CHRIST CHURCH THORNTON

Service of Holy Communion
Sunday 22 November 2026
Joyful followers of Jesus

Welcome

Worship in Song

As sunset beauty bathes
Our beacon tower in flame
Along the Golden Mile
An open door proclaims
The power of the love of God
In broken lives renewed
A people called to live and serve all for Jesus

With thankfulness for years
Of faithful service done
Foundations that were laid
And kingdom work begun
The legacy of Pendle Hill
The Whalley Saints of old
A people called to gratitude all for Jesus

Though steets and mills have passed
Our strength is woven plain
From sea to mountainside
God's promise still remains
Our vision to restore and grow
With joy that perseveres
A people called to hope and prayer all for Jesus

In villages and towns
Our treasures of the faith
Ordinary lives empowered
Disciples to be made
This wave of God's transforming love
Just like the flowing tide
A people called to rise and go all for Jesus

Confession

Our great high priest, Jesus Christ, knows all our weaknesses, and can sympathize, because he was tested in every way we are, only without sinning. So let us come boldly to the throne of grace, where we can find mercy and grace to help when we need it most.

Almighty God, we confess that too often we have taken the easy way of the world, rather than your way, and so have grieved your heart of love. We have been slow to admit that we are not our own, but belong to you. We have been unwilling to see that we are bought with the price of Christ's blood. We have been unprepared to live out our lives as your servants. In your mercy forgive us and help us. Raise us by the power of your love, and fill us anew with the joy of your Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sisters and brothers, because of Jesus death on the cross and your faith in him, your sins are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

New Diocesan Prayer

Heavenly Father, we rejoice to be followers of Jesus by whose cross and resurrection we are set free. Pour out your spirit to change lives and fill communities with hope, that all of Lancashire may find joy in knowing your Son Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Video - Joyful followers of Jesus

Bible Readings

Psalm 7 *(Church Bible page 450)*
John 15.1-11 *(Church Bible page 901)*

Sermon

Worship in Song

Rejoice in the Lord now and always
Sing it again we rejoice
Delight in the love he has shown us
Gratefully lift up your voice
His gentleness among us
Will join our hearts with praise
We gather in his goodness, a family of grace

With each breath he's given praise the Lord
In these times we live in we will praise the Lord
Throughout every season I am sure
We have every reason to praise the Lord

Rejoice and be anxious for nothing
Praying for all that you need
Come with a song of thanksgiving
Lay your requests at his feet
His peace will fall upon us
To guard our hearts and minds
In Christ who reigns eternal, shepherd of our lives

Rejoice in the Lord now and always
Tell of the good he has done
Worship the Lord to remember
All of the joy yet to come
The hope that burns within us
The dark cannot destroy
With praise that's never ending, we say again rejoice

An Affirmation of Faith

We believe the grace of God has dawned upon us with healing for all the world, and so we rejoice to declare our faith in him:

We trust in God the Father, who has revealed his love and kindness to us, and in his mercy saved us, not for any good deed of our own, but because he is merciful.

We trust in Jesus Christ, who gave himself up for us to free us from our sin, and set us apart for himself a people eager to do good.

We trust in the Holy Spirit, whom God poured out on us generously through Christ our Saviour so that justified by grace we might become heirs with the hope of eternal life. Amen.

Prayers

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

Notices

The Peace

Christ is our peace. If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation. The old has passed away: behold, everything has become new.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Worship in Song

How good it is to sing, to bring our praise to him
Whose love and mercy knows no end
He brings the sun and rain, he calls each star by name
The universe resounds with praise

O shout for joy to God and sing a new song
Extol the Lord of life for his provision
And he delights in those who love and fear him
All those who put their hope in God

He gathers families, orphans and refugees
And binds the wounds of those who mourn
The humble lifted high, the proud he casts aside
His justice faithful as the dawn

What friend or foe can last, before his icy blast
The winds and waves obey his voice
Yet mercy will prevail, his love will reconcile
The nations of the earth to him

Offertory Prayer

Gracious God, giver of every good gift, we bring our contributions, both seen and unseen, with joyful and grateful hearts. Bless these gifts for your work and teach us to give freely, generously, and cheerfully, trusting that all we have comes from you. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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.

Blessed are you, Lord God, our light and our salvation; to you be glory and praise for ever. From the beginning you have created all things and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.

In the fullness of time you made us in your image, the crown of all creation. You give us breath and speech, that with angels and archangels and all the powers of heaven we may find a voice to sing your praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord. As a mother tenderly gathers her children, you embraced a people as your own. When they turned away and rebelled your love remained steadfast. From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary, to be the living bread, in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered his life for sinners, and with a love stronger than death he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died, he came to supper with his friends and, taking bread, he 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.

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 and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Jesus Christ is Lord:
Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free. You are the Saviour of the world.

Father, we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; we remember his dying and rising in glory, and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand. Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you these gifts of your creation; may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence, form us in the likeness of Christ, and build us into a living temple to your glory. Remember, Lord, your Church in every land. Reveal her unity, guard her faith, and preserve her in peace. Bring us at the last with all the saints to the vision of that eternal splendour for which you have created us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whom, with whom, and in whom, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in words of everlasting praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. 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.

Breaking of the Bread

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Giving of Communion

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

We receive communion

Worship in Song *- during communion*

Holy Spirit living breath of God,
Breathe new life into my willing soul.
Let the presence of the risen Lord
Come renew my heart and make me whole
Cause your word to come alive in me,
Give me faith for what I cannot see;
Give me passion for your purity;
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.

Holy Spirit, come abide within,
May your joy be seen in all I do.
Love enough to cover every sin
In each thought and deed and attitude:
Kindness to the greatest and the least,
Gentleness that sows the path of peace.
Turn my strivings into works of grace;
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,
Giving life to all that God has made,
Show your power once again on earth,
Cause your church to hunger for your ways.
May the fragrance of our prayers arise;
Lead us on the road of sacrifice,
That in unity the face of Christ
May be clear for all the world to see.

Worship in Song *- during communion*
What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy my righteousness and freedom
My steadfast love my deep and boundless peace
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to his
Oh how strange and divine I can sing all is mine
Yet not I but through Christ in me

The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side the Saviour he will stay
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need his power is displayed
To this I hold my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley he will lead
Oh the night has been won and I shall overcome
Yet not I but through Christ in me

No fate I dread I know I am forgiven
The future sure the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And he was raised to overthrow the grave
To this I hold my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released I can sing I am free
Yet not I but through Christ in me

With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For he has said that he will bring me home
And day by day I know he will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to him
When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Prayer after Communion
Loving Father, we thank you for feeding us at the supper of your Son: sustain us with your Spirit, that we may serve you here on earth until our joy is complete in heaven, and we share in the eternal banquet with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Worship in Song
We won't fear the battle, we won't fear the night
We will walk the valley with you by our side
You will go before us, you will lead the way
We have found a refuge only you can save

Sing with joy now our God is for us
The Father's love is a strong and mighty fortress
Raise your voice now no love is greater
Who can stand against us if our God is for us

Even when I stumble, even when I fall
Even when I turn back still your love is sure
You will not abandon, you will not forsake
You will cheer me onward with never ending grace

Neither height nor depth can separate us
Hell and death will not defeat us
He who gave his Son to free us
Holds me in his love

Blessing
The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself, the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service, the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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