**Love thy Neighbour**

**A Service of Reflection and Celebration for Community and Kindness**

**Welcome**

**The Greeting**

In the name of Christ, we welcome you.

We have been called out of darkness into God’s marvellous light.

Grace and peace be with you

**All and also with you.**

The love of God has been poured into our hearts,

through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us:

we dwell in him and he lives in us.

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name:

**All make known his deeds among the peoples.**

Sing to God, sing praises to his name:

**All and speak of all his marvellous works.**

Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God almighty:

**All who was and is and is to come.**

**Opening Hymn:** Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

**Dear Lord and Father of mankind,**

**forgive our foolish ways;**

**reclothe us in our rightful mind,**

**in purer lives thy service find,**

**in deeper reverence, praise.**

**In simple trust like theirs who heard**

**beside the Syrian sea**

**the gracious calling of the Lord,**

**let us, like them, without a word**

**rise up and follow thee.**

**O Sabbath rest by Galilee,**

**O calm of hills above,**

**where Jesus knelt to share with thee**

**the silence of eternity,**

**interpreted by love!**

**Drop thy still dews of quietness,**

**till all our strivings cease;**

**take from our souls the strain and stress,**

**and let our ordered lives confess**

**the beauty of thy peace.**

**Breathe through the heats of our desire**

**thy coolness and thy balm;**

**let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;**

**speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,**

**O still, small voice of calm!**

*John Greenleaf Whittier (1872)*

**Lighting our candles of Remembrance**

We start our time together lighting a candle / lamp / light in the windows of our homes as we remember all those who have died in the COVID-19 pandemic. In a moment, we will listen to a piece of music during which you can light your candles but before we do, we still our minds and pray together;

Heavenly Father,

We light these candles to remember all those who have died during this challenging season,

loved ones, friends, neighbours and those within our communities.

We pray for all those grieving, those who were unable to hold the hands of their loved ones as they slipped away

Those who were unable to say goodbye or attended funerals alone

**All** **Lord, in these times, you were there. We thank you for the comfort of your presence**

We pray too for our keyworkers, who not only worked to save lives and keep communities safe, but were a source of love and comfort for those whose families were not able to be there

Who ignored their own weariness to support others,

Who often made personal sacrifices and risked their own health to care for others

**All Lord, in these times you were there. We thank you for the comfort of your presence**

As we light these candles Lord, we remember that your love for us is a flame that can never be extinguished

Nothing can separate us from your love.

**All Help us always to share your love through kindness and acts of compassion within our communities**

**Keep us always in you care**

**Amen**

**Musical Reflection:** Here I am Lord

**Collect**

Heavenly Father,

you anointed your Son Jesus Christ

with the Holy Spirit and with power

to bring to us the blessings of your kingdom.

Anoint your Church with the same Holy Spirit,

that we who share in his suffering and victory

may bear witness to the gospel of salvation;

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.

**All**   **Amen.**

**Reading** Hebrews 10 v 19 – 22

A call to persevere in faith

19 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

This is the word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Reading** Mark 12 v 28-34

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Greatest Commandment

28 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?” 29 “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ 31 The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” 32 “Well said, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. 33 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.” 34 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.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Worship Hymn** Amazing Grace

**Homily** The Rt Revd & Rt Hon Sarah Mullally DBE, Bishop of London

**Prayers of Intercession**

God the Father, your will for all people is health and salvation.

**All**   **We praise and bless you, Lord.**

God the Son, you came that we might have life,

and might have it more abundantly.

**All**   **We praise and bless you, Lord.**

God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temple of your presence.

**All**   **We praise and bless you, Lord.**

Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being.

**All**   **We praise and bless you, Lord.**

Lord, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured or suffering

that they may be made well.

**All**   **Hear us, Lord of life.**

Grant to all who are lonely, anxious or depressed

a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence.

**All**   **Hear us, Lord of life.**

Grant to all who minister to those who are suffering

wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience.

**All**   **Hear us, Lord of life.**

Mend broken relationships, and restore to those in distress

soundness of mind and serenity of spirit.

**All**   **Hear us, Lord of life.**

Sustain and support those who seek your guidance

and lift up all who are brought low by the trials of this life.

**All**   **Hear us, Lord of life.**

Grant to the dying peace and a holy death,

and uphold by the grace and consolation of your Holy Spirit those who are bereaved.

**All**   **Hear us, Lord of life.**

Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin,

in our lives, in our nation, and in the world.

**All**   **Hear us, Lord of life.**

You are the Lord who does mighty wonders.

**All**   **You have declared your power among the peoples.**

With you, Lord, is the well of life

**All**   **and in your light do we see light.**

Hear us, Lord of life:

**All**   **heal us, and make us whole.**

God of mercy, God of comfort, we come before you in this time of difficulty, mindful of

human frailty and need, confused and struggling to find meaning in the face of

suffering.

We are grateful that even as we share in the joy of Christ Jesus, we can also share

abundantly in comfort in the midst of suffering.

For all who are in danger, trouble, or anguish, we ask the presence and strength of your

Spirit.

Give all who suffer the love that bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things,

endures all things.

We pray for those who are suffering and can make no sense of tragedy.

Help them to turn to the One who embraces us in our lives even Jesus Christ, who lived

and suffered among us.

Have mercy on your whole creation. Hasten the day when the kingdom of the world

shall become your Kingdom, and by grace make us worthy to stand before you.

For all that is good in life, thank you, For the love of family and friends, thank you, For

the kindness of good neighbour and Samaritan stranger, thank you. **Amen**.

*(written by The Moravian Church of America)*

We give you thanks, O God, for the gift of families and communities.

Lord, you have placed us into our communities;

You have called us to love, serve and support each other.

In times of joy, let us celebrate each other;

In times of sorrow, let us be a source of comfort;

In times of trouble, let us uphold each other;

May God’s peace and love ever abide with us.

This is our prayer. **Amen**

*(adapted from a prayer by MU member, Evelyn Alleyne)*

Let us pray.

*A period of silence follows.*

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people;

in the multitude of your mercies look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help;

for you are gracious, O lover of souls,

and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

now and for ever.

**All**   **Amen.**

**The Lords Prayer**

**All**   **Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours**

**now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

**Mothers’ Union Thank You**

**Closing Hymn** Guide me, O my great Redeemer

**Guide me, O my great Redeemer,**

**pilgrim through this barren land;**

**I am weak, but you are mighty;**

**hold me with your powerful hand.**

**Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,**

**feed me now and evermore,**

**feed me now and evermore.**

**Open now the crystal fountain,**

**where the healing waters flow.**

**Let the fire and cloudy pillar**

**lead me all my journey through.**

**Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,**

**ever be my strength and shield,**

**ever be my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,**

**bid my anxious fears subside.**

**Death of death, and hell's Destruction,**

**land me safe on Canaan's side.**

**Songs of praises, songs of praises**

**I will ever sing to you,**

**I will ever sing to you.**

*William Williams (1745); Translator: Peter Williams (1771)*

**The Peace & Dismissal**

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

**All**   **and also with you.**

Go in the joy and peace of Christ. [Alleluia, alleluia.]

**All**   **Thanks be to God. [Alleluia, alleluia.]**