

**St Matthew's – Morning Praise  
10.45am Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Service Leader & Preacher: Rev Jim Trood**

**Theme: Dealing with difficult people**

**Welcome to St Matthew's.** Please join us for tea or coffee after this service. Children leave for Children's Church after the All Together song, returning at midday.

Please place any financial gifts in the bags which will be passed around during our offertory song. If you prefer you may use the contactless machine at the back of church or donate via the church website.

If you would like a translation or captions to help follow today's service in real-time, please scan this QR code and select English for live subtitles, or choose your preferred language.



**Welcome, Notices & Banns**

**Opening Words**

God is spirit.

**Let us worship him in spirit and truth.**

The Lord is with us.

**Let us praise his name together.**

## Song



**We lift our voices** to the Lord most high  
With joyful singing we will glorify  
The great creator the author of all life  
We are his people and he is our God  
He always guides us in his ways with love  
Let joyful praises come fill this place in song

For the Lord is good  
We shout for joy because  
The Lord is good  
He rules the earth with everlasting love  
How good is our God

Enter His presence with a thankful heart  
Enter his courts and let the praises start  
Give God the glory for he deserves it all  
All of creation lives to worship God  
We were created as an act of love  
Let adoration flow from this place in song

### *Bridge*

Faithful God never ending goodness  
Ever flowing kindness  
You are faithful God you are good

## Saying Sorry (Confession)



We are often slow to follow the example of Christ.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

We often fail to be known as Christ's disciples.  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

We often fail to walk the way of the cross.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

## **Forgiveness (Absolution)**

May the Father forgive us  
by the death of his Son  
and strengthen us  
to live in the power of the Spirit  
all our days.

**Amen.**



## **All Together Song**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord,**  
Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
Blessed be the name of the Lord Most High! *(Repeat)*



The name of the Lord is, a strong tower,  
The righteous run into it, and they are saved. *(Repeat)*

Glory to the name of the Lord,  
Glory to the name of the Lord,  
Glory to the name of the Lord Most High! *(Repeat)*

The name of the Lord is, a strong tower,  
The righteous run into it, and they are saved. *(Repeat)*

Holy is the name of the Lord,  
Holy is the name of the Lord,  
Holy is the name of the Lord Most High! *(Repeat)*

The name of the Lord is, a strong tower,  
The righteous run into it, and they are saved. *(Repeat)*

*[Children leave for their groups]*

## Song

**Listen to the words** of the risen Christ  
Peace be with you  
Come and see my hands and the wound in my side  
Peace be with you



With the eyes of faith are you ready to see  
Peace be with you  
Come with all your doubts for it's time to believe  
Peace be with you  
Peace be with you

Let the breath of God now fill me  
Wholeness fullness life within me  
Full forgiveness given freely  
I receive as Jesus sends me

## Intercessions (Alyson Green)

*[These responses may be used]*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**



*[At the end]*

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

## Collect

Gracious Father,  
you gave up your Son  
out of love for the world:  
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,  
that we may know eternal peace  
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**



## **The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**



## **1<sup>st</sup> Bible Reading: Matthew 18:15-17** p.985 (Joan Cartridge)

<sup>15</sup> 'If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. <sup>16</sup> But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that "every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses." <sup>17</sup> If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.



*[At the end]*

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Bible Reading: Luke 6:27-42 p.1034 (Priscilla Trood)



<sup>27</sup> 'But to you who are listening I say: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who ill-treat you. <sup>29</sup> If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you.

<sup>32</sup> 'If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. <sup>34</sup> And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. <sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup> 'Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. <sup>38</sup> Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.'

<sup>39</sup> He also told them this parable: 'Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into a pit? <sup>40</sup> The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher.

<sup>41</sup> 'Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? <sup>42</sup> How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye," when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

*[At the end]*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** (Rev Jim Trood)



## **Sung Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe in God the Father,**  
a mighty God who never sleeps,  
He delights to hear our laughter,  
He consoles the child that weeps,  
And He loves us like a mother,  
And He sent us Christ our brother,  
Above Him there is no other!



We believe in God our Father,  
And in Christ who sets us free.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
Blessed Trinity.

We believe in Christ our Saviour,  
God with us to show us love,  
Died a shameful death to save us,  
Now He sits enthroned above.  
You can come to Him whenever,  
His forgiveness failing never,  
Our Great Shepherd, King forever!

We believe the Holy Spirit  
Is our comforter and guide.  
Though we walk in fearful darkness,  
Still we have this light inside,  
Joy, Love, Gentleness and Kindness,  
Self-Control, Peace, Patience, Goodness,  
Adding Faithfulness to all this!

### *Bridge*

Our Father God who made us,  
His Son who came down to save us,  
The Spirit who sustains us,  
The Holy Three in One.

*[Prayer ministry is available in the side chapel]*

## Sung Offertory

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,**  
O my soul,  
Worship His holy name.  
Sing like never before,  
O my soul.  
I'll worship Your holy name.



The sun comes up it's a new day dawning;  
It's time to sing Your song again.  
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before  
Let me be singing when the evening comes.



You're rich in love and You're slow to anger.  
Your name is great and Your heart is kind.  
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing;  
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

And on that day when my strength is failing,  
The end draws near and my time has come;  
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending:  
Ten thousand years and then forevermore.

## Offering Prayer



## Blessing

Now may the blessing of God the Father,  
who made from one every nation that occupies the earth;

of God the Son who bought us for God  
from every tribe and language and people and nation;

and of God the Spirit who brings us together in unity,  
be with us and remain with us always.

**Amen.**

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