

# Welcome to Morning Worship



*Click on the underlined links to take you to safe content on the internet.  
If you are able light a candle as you start the service and if others are in the house  
encourage them to reading some of the service with you.*

## *Introduction*

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

## *Gathering Prayer*

Gracious God, we come to you today to  
give you thanks for every work of your  
grace and for each answered prayer.  
We thank you for the selfless devotion of  
those who have borne the burden of this  
pandemic,  
for the generosity of friends and neighbours,  
for the medical means to fight Covid-19.  
And, with tears,  
we thank you for the comfort of your presence  
when loss has been grievous.  
Through Christ our hope. Amen.



**Hymn:** [For the beauty of the earth](#)

## *We say sorry.*

God our Father, we come to you in sorrow for our sins.  
For turning away from you, and ignoring your will for our lives;  
Father, forgive us: **Save us and help us.**

For behaving just as we wish, without thinking of you;  
Father, forgive us: **Save us and help us.**

For failing you by what we do, and think and say;  
Father, forgive us: **Save us and help us.**

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you  
by temptations in the world about us;  
Father, forgive us: **Save us and help us.**

For living as if we were ashamed to belong to your Son;  
Father, forgive us: **Save us and help us.**

May Almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### The Word of God

Readings: [1 Thessalonians 5:12-18](#), and [Luke 17:11-19](#)

### *Reflection - Prepared by Rev Michelle Petch*

I'm sure you'll be familiar with the phrase 'mind your p's and q's.' It was something I clearly remember my grandma and my mum saying to me when I was a child. They used to say it when I was going to a friend's house for tea, or when we were going to visit someone. Remember to say please and thank you. Have some consideration for those who are helping you in some way, those who are doing something for you, putting themselves out for your benefit.

And it's one of those in particular, the saying thank you, that we are focusing on today, on this 'Thank You Day.' There is no denying that we've had a very difficult time over the last 14 months or so, during the Covid pandemic, and there are many reasons to now give thanks. There are many people who we should thank for all they have done for us.

There have been many difficult times over the previous months, and I often find myself saying that at difficult times Christians have always turned to the Bible for its message of comfort and hope in times of distress. But I don't as often find myself saying that the Bible overflows with a message of joy and praise and thankfulness. But, of course, it does.

The two passages we've just heard illustrate this beautifully. And there are many others I could have chosen instead, not least from the psalms, many of which overflow with thankfulness and praise.

The early Christians knew a lot about suffering, persecution and hardship. Yet in Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> letter to the Thessalonians he says, 'Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.' Paul wants them to learn how to celebrate despite the difficulties, even in the midst of them, learning to give thanks to God whatever he gives, because he gives in abundance and is faithful through it all. And in turn God wants us to learn the same

lesson. We have been so blessed in many ways throughout the pandemic and so it is time to give thanks.

In the gospel reading we hear the story of the ten who are afflicted by leprosy. Jesus heals them all, but only one returns praising God in a loud voice and falling at Jesus' feet to give him thanks. Jesus asks, 'Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?'

Saying thank you is important, and so I was very pleased when I heard about this 'Thank You Day' initiative as it gives us the opportunity to do just that.

We're going to watch a little video in a moment that's been produced by Churches Together to help us think about how we might give thanks, and who we might want to thank. On your seat or on the pew you should find a thank you card. I invite you as you watch to think who you could write the card for and send to them to show your appreciation and say thank you.

The video is introduced with the following wording which I will share with you before we watch -

*Covid-19 has had a devastating impact on so many people. Following months of not being able to meet together in person it has tested us in ways we never expected. But for many of us, it has also bought us closer together.*

*As we begin to return to normal, we want to pause and say thank you to everyone who got us through, which is why we're supporting the country's biggest ever thank you party on Sunday 4th July!*

*Across the UK, communities, individuals and businesses will be getting together to say 'thank you' to each other.*

*Let's come together as churches to thank everyone from volunteers, staff, congregations, to our wider communities.*

*We invite you to join in a we say THANK YOU.*

[Click here for the Thank You day video produced by the Churches Together](#)

So, now we've watched the video, I hope that has sparked some ideas for you. If you have a pen with you, you might like to write the card now. If you don't, please take it home and write it later. But please do take the time to do this, to write the card and post it or deliver it to someone who deserves to be thanked. Someone who has helped you. In this way we can spread our thankfulness out into our community and beyond.

And don't forget, of course, to also give thanks to God, to whom all our heartfelt thankfulness ultimately and truly belongs. May our love for him and all he has done

for us, show in lives which overflow with joyful praise and thankfulness, today and always. Amen.

Hymn: [Great is thy faithfulness](#)

*The Creed* - We say together what we believe

**We believe in God the Father  
From whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.  
We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.  
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthen us with power from on high.  
We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*Prayers of intercession - prepared by Richard Kay*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you promised through Jesus Christ your Son, to hear us, when we pray in faith. We bring before you now our thanks for all those who have seen us through the Covid-19 pandemic of the last eighteen months.



We give thanks for doctors and nurses in our hospitals, who have been treating Covid patients night and day, as they struggled against the disease. We remember those who through their devotion to duty, themselves succumbed to Covid and in some cases lost their own lives.

For these people - **We give you thanks, O God**

We give thanks for the nurses and staff in our care homes, who have worked ceaselessly in looking after the elderly and vulnerable, on many occasions without adequate personal protective equipment.

For these people - **We give you thanks, O God**

We give thanks for the leaders of companies in industry using their engineering skills, turning their production lines to manufacturing ventilators and other specialist equipment for use in our hospitals, to help those who were and are seriously ill.

For these people - **We give you thanks, O God**

We give thanks for the research scientists and micro-biologists who worked to develop vaccines in record time, to lead the fight against the coronavirus.

And we give thanks for the staff of companies who have manufactured the vaccines, which have severely disrupted the link between having the Covid virus and death, and now give us the opportunity to return to a more normal way of life.

For these people - **We give you thanks, O God**

We give thanks for all the medical staff and volunteers who are working in the vaccination programme, and in carrying out the Covid testing programme.

For these people - **We give you thanks, O God**

We give thanks for the work of the managers in the NHS who have organised the Covid treatment programme in our hospitals, and who have organised the unprecedented vaccination programme.

For these people - **We give you thanks, O God**

And we give thanks for the members of the armed forces who have assisted in the vaccination and testing programmes.

For these people - **We give you thanks, O God**

We give thanks for all the delivery drivers who have supplied the housebound and those who have been self-isolating, with all the goods and food that they need.

For these people - **We give you thanks, O God**

We give thanks for all the shopkeepers and other key-workers, who have adapted their working practices to enable them to continue offering their services to us during the pandemic.

For these people - **We give you thanks, O God**

We give thanks for those people who have used their needle-working skills in producing face-coverings in the early days of the pandemic, and also for the workers in companies manufacturing mass-produced face coverings on an enormous scale.

For these people - **We give you thanks, O God**

We give thanks for the work of Chief Medical Officers and officials in Public Health England, and their staff nationally and locally, who have assembled data on the pandemic and then advised politicians of the effects that different approaches to managing the pandemic might have.

For these people - **We give you thanks, O God**

We also give thanks for the politicians, in spite of all their failings, who have steered our country through these difficult and unprecedented times.

For these people - **We give you thanks, O God**

And finally, we give thanks for everyone who has followed the Covid rules, and has come forward, when called upon, to receive their vaccines.

For these people - **We give you thanks, O God**

And now, we pray for those known to us who are ill in body, mind or spirit,

We remember those who are ill and known to us by name, and the many people whom we do not know by name but need our prayers. May your healing spirit, brought to us by Jesus Christ, rest upon them and heal them from their illness.  
Lord in your Mercy - **Hear our prayer**

**Merciful Father, we ask you to accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our saviour, Jesus Christ.**

*A Prayer for Church Growth*

**God of Mission**

**Who along brings growth to your church,  
Send your Holy Spirit to give  
Vision to our planning  
Wisdom to our actions  
And power to our witness.  
Help our church to grow in numbers,  
In spiritual commitment to you,  
And in service to our local community,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

*As our Saviour taught us, so we pray*

**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.**

*The Collect for today*

God of constant mercy,  
who sent your Son to save us;  
remind us of your goodness,  
increase your grace within us,  
that our thankfulness may grow,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Hymn: [Lord, for the years](#)**

**Final Prayer**

We have shared this service  
and received your life.  
By the power of your Spirit  
keep us always in your love;  
as we take God's love to share with others,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Blessing**

The peace of God which passes all understanding,  
keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among us and remain with us always. Amen.

Go in peace to love and to serve the Lord  
In the name of Christ. Amen

