

## 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

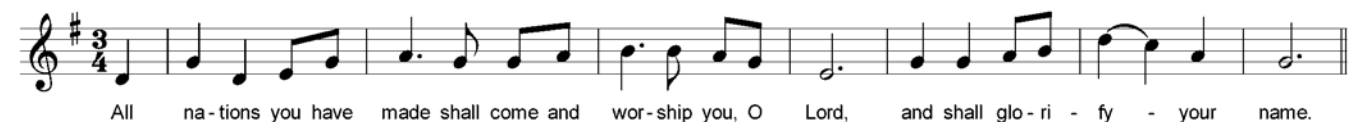
*A reading from the book of the prophet  
Isaiah.*

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.