Service for the Eleventh Sunday

Welcome:

I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands.’ Psalm 63:4

As we look to opening our churches, it is timely to remember that though the world is ever changing, the word of our God stands firm forever and his salvation is everlasting.

My soul finds rest in God alone;

**My salvation comes from Him.**

He alone is my Rock and my salvation,

**He is my fortress, I shall never be shaken.**

Opening hymn: Tell out my soul

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!

Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;

Tender to me the promise of His word;

In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name!

Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;

His mercy sure, from age to age the same;

His holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might!

Powers and dominions lay their glory by.

Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,

The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of His word!

Firm is His promise and His mercy sure.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord

To children’s children and for evermore!

Confession:

The gospel calls us to turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

As we offer ourselves to him in penitence and faith

We renew our confidence and trust in his mercy.

Almighty God,

Long suffering and of great goodness

I confess to you, I confess with my whole heart

My neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments

My wrong doing, thinking and speaking:

The hurts I have done to others and the good I have left undone

O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against you;

And raise me to new life,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, Your Son has opened for us

A new and living way into your presence

Give us new hearts and steadfast wills

To walk in your ways and delight in your truth

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

Listen to me:

Hymn: Faithful One

Faithful One so unchanging

Ageless One, You’re my rock of peace.
Lord of all, I depend on You.

I call out to You again and again.

I call out to You, again and again.

You are my rock in times of trouble,

You lift me up when I fall down;

All through the storm

Your love is the anchor –

My hope is in You alone.

Reading: Romans 12:1-8

Address:

Prayers:

Collect for the 11th Sunday after Trinity

O God, you declare your almighty power

Most chiefly in showing mercy and pity:

Mercifully grant to us a measure of your grace,

That we, running the way of your commandments,

May receive your gracious promises,

And be made partakers of your heavenly treasure;

Through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father, whose will it is

That your church should be one visible body,

So that the world might see and believe:

Give us grace to break down the barriers that keep us apart

That, accepting our differences,

we may draw closer to Jesus

and grow in love for one another.

Unite us all in a common concern

to share your good news with others

And further your kingdom here on earth.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, by whose cross, all enmity is ended

And all walls of separation are broken down:

Look with compassion on our world

and the racial prejudices that divide us and weaken us.

By your grace, make us agents of reconciliation,

Healers and peacemakers,

That we may not judge others on the basis of race, colour or creed

But see all people as made in your image and for whom you gave your life;

For you are the Prince of peace, whose name is Love.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we thank you

for the many and varied talents you have given us,

that we may serve and bless others:

gifts of music, dance and painting, writing and athletic skills,

gifts of leadership and organizational skills

gifts of understanding, sympathy and friendship

gifts of generosity, mercy and forgiveness.

Show us the gifts you have given to each one of us,

And enable us to use them in serving others to the glory of your name.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of wisdom, we pray for our schools, collages and universities

Our teachers, tutors and mentors, our pupils and students

As they begin a new academic year.

We remember especially those who have received their grades

For A level, GCSE and apprenticeships, and those awaiting BTECS.

May they receive the grades they deserve

And be enabled to follow their career path

With confidence, with excitement and

in the secure knowledge of being fully supported

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father, we bring to you those who are feeling low at this time,

those who are ill, either at home, hospital, hospice or care home,

those who are grieving, those who are anxious, those who feel forgotten

In a moment of quiet we name them before the Lord. . . .

We pray for all who care for others in whatever capacity -

may they be aware of your peace, your love and your healing presence.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God of love, we ask you to give us love:

Love in our thinking, love in our speaking, love in our doing,

And love in the hidden places of our souls.

Love of our neighbours and our friends,

Love for those whom we find it hard to bear

And love for those who find it hard to bear with us.

Love in joy and love in sorrow,

Love in life and love in death;

So that at length we may be worthy to dwell with you, Eternal love,

Through him who reveals your love, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We draw our prayers to a close with the prayer our Lord 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.**

Closing Hymn: I cannot tell

I cannot tell why He whom angels worship

Should set His love upon the sons of men,

Or why, as Shepherd, He should seek the wanderers,

To bring them back, they know not how or when.

But this I know, that He was born of Mary,

When Bethlehem’s manger was His only home,

And that He lived at Nazareth and laboured,

And so the Saviour, Saviour of the world is come.

I cannot tell how silently He suffered,

As with His peace, He graced this place of tears,

Or how His heart upon the cross was broken,

The crown of pain to three and thirty years.

But this I know, He heals the broken-hearted,

And stays our sin and calms our faithless fear,

And lifts the burden from the heavy laden,

For still the presence of the comforter is here.

I cannot tell when He will win the nations,

When He will claim His heritage on earth,

Or satisfy the cries and crushing sorrows

Of east and west, of those who have new birth.

But this I know, all flesh shall see His glory,

And He shall reap the harvest He has sown,

And some glad day His light shall shine in splendour

When He the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is known.

I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship,

When at His bidding, every storm is stilled,

Or who can say how great the jubilation

When every heart with love and joy is filled.

But this I know, the skies will thrill with rapture,

And myriad, ransomed sons and daughters sing,

And earth to heaven, and heaven to earth will answer:

At last the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is King!

Blessing:

May the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you all this day and for ever more. **Amen.**