

Sunday 18th October, 2026
The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
Minister: Rev. Ian Taylor, A.C.I.B.S., B.D., Th.M., Dip. P.S.R.P.
Musical Director: Mr. Alan Craig, M.B.E., B.Mus., P.G.C.E.
Guest Preacher: Rev. Janet S. Mathieson M.A., B.D., A.L.C.M., P.G.S.E.

Welcome & Intimations

- We welcome Rev. Janet S. Mathieson back to our Pulpit this morning.
- Please ensure all mobile phones are switched off or in silent mode during the Service.
- Please place your offering in the Offering Plates as these are uplifted during the Service.
- Tea and Coffee will be available after Church today in the Cameron Hall.
- Tickets (£5) for the Guild Coffee morning on Saturday 24th October 2026 are on sale today.
- There will NOT be a Vestry Hour or a midweek Service on Wednesday 21st October 2026.

Introit

Call to Worship

Hymn 132 'Immortal, invisible, God only wise,'

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains, high soaring above
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

Call to Prayer

Prayers of Approach and the Lord's prayer

Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. **AMEN.**

Children's Address – Jesus needs you!

Hymn 340 'When Jesus Saw the Fishermen'

When Jesus saw the fishermen,
in boats upon the sea,
he called to them, 'Come leave your nets
and follow, follow me'.
They followed where he healed the sick
and gave the hungry bread,
and others joined them as they went
wherever Jesus led.

And now his friends are everywhere,
the circle once so small
extends around the whole wide world,
for Jesus calls us all.
In this great circle we belong,
wherever we may be,
if we will answer when he calls,
'Come, follow, follow me'.

First Reading - St. Matthew 22:15-22

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality.' ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?' ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' ²¹ They answered, 'The emperor's.' Then he said to them, 'Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.' ²² When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Hymn 755 'Be still and know that I am God' v1

Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.

Sermon Part 1 – The Price We Pay

Hymn 755 'Be still and know that I am God' v2

I am the Lord who saves and heals.
I am the Lord who saves and heals.
I am the Lord who saves and heals.

Second Reading – 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10 (Reader – Eric Cumming)

1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters^[a] beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of people we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you

received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place where your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For the people of those regions^[b] report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Hymn 755 ‘Be still and know that I am God’ v3

In you, Lord God, I put my trust.
In you, Lord God, I put my trust.
In you, Lord God, I put my trust.

Sermon Part 2 – The Imitation Game

Anthem

The Offering (& Sung Doxology: Hymn 807)

Prayers of Dedication, Thanksgiving and Intercession

Hymn 458 ‘At the name of Jesus’

At the name of Jesus
every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him
King of glory now;
‘tis the Father’s pleasure
we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning
was the mighty Word.

Brothers, sisters, name him
with love strong as death,
but with awe and wonder
and with bated breath!
He is God the Saviour,
he is Christ the Lord,
ever to be worshipped,
trusted, and adored.

In your hearts enthrone him;
there let him subdue
all that is not holy,
all that is not true;
let his grace support you
in temptation’s hour;
and his will enfold you
in its light and power,

In his Father’s glory
Christ shall come again,
angel hosts proclaiming
his return to reign.
For all wreaths of empire
meet upon his brow,
and our hearts confess him
King of glory now.

Benediction

Choral Amen