Series Title:
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Title
Text

1.

2.

A very warm welcome to St Peter's Church!
Thank you for joining us this morning.

St Peter's
COLCHESTER

Morning Prayer

Sunday 15th November 2026
9:45am

CONNECT with us at St Peter's

Please scan this QR code with your smartphone to connect with us online: you can ask a question, send us a prayer request, or just ask for more information about things at St Peter's…

THE COLLECT

for the Second Sunday before Advent

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed
to destroy the works of the devil
and to make us the children of God
and heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and great glory
we may be made like him in his eternal
and glorious kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

WELCOME TO ST PETER'S

This is the second of our three Sunday morning services, which are currently taking place as follows:

- 9.00am – **Holy Communion** in church: a short, traditional service using the Book of Common Prayer.
- 9.45am – **Morning Prayer** in the Hall: a more traditional service with familiar hymns, prayers and Bible teaching.
- 11.15am – **Rock Solid** in the Hall: a more contemporary and informal service, including provision for children.

Everyone is warmly welcome at any or all of our services! We particularly encourage families with children to join us at 11.15am, when our St Peter's Kids (SPK) groups for Reception to Year 6 meet for a short time during the service. Younger children are welcome to remain with their parents or carers.

Coffee and refreshments are served between the two Hall services, from 10.45 to 11.15am. Whichever service you attend, please do stay or come early to join us. It's a great opportunity to enjoy fellowship together as one church family.

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PREPARATION

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Give us the joy of your saving help
and sustain us with your life-giving Spirit.

We have come together in the name of Christ
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,
to hear and receive God's holy word,
to pray for the needs of the world,
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins,
that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

"TO GOD BE THE GLORY!"

To God be the glory! great things he has done;
so loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord!
let the earth hear His voice;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord!
let the people rejoice;
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory; great things he has done.

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!
To every believer the promise of God:
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord…

Great things he has taught us,
great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our worship, when Jesus we see!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord…

Fanny J Crosby (1820-1915)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

If we say we have no sin,
we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins,
God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1.8-9

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

BIBLE READING: Ephesians 3.1-13

read by Isabel Watts

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus
on behalf of you Gentiles —
2 assuming that you have
heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was
given to me for you,
3 how the mystery was made
known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly.
4 When you read this, you can perceive my insight
into the mystery of Christ,
5 which was not made
known to the sons of men in other generations as it
has now been revealed to his holy apostles and
prophets by the Spirit.
6 This mystery is that the
Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body,
and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through
the gospel.

7 Of this gospel I was made a minister according
to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the
working of his power.
8 To me, though I am the very
least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach
to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,
9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of
the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all
things,
10 so that through the church the manifold
wisdom of God might now be made known to the
rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.
11 This
was according to the eternal purpose that he has
realized in Christ Jesus our Lord,
12 in whom we have
boldness and access with confidence through our
faith in him.
13 So I ask you not to lose heart over what
I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

"SHOW US CHRIST"

Prepare our hearts, O God,
help us to receive;
break the hard and stony ground,
help our unbelief.
Plant Your Word down deep in us,
cause it to bear fruit;
open up our ears to hear,
lead us in Your truth.
*Show us Christ, show us Christ,
O God, reveal Your glory
through the preaching of Your Word,
until every heart confesses Christ is Lord.*

Your Word is living light
upon our darkened eyes:
guards us through temptations,
makes the simple wise.
Your Word is food for famished ones,
freedom for the slave,
riches for the needy soul —
come speak to us today!
Show us Christ, show us Christ…

Bob Kauflin | Doug Plank | © 2011 Sovereign Grace Praise

THE SERMON

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* Church, *[* ie universal/worldwide]*
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

"HOW SWEET THE NAME OF JESUS"

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,
and drives away his fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole,
and calms the troubled breast;
'Tis manna to the hungry soul,
and to the weary, rest.

Dear name, the rock on which I build,
my shield and hiding place,
my never-failing treasury, filled
with boundless stores of grace!

Jesus! My Shepherd, Saviour, Friend,
my Prophet, Priest and King,
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
accept the praise I bring.

Weak is the effort of my heart,
and cold my warmest thought;
but when I see Thee as Thou art,
I'll praise Thee as I ought.

Till then I would Thy love proclaim
with every fleeting breath;
and may the music of Thy name
refresh my soul in death.

John Newton (1725-1807)

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

led by Duncan Breckels

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
as our Saviour taught us so we pray
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.

"IN CHRIST ALONE"

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! who took on flesh,
fulness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save:
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied -
for every sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
then, bursting forth in glorious Day,
up from the grave he rose again!
And, as he stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
for I am his and he is mine -
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand;
till he returns, or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Keith Getty & Stuart Townend, © 2001, Thankyou Music

THE CONCLUSION

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore. Amen.
