

Back to School Sunday

7 September 2025

We stand for the **Opening hymn**

The ministers and choir enter.

- 1 Morning has broken
like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird.
Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing
fresh from the Word!**
- 2 Sweet the rain's new fall
sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall
on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness
where God's feet pass.**
- 3 Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning
born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation,
praise every morning,
God's recreation
of the new day!**

Eleanor Farjeon (1881–1965); NEH 237

Tune: BUNESSAN (old Gaelic melody)

Welcome

Daniel welcomes us with these words:

✠ In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

Saying sorry to God

Let's get ready to worship God
by saying sorry for the wrong things that we've done,
but also by reminding ourselves that God always loves us, and will
forgive us.

We share a silent pause.

We have not always worshipped God, our creator.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

We have not always followed Christ, our Saviour.
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

We have not always trusted in the Spirit, our guide.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Daniel says:

May almighty God,
who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,
✠ bring you his pardon and peace,
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Praise God

Sung:

All **Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Prayer for today

Let us pray.

Silent pause...

**God of Wisdom,
who delights in our learning and growth,
bless all who begin a new school year: students, teachers, and
families.**

**May curiosity, kindness, and courage fill their days,
that they may grow in knowledge and love of you.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

All **Amen.**

We Listen to God's Word

(The Liturgy of the Word)

We sit for the **First Reading**

Philemon 4-7:

Paul wrote to Philemon, saying:

I always thank my God when I remember you in my prayers. That's because I hear about your love for all God's people. I also hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus. I pray that what we share by believing will help you understand even more. Then you will completely understand every good thing we share by believing in Christ. Your love has given me great joy. It has encouraged me. My brother, you have renewed the hearts of the Lord's people.

For the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

We stand for a **Hymn**

- 1 One more step along the world I go,
One more step along the world I go;
From the old things to the new,
Keep me travelling along with you:
*And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me travelling along with you.*
- 2 Round the corners of the world I turn,
More and more about the world I learn;
All the new things that I see
You'll be looking at along with me.
*And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me travelling along with you.*

- 3 As I travel through the bad and good,
Keep me travelling the way I should.
Where I see no way to go,
You'll be telling me the way, I know.
*And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me travelling along with you.*
- 4 Give me courage when the world is rough,
Keep me loving though the world is tough;
Leap and sing in all I do,
Keep me travelling along with you:
*And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me travelling along with you.*
- 5 You are older than the world can be,
You are younger than the life in me;
Ever old and ever new,
Keep me travelling along with you:
*And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me travelling along with you.*

Sydney Bertram Carter (1915-2004); CCLI no. 299425
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Gospel Reading

Sung:

All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

Luke 2:41-51

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. When Jesus was 12 years old, they went up to the feast as usual. After the feast was over, his parents left to go back home. The boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. But they were not

aware of it. They thought he was somewhere in their group. So they travelled on for a day. Then they began to look for him among their relatives and friends. They did not find him. So they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courtyard. He was sitting with the teachers. He was listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at how much he understood. They also were amazed at his answers. When his parents saw him, they were amazed. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been worried about you. We have been looking for you everywhere."

"Why were you looking for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he meant by that.

Then he went back to Nazareth with them, and he obeyed them. But his mother kept all these things like a secret treasure in her heart.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

We sit for the **All-age talk**

Eva gives a talk about the readings we've heard.

After her talk, there is a pause for us to think about what's been said.

We stand to **Affirm our faith**

Let's declare our faith in God.

All **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.**

We kneel or sit as we **Pray together**

Daniel introduces the prayer activity.

And at the end, we say together:

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

We Share in Holy Communion

(The Liturgy of the Sacrament)

We stand to **Share the Peace**

Daniel introduces the Peace.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace.
If we live in the Spirit, let us walk in the Spirit.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of God's peace.

Offering and hymn

During the hymn, gifts from the people are brought to the altar.

1 Lord Jesus Christ

**You have come to us
You are one with us Mary's Son
Cleansing our souls from all their sin
Pouring Your love and goodness in
Jesus our love for You we sing
Living Lord**

2 Lord Jesus Christ

**now and every day
Teach us how to pray Son of God
You have commanded us to do
This in remembrance Lord of You
Into our lives Your power breaks through
Living Lord**

3 Lord Jesus Christ

**You have come to us
Born as one of us Mary's Son
Led out to die on Calvary
Risen from death to set us free
Living Lord Jesus help us see
You are Lord**

4 Lord Jesus Christ

**I would come to You
Live my life for You Son of God
All Your commands I know are true
Your many gifts will make me new
Into my life Your power breaks through
Living Lord**

*Patrick Robert Norman Appleford (1925-2018); CCLI no. 40241
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The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

Preparation of the Table

Daniel prays over the gifts,:

**Be present, be present,
Lord Jesus Christ,
our risen high priest;
make yourself known in the breaking of bread.**

All **Amen.**

Daniel takes the bread and wine as he prays.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

(Additional Eucharistic Prayer 2)

The Lord is here.

All **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Lord of all life,
you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth,
to discover and to cherish.

You give us friends and families
busy streets for young and old,
the life of an earthly city
fulfilled in your city to come.

You made us all,
each wonderfully different,
to join with the angels
and sing your praise:

Sung:

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

✠ **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We thank you, loving Father,
because, when we turned away,
you sent Jesus, your Son.
He gave his life for us on the cross
and shows us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died,
when darkness had fallen,
Jesus took bread.
He gave thanks, broke it,
and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this to remember me.'

Great is the mystery of faith:

All

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

So Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.
As you feed us with these gifts,
send your Holy Spirit,
and change us more and more
to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Help us, Father, to love one another,
as we look forward to that day
when suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with *[N and]* all your saints we give you glory,
through Jesus Christ,
in the strength of the Spirit,
today and for ever.

All **Amen.**

After the prayer, we share another time of silence.

The Lord's Prayer

Jesus taught us to call God our Father,
so in faith and trust we pray:

All **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.**

Breaking of the Bread

Daniel breaks the bread which has been blessed..

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

As the bread is broken, we sing:

All **Lamb of God
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

Daniel invites us with these words.:

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people

All **Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

We sit.

All are welcome to receive Communion here if you normally receive it (here or in another Christian church), or else you can come forward for a blessing.

Communion Anthem

During the distribution, the choir sing some music to help us focus on God.

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face to shine upon you
And be gracious unto you
The Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon you
And give you peace

Music: John Rutter (b. 1945)

Words: from Numbers 6:24-26

Please remain seated for the **Prayer after Communion**

God of all mercy,
in this eucharist you have set aside our sins
and given us your healing:
grant that we who are made whole in Christ
may bring that healing to this broken world,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

We Go Out to Serve God

(The Gathering)

Notices

We stand for the **Final hymn**

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 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.

4 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.

John Bode (1816–74); NEH 420

Tune: WOLVERCOTE (William H. Ferguson, 1874–1950)

The Blessing

May God the Father enfold you in his love
May God the Son teach you his way of compassion
May God the Holy Spirit lead you into her community of peace
✠ and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you,
this year and always.

All **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The ministers and choir leave as organ music is played.