source: [Musixmatch](#)

Songwriters: Eleanor Hull

## The Blessing

Grant, we beseech you, merciful Lord,  
to your faithful people pardon and peace,  
that they may be cleansed from all their sins  
and serve you with a quiet mind;  
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**

Intro/outro music by [www.purple-planet.com](http://www.purple-planet.com)

## Note

To contact the church please email [office@stokepogeschurch.org](mailto:office@stokepogeschurch.org) or phone 01753 642331.  
Please do not come to the office in person; we are all working remotely.

# Thank you for joining us today

## Going Deeper

### **Bible Notes: Romans 8.26-39**

Paul's great positive statement of the marvellous outcome of Christ's work under God reaches its climax. It is no wonder that it has become one of the best known passages in his writings. It is marked by huge confidence and by grandeur of claims for what has been done and what will, for sure, come in the future.

In characteristic manner, this confidence is couched in the imagery of the law, the concern to live in obedience to God's scheme for the conduct of life if it is to be well-pleasing to him. So, as this letter has stressed throughout, God has responded to our inability to meet this demand by the free gift of acceptance – made available to us in and through Jesus, mediator between God and humanity. All that is necessary is for us to take the gift into ourselves, make it our own, and live by its fruits. It seems like simplicity itself and astonishes us.

The confidence that is thereby proper for us is unlimited. It is as if we are made immune from all possible assaults, whether physical or spiritual. Notice that in Paul's day there was a different sense from our own of the structure of the universe: for one thing, it was much smaller than it is for us, and it was peopled by spiritual powers, beneficent and malicious. In their different ways, these came between God and ourselves. But now we have been given a pass that gives immunity to all these forces and gives us direct access to the marvellous and life-assuring presence of God himself, who loves us and, in Jesus, gave himself for us. It is a breathtaking way of stating the Christian message, far removed from much of modern religion.

**A personal prayer**

Thank you Lord,  
for giving me so many wonderful gifts  
and for calling me to share in your kingdom.  
Make me a faithful steward of what I have,  
giving to others a share in what you have given to me.  
Amen.

Name .....

# Activity time

## Matthew 13.31-33,44-52

Jesus gives his followers five examples of what the kingdom of God is like.



## Family time

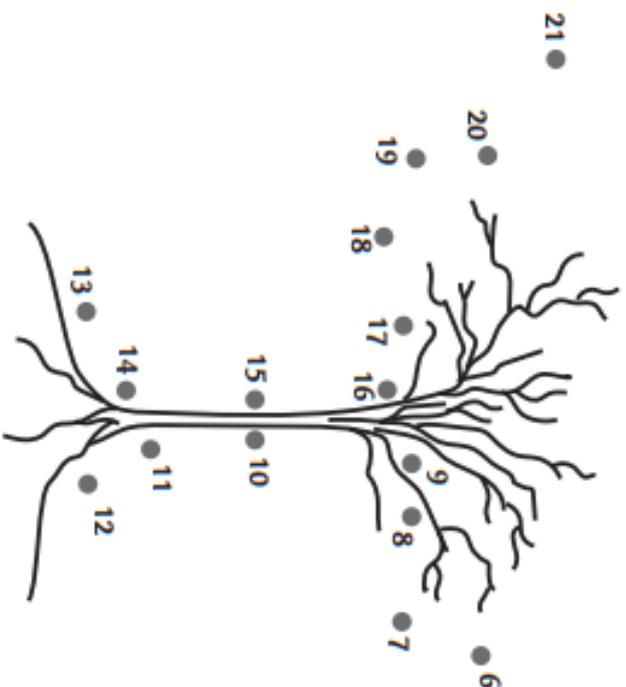
**Talk** How do you imagine the kingdom of God? What could you use to describe it?

**Do** Watch the music video Sing by Gary Barlow. How many different people do you see singing in the music video? What age are the people? What countries do they come from? God's kingdom is for everyone.

**Pray** Find a piece of paper and make an invitation for the kingdom of God. Add the images that come to mind when you think of God's kingdom, and write someone's name on it that you would like to pray for.



Join the dots to form what one of the symbols of the kingdom grows into.

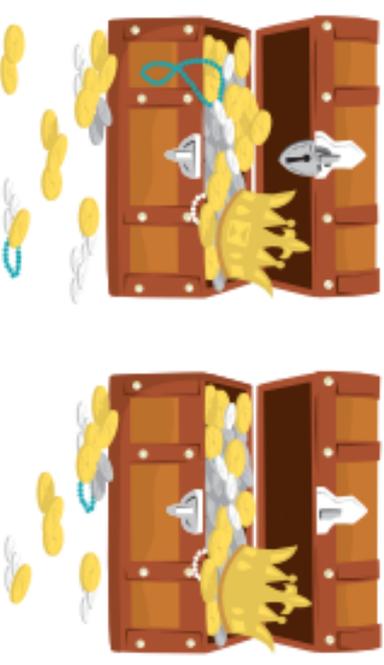


# ROOTS children's sheet

26 July – 1 August 2020



Spot the eight differences in the pictures. You might have to search really hard!



Find words from today's story which Jesus uses to describe God's kingdom.

z	y	e	s	l	a	k	m	i	f
g	g	d	n	r	w	n	k	o	b
c	n	x	e	a	s	w	d	t	a
g	k	i	t	e	r	c	r	i	
m	g	z	h	p	k	e	p	t	d
s	e	e	d	s	a	u	s	b	t
q	y	a	v	s	i	a	q	h	c
n	c	o	u	j	e	f	q	h	r
n	d	r	e	y	z	o	b	l	h
r	e	z	d	r	a	t	s	u	m

mustard  
seed  
pearl  
yeast  
treasure  
fishing  
net