##### **Video Service 30th August 2020**

Hello everyone , welcome to our time of worship together, you will find the text version of this service which has the links to the music on our website, <https://christchurchlille.fr/>

Wherever you are and however good or difficult life is at the moment, we come from our scattered lives to meet with God.

As we bring ourselves into God’s presence, we still our hearts and minds in a short time of silence

*Silence*

*Greeting*

God in Christ has revealed his glory.

**Come let us worship.**

From the rising of the sun to its setting

**the Lord’s name is greatly to be praised.**

Give him praise, you servants of the Lord.

**O praise the name of the Lord!**

*Opening music video*​ Jesus Son of God - Chris Tomlin & Christy Nockels -

<https://youtu.be/Yj_s9_45QpI>

##### *The Liturgy of the Word*

**The Gospel Reading**​

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Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew

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

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**Matthew 16.21-end**

**Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection**

21 From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. 22And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, ‘God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.’ 23But he turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.’

**The Cross and Self-Denial**

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. 26For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

27 ‘For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. 28Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.’

*At the end*​

This is the Gospel of the Lord.​

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

*Sermon vs 24 and 25* The Cross and Self-Denial

**24 Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it**

**Are you losing it, or have you lost it?**

Last Sunday I was talking with you about the question asked by Jesus in last weeks’ Gospel on which your life hinges, ***‘ Who then do you say that I am?’*** I spoke about the dilemma of whether we are reaching a crossroads point on our life’s journey where we are either struggling to believe in God because we are no longer sure he exists, feel he isn’t listening to us; or where we are brave enough to look beyond our preoccupation with self towards God, even amidst our weakness of faith.

*This struggle with faith* is caused by forced change in our personal universe, the pandemic has changed life for ever; how do we survive the struggle without being defeated, and emerge better and stronger, transformed into the self we are meant to become.

As we stand at the crossroads, we have a choice of direction for the next steps in life.

*Stay with what we know*, it’s safe and we understand it. We believe we know how to live life, how to get what we need at the click of a button. Any doubts can be quieted by engagement in the consumerist culture of this world.

*Or*

*dare to look beyond our preoccupation with self towards God.*  The movement towards a new, deeper, faith and trust requires courage from us; it requires us to move away from preoccupation with self; to let go of what is sure and certain; move away from trust in our own power; move away from trusting in what money or wealth we have to protect us, *and towards a God who IS.* Whose name translates as I AM WHO AM.

To look at God challenges us to *find and to see* the goodness and love of God in everything that happens to us. This struggle, this challenge and all the ones that will follow, allow us to become everything we are meant to be in this world. God is present in our struggles, our loving Creator in whose life-giving Spirit we live and move and have our being, is present with us.

If this is the direction of travel that we have chosen, then our life has changed for ever. It has changed for eternity when we recognise Jesus for who he is, the Son of God who came to earth as one of us, who felt pain and grief, who struggled and yet lived his life on earth in obedience to God, to the Father’s will and purpose. That obedience led to giving his life on the cross for us so that we could be made right with God, for ever.

Jesus had a choice in his struggles too, he begged the Father not to let him go to the cross, yet his obedience and death led to life for everyone who believes him.

**24 Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25For those who want to save their life will lose it, and** **those who lose their life for my sake will find it.**

**those who want to save their life will lose it,** those who choose to remain in the culture of a world where we expect to have all our desires satisfied at a click of a button, by consumerism, become or remain unable to look beyond ourselves

**those who lose their life for my sake will find it.** Those who walk away from self-preoccupation and towards hope in God to satisfy all our desires (Psalm 145:16); those who place their love and hope in God through belief in Jesus will find life.

A life where all those changes in life and our world that we dreamed of during lockdown are possible.

Compassion, kindness, care for others, care for our planet, a desire to serve, to build community.

They are only possible if you choose to be the person God is calling you to be and to become.

We pray each week these words: ‘Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven’

We are the feet, the hands, the ears, the kind heart that will help this prayer become reality.

Let me close with a prayer by Janet Morley

***Jesus our brother, you followed the necessary path and were broken on our behalf.***

***May we neither cling to our pain where it is futile, nor refuse to embrace the cost when it is required of us: that in losing our lives for your sake, we may be brought to new life. Amen***

*Prayers*

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel

the darkness of our hearts.

In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

## **Confession**

**O King enthroned on high,**

**filling the earth with your glory:**

**holy is your name,**

**Lord God almighty.**

**In our sinfulness we cry to you**

**to take our guilt away,**

**and to cleanse our lips to speak your word,**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.** cf Isaiah 6

**The almighty and merciful Lord**

**grant us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins,**

**time for amendment of life, and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**

*Intercessions*

We pray for strength to follow Jesus.

Saviour, we hear your call. **Help us to follow.**

Jesus said: ‘Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant.’

Saviour, we hear your call. **Help us to follow.**

Jesus said: ‘Unless you change and become humble like little children, you can never enter the kingdom of heaven.’

Saviour, we hear your call. **Help us to follow.**

Jesus said: ‘Happy are the humble; they will receive what God has promised.’

Saviour, we hear your call. **Help us to follow.**

Jesus said: ‘Be merciful as your Father is merciful; love your enemies and do good to them.’

Saviour, we hear your call. **Help us to follow.**

Jesus said: ‘Go to people everywhere and make them my disciples, and I will be with you always, to the end of time.’

Saviour, we hear your call. **Help us to follow.**

**God of mercy, you know us and love us and hear our prayer:**

**keep us in the eternal fellowship of Jesus Christ our Saviour.**

**Amen.**

*The Collect for Trinity 12*

​ Almighty and everlasting God,

you are always more ready to hear than we to pray

and to give more than either we desire *or* deserve:

pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,

forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid

and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask

but through the merits and mediation

of 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.  **Amen**

*The Lord’s Prayer*

As we join our prayers with the Church Universal, so we say, each in our own language, the prayer that Jesus taught us​

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**
**hallowed be thy name;**
**thy kingdom come;**
**thy will be done;**
**on earth as it is in heaven.**
**Give us this day our daily bread.**
**And forgive us our trespasses,**
**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**
**And lead us not into temptation;**
**but deliver us from evil.**
**For thine is the kingdom,**
**the power and the glory,**
**for ever and ever.**
**Amen.**

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*Notices​*

* There is now a service of Holy Communion at 10:30 each Sunday in church, and from September 6th the Evening service resumes in church at 6:30 pm
* All information is on our website <https://christchurchlille.fr/>
* Thank you for continuing to support our ministry and mission here, your financial contributions really help, and we appreciate your kindness. If you have the text version, please follow the link to our website for donations <https://christchurchlille.fr/>
* or scan this QR code



The Blessing

​Gracious God,

you have given us much today;

grant us also a thankful spirit.

Into your hands we commend ourselves

and those we love.

Stay with us,

and when we take our rest

renew us for the service of your Son Jesus Christ.

And the blessing …

*Closing music*Will you come and follow me

<https://youtu.be/SPXq_KrUBFU>