

Sunday August 16th 2026 – Hinckley URC – Communion
Rev. Dr Kirsty Thorpe

Welcome / notices - Duty Elder

Call to Worship Psalm 133

Hymn Let us build a house where love can dwell StF 409

Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.

Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
*All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.

Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
All are welcome...

Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.

Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
All are welcome...

Let us build a house where hands will reach

beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known

Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome...

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.

Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, ...

Prayers of approach, confession and Lords' Prayer

Reading Genesis 45. 1-15

Theme introduction

Hymn The love of God comes close R&S 107

The love of God comes close
where stands an open door
to let the stranger in,
to mingle rich and poor.
The love of God is here to stay;
embracing those who walk His way,
the love of God is here to stay.

The peace of God comes close
to those caught in the storm,
forgoing lives of ease
to ease the lives forlorn.
The peace of God is here to stay;
embracing those who walk His way,
the peace of God is here to stay.

The joy of God comes close
where faith encounters fears,
where heights and depths of life
are found through smiles and tears.

The joy of God is here to stay;
embracing those who walk His way,
the joy of God is here to stay.

The grace of God comes close
to those whose grace is spent,
when hearts are tired or sore
and hope is bruised and bent.

The grace of God is here to stay;
embracing those who walk His way,
the grace of God is here to stay.

The Son of God comes close
when people praise His name,
where bread and wine are blessed
and shared as when He came

The Son of God is here to stay;
embracing those who walk His way,
the Son of God is here to stay.

Reading

Matthew 15. 21-28

Sermon

Hymn

Help us accept each other R&S 646

(during which the Offertory is collected and brought forward)

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.

2 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.

3 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.

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

Prayer of thanks

Hymn

Jesus, be the centre CMP 1076

Jesus, be the centre
Be my source, be my light
Jesus
(repeat)

*(Chorus) Be the fire in my heart
Be the wind in these sails
Be the reason that I live
Jesus, Jesus*

Jesus, be the centre
Be my hope, be my song
Jesus
(Chorus)

Jesus, be my vision
Be my path, be my guide
Jesus
(Chorus)

Jesus, be the centre
Be my source, be my light
Jesus

Communion

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!

Blessing

Exit Music: Toccata on 'Praise God from whom all blessings flow' by Michael Burkhardt