

URC Sunday Worship 13th September 2020
Led by Revd. Gethin Rhys

Call to Worship

To all who are imprisoned, **God says, "Come out."**

To all who are living in darkness, **God says, "Show Yourselves".**

To all who hunger and thirst, **God gives food and springs of water.**

To all who are far away, **God makes smooth the way home.**

God will not forget us, we are inscribed on the palms of His hands.

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways!
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives Thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard
beside the Syrian sea
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow Thee.

Drop Thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
& let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of Thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and Thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm.

Prayers of Approach Confession and Forgiveness

The Lord's Prayer

Prayer of Illumination

Readings : Matthew 18 : 21 – 35

Romans 14 : 1 – 13

O the love of my Lord is the essence of all that I love here on earth.
All the beauty I see He has given to me
and His giving is gentle as silence.

Every day, every hour, every moment, have been blessed
by the strength of His love. At the turn of each tide
He is there at my side and his touch is as gentle as silence.

There have been times when I've turned from His presence
and I have walked other paths, other ways.
But I've called on His name, in the dark of my shame
and His mercy was gentle as silence.

Sermon

'Forgive our sins as we forgive,' you taught us, Lord, to pray,
but You alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.

How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart,
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?

In blazing light Your Cross reveals the truth we dimly knew:
what trivial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls, and bid resentment cease;
then, bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace.

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God creator of all whose word sustains the life of
humanity, and directs our history. God is our life.**

**We believe in God's Son, born amongst the poor, light in our night,
first-born from the dead. He is alive.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, who gives birth to the new life of God,
who breathes life into the struggle for justice and leads us to hope,
who is a living force.**

**We believe in the holy universal Church, herald of the Good News
which frees people and brings new life.**

**We believe in the coming of a new world where Jesus Christ, our Lord,
will be all in all. Amen.**

Offertory

Intercessions

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe:
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all - not just for some,
to love them as we find them or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for justice and for bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one.

Blessing.