

**Opening Hymn: O Jesus I have promised**

O Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end;  
be thou for ever near me,  
my Master and my Friend;  
I shall not fear the battle  
if thou art by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway  
if thou wilt be my Guide.

O let me hear thee speaking  
in accents clear and still,  
above the storms of passion,  
the murmurs of self-will;  
O speak to reassure me,  
to hasten or control;  
O speak, and make me listen,  
thou Guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised  
to all who follow thee,  
that where thou art in glory  
there shall thy servant be;  
and, Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end;  
O give me grace to follow,  
my Master and my Friend.

O let me see thy footmarks,  
and in them plant mine own;  
my hope to follow duly  
is in thy strength alone;  
O guide me, call me, draw me,  
uphold me to the end;  
and then in heaven receive me,  
my Saviour and my Friend.

*Wolvercote 420 NEH*

**The Collect**

Almighty and everlasting God,  
increase in us your gift of faith  
that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before,  
we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy;  
through 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 New Testament Reading**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

*Philippians 3: 4b–14*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation: Thuma mina**

Thuma mina. Thuma mina, thuma mina, thuma mina, Somandla.

Send me, Lord. Send me, Jesus, send me, Jesus, send me, Jesus, send me, Lord.

Lead me, Lord. Lead me, Jesus, lead me, Jesus, lead me, Jesus, lead me, Lord.

Fill me, Lord. Fill me, Jesus, fill me, Jesus, fill me, Jesus, fill me, Lord.

*Traditional African 481 AM*

### The Gospel

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people:

‘Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, “They will respect my son.” But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, “This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.” So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’ They said to him, ‘He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.’

Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the scriptures: “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes”? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.’

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*St Matthew 21: 33–end*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### The Sermon

#### The Creed

Let us declare our faith in the living God.

**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 strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

### Prayers of Intercession & The Peace

#### Offertory Hymn: We have a gospel to proclaim

We have a gospel to proclaim,  
good news for men in all the earth,  
the gospel of a Saviour’s name:  
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Tell of his birth at Bethlehem,  
not in a royal house or hall,  
but in a stable dark and dim:  
the Word made flesh, a light for all.

Tell of his death at Calvary,  
hated by those he came to save,  
in lonely suff’ring on the cross:  
for all he loved, his life he gave.

Tell of that glorious Easter morn,  
empty the tomb, for he was free:  
he broke the power of death and hell  
that we might share his victory.

Tell of his reign at God’s right hand,  
by all creation glorified:  
He sends his Spirit on his Church,  
to live for him, the Lamb who died.

Now we rejoice to name him King:  
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.  
This gospel message we proclaim;  
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

**Anthem: Go forth into the world in peace**

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good;  
render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted;  
honour all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
And the blessing God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon you,  
and remain with you for ever. Amen.

*John Rutter (b.1945)*

**Communion Hymn: All I once held dear**

All I once held dear, built my life upon,  
All this world reveres, and wars to own.  
All I once thought gain I have counted loss,  
Spent and worthless now, compared to this.

*Knowing you, Jesus,  
Knowing you, there is no greater thing.  
You're my all, you're the best,  
You're my joy, my righteousness,  
And I love you, Lord.*

Now my heart's desire is to know you more,  
To be found in you and known as yours.  
To possess by faith what I could not earn,  
All-surpassing gift of righteousness.

Oh, to know the power of your risen life,  
And to know You in Your sufferings.  
To become like you in your death, my Lord,  
So with you to live and never die.

*Knowing you 585 AM*

**Post Communion Prayer for Mission**

Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness  
that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself:  
help us to proclaim the good news of your love,  
that all who hear it may be drawn to you;  
through him who was lifted up on the cross,  
and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

**Dismissal: Go forth and tell**

Go forth and tell! O Church of God, awake!  
God's saving news to all the nations take:  
proclaim Christ Jesus, Saviour, Lord, and King,  
that all the world his worthy praise may sing.

Go forth and tell! God's love embraces all;  
he will in grace respond to all who call;  
how shall they call if they have never heard  
the gracious invitation of his word?

Go forth and tell! The doors are open wide:  
share God's good gifts—let no one be denied;  
live out your life as Christ your Lord shall choose,  
your ransomed powers for his sole glory use.

Go forth and tell! O Church of God, arise!  
Go in the strength which Christ your Lord supplies;  
go till all nations his great name adore  
and serve him, Lord and King, for evermore.

*Yanworth 477 AM*