

Smethwick Old Church



Service of the Word for Ordinary Time

Opening Words

We gather together
in the name of the One who bids us come.

**We gather together
to hear the words of the One who is Love.**

We gather together
to sing praises of the One who teaches peace.

Come, let us worship!

(The United Church of Canada)

Greeting

Welcome in the name of Christ.
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you.
and also with you

Prayer of preparation

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by
the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your Holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen**

Prayers of Confession

An Introduction to the prayer of confession is said followed by the words:

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you feed us with the living bread.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Forgive us and restore us,

draw us close and bind us together in your love.

Amen.

We hear God's forgiveness

Gloria in Excelsis

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,**

**we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father:

receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

The Collect

The Word of God in Scripture

First Reading

Ending with the words:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Ending with the words:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

As the Gospel the following words are used:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord

At the end of the reading we respond:

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

Affirmation of Faith

**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;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Prayers of intercession

The Lord's Prayer

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.

The Peace

An introduction is given followed by the words:
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
and also with you.

Let us Greet those close, and those who are at a distance from us, with the words
'Peace be with you;

Hymn

Blessing

Closing

Go in the peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name Christ. Amen

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COLLECT

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong,
nothing is holy:
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;
that with you as our ruler and guide
we may so pass through things temporal
that we lose not our hold on things eternal;
grant this, heavenly Father,
for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Zechariah 9:9-12

A reading from the book of the prophet Zechariah.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey, on
a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will
cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle-bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the
nations; his dominion shall be from
sea to sea, and from the River to
the ends of the earth. As for you
also, because of the blood of my
covenant with you, I will set your
prisoners free from the waterless
pit. Return to your stronghold, O
prisoners of hope; today I declare
that I will restore to you double.

PSALM Psalm 145:8-15

R *Great is the Lord and highly to be praised.*

The Lord is gracious and merciful,
long-suffering and of great goodness.
The Lord is loving to everyone
and his mercy is over all his
creatures. **R**

All your works praise you, O Lord,
and your faithful servants bless you.
They tell of the glory of your
kingdom
and speak of your mighty power, **R**

To make known to all peoples your
mighty acts
and the glorious splendour of your
kingdom.
Your kingdom is an everlasting
kingdom;
your dominion endures throughout
all ages. **R**

The Lord is sure in all his words
and faithful in all his deeds.
The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up all those who are bowed
down. **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 7:15-25a

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

I do not understand my own
actions. For I do not do what I want,
but I do the very thing I hate. Now
if I do what I do not want, I agree
that the law is good. But in fact it is
no longer I that do it, but sin that
dwells within me. For I know that
nothing good dwells within me,
that is, in my flesh. I can will what is
right, but I cannot do it. For I do not
do the good I want, but the evil I do
not want is what I do. Now if I do
what I do not want, it is no longer I
that do it, but sin that dwells within
me. So I find it to be a law that
when I want to do what is good,
evil lies close at hand. For I delight
in the law of God in my inmost self,
but I see in my members another
law at war with the law of my mind,
making me captive to the law of
sin that dwells in my members.
Wretched man that I am! Who will
rescue me from this body of death?
Thanks be to God through Jesus
Christ our Lord!

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-end

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

At that time Jesus said, "To what
will I compare this generation?
It is like children sitting in the
market-places and calling to one
another, 'We played the flute for
you, and you did not dance; we
wailed, and you did not mourn.'
For John came neither eating nor
drinking, and they say, 'He has
a demon'; the Son of Man came
eating and drinking, and they say,
'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a
friend of tax-collectors and sinners!'
Yet wisdom is vindicated by her
deeds. I thank you, Father, Lord
of heaven and earth, because you
have hidden these things from
the wise and the intelligent and
have revealed them to infants;
yes, Father, for such was your
gracious will. All things have been
handed over to me by my Father;
and no one knows the Son except
the Father, and no one knows
the Father except the Son and
anyone to whom the Son chooses
to reveal him. Come to me, all you
that are weary and are carrying
heavy burdens, and I will give you
rest. Take my yoke upon you, and
learn from me; for I am gentle and
humble in heart, and you will find
rest for your souls. For my yoke is
easy, and my burden is light."

POST COMMUNION

Eternal God,
comfort of the afflicted and healer
of the broken,
you have fed us at the table of life
and hope:
teach us the ways of gentleness and
peace,
that all the world may acknowledge
the kingdom of your Son Jesus
Christ our Lord.



COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the
Church is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your
faithful people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus
Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 55:10-13

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD: As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

PSALM Psalm 65 [or 65:8-13]

R *Be joyful in God, all the earth.*

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion;
to you that answer prayer shall vows be
paid.
To you shall all flesh come to confess their
sins;
when our misdeeds prevail against us,
you will purge them away. **R**

Happy are they whom you choose
and draw to your courts to dwell there.
We shall be satisfied with the blessings of
your house, even of your holy temple.
With wonders you will answer us in your
righteousness, O God of our salvation,
O hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas. **R**

In your strength you set fast the mountains
and are girded about with might.
You still the raging of the seas,

the roaring of their waves
and the clamour of the peoples.
Those who dwell at the ends of the earth
tremble at your marvels;
the gates of the morning and evening sing
your praise. **R**

[You visit the earth and water it;
you make it very plenteous.
The river of God is full of water;
you prepare grain for your people,
for so you provide for the earth.
You drench the furrows and smooth out
the ridges;
you soften the ground with showers and
bless its increase. **R**

You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.
May the pastures of the wilderness flow
with goodness
and the hills be girded with joy.
May the meadows be clothed with flocks
of sheep
and the valleys stand so thick with corn
that they shall laugh and sing.] **R**

SECOND READING Romans 8:1-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law – indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from

the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

GOSPEL Matthew 13:1-9. 18-23

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen! Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

POST COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you,
that the course of this world may be so
peaceably ordered by your governance,
that your Church may joyfully serve you in
all godly quietness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



COLLECT

Merciful God,
you have prepared for those who love you
such good things as pass our
understanding:
pour into our hearts such love toward you
that we, loving you in all things and above
all things,
may obtain your promises,
which exceed all that we can desire;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Either **Wisdom of Solomon 12:13. 16-19**
A reading from the book of Wisdom.

There is not any god besides you, Lord,
whose care is for all people, to whom you
should prove that you have not judged
unjustly; for your strength is the source
of righteousness, and your sovereignty
over all causes you to spare all. For you
show your strength when people doubt
the completeness of your power, and you
rebuke any insolence among those who
know it. Although you are sovereign in
strength, you judge with mildness, and
with great forbearance you govern us;
for you have power to act whenever you
choose. Through such works you have
taught your people that the righteous
must be kind, and you have filled your
children with good hope, because you
give repentance for sins.

Or Isaiah 44:6-8

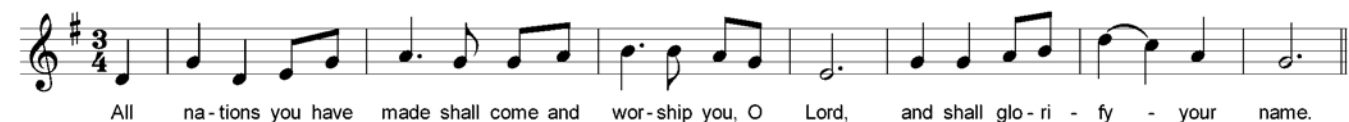
*A reading from the book of the prophet
Isaiah.*

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and
his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the
first and I am the last; besides me there is
no god. Who is like me? Let them proclaim
it, let them declare and set it forth before
me. Who has announced from of old the
things to come? Let them tell us what is
yet to be. Do not fear, or be afraid; have
I not told you from of old and declared
it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god
besides me? There is no other rock; I know
not one.

PSALM Psalm 86:11-end

R *All nations you have made shall
come and worship you, O Lord.*

Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will
walk in your truth;
knit my heart to you, that I may fear your
name.



I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all
my heart,
and glorify your name for evermore; **R**

For great is your steadfast love towards
me,
for you have delivered my soul from the
depths of the grave.
O God, the proud rise up against me
and a ruthless horde seek after my life;
they have not set you before their eyes. **R**

But you, Lord, are gracious and full of
compassion,
slow to anger and full of kindness and
truth.

Turn to me and have mercy upon me;
give your strength to your servant
and save the child of your handmaid.
Show me a token of your favour,
that those who hate me may see it and
be ashamed;
because you, O Lord, have helped and
comforted me. **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 8:12-25

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the
Romans.*

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors,
not to the flesh, to live according to the
flesh – for if you live according to the
flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you
put to death the deeds of the body, you
will live. For all who are led by the Spirit
of God are children of God. For you did
not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back
into fear, but you have received a spirit of
adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!”
it is that very Spirit bearing witness with
our spirit that we are children of God,
and if children, then heirs, heirs of God
and joint heirs with Christ – if, in fact,
we suffer with him so that we may also
be glorified with him. I consider that the
sufferings of this present time are not
worth comparing with the glory about to
be revealed to us. For the creation waits
with eager longing for the revealing of
the children of God; for the creation was
subjected to futility, not of its own will
but by the will of the one who subjected
it, in hope that the creation itself will be
set free from its bondage to decay and
will obtain the freedom of the glory of the
children of God. We know that the whole
creation has been groaning in labour
pains until now; and not only the creation,
but we ourselves, who have the first fruits
of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we
wait for adoption, the redemption of our
bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now

hope that is seen is not hope. For who
hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for
what we do not see, we wait for it with
patience.

GOSPEL Matthew 13:24-30. 36-43

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.*

Jesus put before the crowd another
parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be
compared to someone who sowed good
seed in his field; but while everybody
was asleep, an enemy came and sowed
weeds among the wheat, and then went
away. So when the plants came up and
bore grain then the weeds appeared as
well. And the slaves of the householder
came and said to him, ‘Master, did you
not sow good seed in your field? Where,
then, did these weeds come from?’ He
answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The
slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us
to go and gather them?’ But he replied,
‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would
uproot the wheat along with them. Let
both of them grow together until the
harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the
reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind
them in bundles to be burned, but gather
the wheat into my barn.’” Then Jesus
left the crowds and went into the house.
And his disciples approached him, saying,
“Explain to us the parable of the weeds
of the field.” He answered, “The one
who sows the good seed is the Son of
Man; the field is the world, and the good
seed are the children of the kingdom; the
weeds are the children of the evil one and
the enemy who sowed them is the devil;
the harvest is the end of the age, and
the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds
are collected and burned up with fire, so
will it be at the end of the age. The Son
of Man will send his angels, and they will
collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin
and all evildoers, and they will throw them
into the furnace of fire, where there will
be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then
the righteous will shine like the sun in the
kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with
ears listen!”

POST COMMUNION

God of our pilgrimage,
you have led us to the living water:
refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

COLLECT

Lord of all power and might,
the author and giver of all good things:
graft in our hearts the love of your name,
increase in us true religion,
nourish us with all goodness,
and of your great mercy keep us in the
same;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING 1 Kings 3:5-12

A reading from the first book of Kings.

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

PSALM Psalm 119:129-136

R *The opening of your word gives light.*

Your testimonies are wonderful;
therefore my soul keeps them.
The opening of your word gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple. **R**

I open my mouth and draw in my breath,
as I long for your commandments.



The op'-ning of your word gives light.

Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as is your way with those who love
your name. **R**

Order my steps by your word,
and let no wickedness have dominion
over me.

Redeem me from earthly oppressors
so that I may keep your commandments. **R**

Show the light of your countenance upon
your servant

and teach me your statutes.

My eyes run down with streams of water,
because the wicked do not keep your
law. **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 8:26-end

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

The Spirit helps us in our weakness;
for we do not know how to pray as we
ought, but that very Spirit intercedes
with sighs too deep for words. And God,
who searches the heart, knows what is
the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit
intercedes for the saints according to
the will of God. We know that all things
work together for good for those who
love God, who are called according to his
purpose. For those whom he foreknew
he also predestined to be conformed
to the image of his Son, in order that
he might be the firstborn within a large
family. And those whom he predestined
he also called; and those whom he called
he also justified; and those whom he
justified he also glorified. What then are
we to say about these things? If God is
for us, who is against us? He who did not
withhold his own Son, but gave him up
for all of us, will he not with him also give
us everything else? Who will bring any
charge against God's elect? It is God who
justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ
Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who
is at the right hand of God, who indeed
intercedes for us. Who will separate us
from the love of Christ? Will hardship,
or distress, or persecution, or famine,
or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is
written, "For your sake we are being killed
all day long; we are accounted as sheep
to be slaughtered." No, in all these things
we are more than conquerors through
him who loved us. For I am convinced that
neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor
rulers, nor things present, nor things to

come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation, will be
able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

GOSPEL Matthew 13:31-33. 44-52

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.*

Jesus put before the crowd another
parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like
a mustard seed that someone took and
sowed in his field; it is the smallest of
all the seeds, but when it has grown it
is the greatest of shrubs and becomes
a tree, so that the birds of the air come
and make nests in its branches." He told
them another parable: "The kingdom of
heaven is like yeast that a woman took
and mixed in with three measures of flour
until all of it was leavened. The kingdom
of heaven is like treasure hidden in a
field, which someone found and hid; then
in his joy he goes and sells all that he has
and buys that field. Again, the kingdom
of heaven is like a merchant in search of
fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great
value, he went and sold all that he had
and bought it. Again, the kingdom of
heaven is like a net that was thrown into
the sea and caught fish of every kind;
when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat
down, and put the good into baskets but
threw out the bad. So it will be at the
end of the age. The angels will come out
and separate the evil from the righteous
and throw them into the furnace of
fire, where there will be weeping and
gnashing of teeth. Have you understood
all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he
said to them, "Therefore every scribe
who has been trained for the kingdom of
heaven is like the master of a household
who brings out of his treasure what is
new and what is old."

POST COMMUNION

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and
the source of life,

ever giving himself that the world may
live:

may we so receive within ourselves the
power of his death and passion
that, in his saving cup, we may share his
glory and be made perfect in his love;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for
ever.