

"A Guilty Conscience"

(Genesis 42:1-38)

Welcome to our Communion Service at 9am on July 13<sup>th</sup> 2025

Denise, our curate, will be leading and Anthony, our vicar, speaking. O God, trusting in Jesus we know we are Your children, and You love us. So deep is Your love that Jesus came to earth to die on the cross and rise again so nothing can take away the hope You alone can give. So strong is Your love that no trouble shall tear us from Your arms, so precious is Your love that we ask You to teach us today so our lives will be lived in declaring Your glory and Your marvellous deeds, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

1

Introductory call to worship (based on Psalm 25)

Good and upright is the LORD; therefore, He instructs sinners in His ways. He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them His way. All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful. Ascribe greatness to our God, the Rock. His work is perfect And all His ways are just. Ascribe greatness to our God, the Rock. His work is perfect And all His ways are just.

3

10/07/2025

A God of faithfulness and without injustice; Good and upright is He. A God of faithfulness and without injustice; Good and upright is He. Ascribe greatness to our God, the Rock. His work is perfect And all His ways are just. Ascribe greatness to our God, the Rock. His work is perfect And all His ways are just.

A God of faithfulness and without injustice; Good and upright is He. A God of faithfulness and without injustice; Good and upright is He.





6

In Psalm 66 we read these words which we say together

'Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what He has done for me. I cried out to Him with my mouth; His praise was on my tongue. If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; but God has surely listened and has heard my prayer. Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld His love from me!'. Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In Your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with You, our God. Amen.

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May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by His Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### Reading and Talk - Genesis 42:1-38

<sup>1</sup> When Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt, he said to his sons, 'Why do you just keep looking at each other?' <sup>2</sup> He continued, 'I have heard that there is grain in Egypt. Go down there and buy some for us, so that we may live and not die.' <sup>3</sup> Then ten of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain from Egypt. <sup>4</sup> But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's brother, with the others, because he was afraid that harm might come to him. <sup>5</sup> So Israel's sons were among those who went to buy grain, for there was famine in the land of Canaan also. <sup>6</sup> Now Joseph was the governor of the land, the person who sold grain to all its people. So when Joseph's brothers arrived, they bowed down to him with their faces to the ground.

<sup>7</sup> As soon as Joseph saw his brothers, he recognised them, but he pretended to be a stranger and spoke harshly to them. 'Where do you come from?' he asked. 'From the land of Canaan,' they replied, 'to buy food.' <sup>8</sup> Although Joseph recognised his brothers, they did not recognise him. <sup>9</sup> Then he remembered his dreams about them and said to them, 'You are spies! You have come to see where our land is unprotected.' <sup>10</sup> 'No, my lord,' they answered. 'Your servants have come to buy food. <sup>11</sup> We are all the sons of one man. Your servants are honest men, not spies.'<sup>12</sup> 'No!' he said to them. 'You have come to see where our land is unprotected is unprotected.' <sup>13</sup> But they replied, 'Your servants were twelve brothers, the sons of one man, who lives in the land of Canaan. The youngest is now with our father, and one is no more.'

<sup>14</sup> Joseph said to them, 'It is just as I told you: you are spies! <sup>15</sup> And this is how you will be tested: as surely as Pharaoh lives, you will not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here. <sup>16</sup> Send one of your number to get your brother; the rest of you will be kept in prison, so that your words may be tested to see if you are telling the truth. If you are not, then as surely as Pharaoh lives, you are spies!' <sup>17</sup> And he put them all in custody for three days.<sup>18</sup> On the third day, Joseph said to them, 'Do this and you will live, for I fear God: <sup>19</sup> if you are honest men, let one of your brothers stay here in prison, while the rest of you go and take grain back for your starving households. <sup>20</sup> But you must bring your youngest brother to me, so that your words may be verified and that you may not die.' This they proceeded to do.

16

<sup>21</sup> They said to one another, 'Surely we are being punished because of our brother. We saw how distressed he was when he pleaded with us for his life, but we would not listen; that's why this distress has come on us.' <sup>22</sup> Reuben replied, 'Didn't I tell you not to sin against the boy? But you wouldn't listen! Now we must give an accounting for his blood.' <sup>23</sup> They did not realise that Joseph could understand them, since he was using an interpreter. <sup>24</sup> He turned away from them and began to weep, but then came back and spoke to them again. He had Simeon taken from them and bound before their eyes.<sup>25</sup> Joseph gave orders to fill their bags with grain, to put each man's silver back in his sack, and to give them provisions for their journey. After this was done for them, <sup>26</sup> they loaded their grain on their donk<u>eys and left.</u>

<sup>27</sup> At the place where they stopped for the night one of them opened his sack to get feed for his donkey, and he saw his silver in the mouth of his sack. <sup>28</sup> 'My silver has been returned,' he said to his brothers. 'Here it is in my sack.' Their hearts sank and they turned to each other trembling and said, 'What is this that God has done to us?'<sup>29</sup> When they came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan, they told him all that had happened to them. They

said, <sup>30</sup> 'The man who is lord over the land spoke harshly to us and treated us as though we were spying on the land. <sup>31</sup> But we said to him, "We are honest men; we are not spies. <sup>32</sup> We were twelve brothers, sons of one father. One is no more, and the youngest is now with our father in Canaan."

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<sup>33</sup> 'Then the man who is lord over the land said to us, "This is how I will know whether you are honest men: leave one of your brothers here with me, and take food for your starving households and go. <sup>34</sup> But bring your youngest brother to me so I will know that you are not spies but honest men. Then I will give your brother back to you, and you can trade in the land."<sup>35</sup> As they were emptying their sacks, there in each man's sack was his pouch of silver! When they and their father saw the money pouches, they were frightened. <sup>36</sup> Their father Jacob said to them, 'You have deprived me of my children. Joseph is no more and Simeon is no more, and now you want to take Benjamin. Everything is against me!'

<sup>37</sup> Then Reuben said to his father, 'You may put both of my sons to death if I do not bring him back to you. Entrust him to my care, and I will bring him back.' <sup>38</sup> But Jacob said, 'My son will not go down there with you; his brother is dead and he is the only one left. If harm comes to him on the journey you are taking, you will bring my grey head down to the grave in sorrow.'

> This is the Word of the Lord Thanks be to God.

20

21

You are here, moving in our midst; I worship You, I worship You. You are here, working in this place; I worship You, I worship You. You are... Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper, Light in the darkness, my God, that is who You are.

(repeat)

You are here, touching every heart; I worship You, I worship You. You are here, healing every heart; I worship You, I worship You. You are here, turning lives around; I worship You, I worship You. You are here, mending every heart; I worship You, I worship You.

25

You are... Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper, Light in the darkness, my God, that is who You are.

(repeat)

That is who You are. That is who You are. That is who You are. That is who You are.

Even when I don't see it, You're workin' Even when I don't feel it, You're workin' You never stop, You never stop workin' You never stop, You never stop workin

### Repeat

You are... Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper, Light in the darkness, my God, that is who You are.

### (repeat)





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 universal Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Prayers (which may include)



Lord, in your mercy Hear our prayer.



Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

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<u>The Lord's Prayer</u> Please feel free to say this in your own language

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 forever. Amen.

### <u>The Peace</u>

Please stand as we remain in our seats

We are all one in Christ Jesus. We belong to Him through faith, heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

and also with you.

We greet each other as a sign of our unity.



# **The Communion Prayer**

The Lord is here. **His Spirit is with us.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give thanks and praise.** 

36

It is right to worship and praise You, Father, Lord of all creation; in Your love You made us for Yourself. When we turned away You did not reject us, but came to meet us in Your Son. You embraced us as your children, and welcomed us to sit and eat with You.

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in Him and He in us.

He opened His arms of love upon the cross and made once for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.

On the night He was betrayed, at supper with His friends He took bread, and gave you thanks; He broke it and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. Father, we do this in remembrance of Him: His body is the bread of life.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, He gave You thanks, and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me. **Father, we do this in remembrance of Him: His blood is shed for all.**  As we proclaim His death and celebrate His rising in glory, send Your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine may be to us the body and blood of Your dear Son. As we eat and drink these holy gifts make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.

41

With Your whole Church throughout the world we offer You this sacrifice of praise and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Amen.

We draw near with faith to receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which He gave for us and his blood which He shed for us. We eat and drink in remembrance that He died for us, and feed on Him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

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### **Prayer after communion**

Father of all, we give You thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in Your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, He declared Your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life and bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.

44

Keep us firm in the hope You have set before us, so we and all Your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise Your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father, There is no shadow of turning with Thee; Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be. Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath provided— Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

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Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, Sun, moon and stars in their courses above, Join with all nature in manifold witness To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath provided— Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath provided— Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

GOD IS FAITHFUL YESTERDAY, TODAY & TOMORROW

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May Christ draw us to Himself so that we live for Him each day, and so we see God at work in and through us; 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 serve the Lord. In the name of Christ. Amen.

