

We say together:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Closing prayer and blessing

Concluding music:

Amazing Grace (My Chains are gone)

Chris Tomlin (played by Neil Aiton)

Amazing Grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now am found
Was blind but now I see

Tw'as grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed
*My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God my Saviour, has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love
Amazing grace*

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures
My chains...

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine...
Will be forever mine

.....

**in case anyone would like some individual
prayer, we will be available in the side chapels
after the service.**

*If you would like to be part of our Reflections
team, helping us to put together the service
and/or deliver it, please speak to any one of the
team.*

The Parish Church of St Andrew and St Cuthman, Steyning

REFLECTIONS

5 March 2023

'Forgiveness - forgive us as we forgive others'

Opening music:

Chant of the Heart: *Miserere Mei* (Psalm 51).

Welcome and Introduction

Reading: Poem

A Hymn to God the Father, by John Donne

Wilt Thou forgive that sin, where I begun,
Which is my sin, though it were done before?
Wilt Thou forgive those sins through which I
run,
And do run still, though still I do deplore?
When Thou hast done, Thou hast not done,
For I have more.

Wilt Thou forgive that sin, by which I won
Others to sin, and made my sin their door?
Wilt Thou forgive that sin which I did shun
A year or two, but wallowed in a score?
When Thou hast done, Thou hast not done,
For I have more.

I have a sin of fear that when I've spun
My last thread, I shall perish on the shore;
Swear by Thyself, that at my death Thy Son
Shall shine as He shines now, and heretofore.
And having done that, Thou hast done,
I fear no more.

Bible Meditations

Psalm 51:7-9: Cleanse me with hyssop, and I
will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow;
let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquity.

Luke 23:32-34: There were two others with him, criminals who were being led away to execution; and when they reached the place called The Skull, they crucified him there, and the criminals with him, one on his right and the other on his left. Jesus said, 'Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.'

Ephesians 4:32: Be generous to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another as God in Christ forgave you.

Mark 11:25: And when you stand praying, if you have a grievance against anyone, forgive them, so that your father in heaven may forgive you the wrongs you have done.

Matthew 6:9-13: Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Acts 2:38: 'Repent' said Peter, 'Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus the Messiah for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit'.

Music into Silence

God is forgiveness (*Taize song*)

God is Forgiveness, God is forgiveness
Dare to forgive and God will be with you
God is forgiveness
Love and do not fear

Reflective Silence (about 12-15 minutes)

*The silence will end with
playing of music*

Bible Reading

The parable of the prodigal son

Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

When he came to his senses, he said, 'I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' So he got up and went to his father.

But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate."

Luke 15:12-13, 18-24

Prayers

Heavenly Father, search my heart. I ask You for the power to forgive.
Lord Jesus, heal my heart and bind up my wounds. Restore my crushed spirit.
Help me to rejoice because the Spirit and the glory of God rests on me, as His child.
Help me to understand and give me the strength not to forgive seven times, but up to seventy times seven.
Help me to cleanse my heart and mind from resentment or bitterness.
I approach Your throne of grace with confidence, so that I may receive mercy and find grace to help me forgive someone who has hurt me.
Pour out Your grace on me, my God. Restore me and make me strong, firm, and steadfast.
Let me dwell in Your house and seek Your face all the days of my life.

Amen