

*The Lord's Prayer*

**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.**

*Closing Hymn* **Great is thy faithfulness**

*Blessing (from the Liturgy of the City)*

May you be interrupted, frustrated, delayed and disrupted.

And in that moment may the Kingdom of heaven  
be revealed in you.

May your eyes be Christ's eyes,

Your hands Christ's hands.

And your words Christ's words

For this is where you have been placed,

here in this beautiful brokenness,  
this urban wilderness.

May you die to yourself and serve the people of this town.

To the Glory of God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

**Amen.**



**St Michael's Church, Highworth**  
10.15am service — Sunday 1st September 2024

*Welcome*

*Opening Prayer*

We gather in the name of the God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of the Earth and all its creatures!  
Praise be to the Holy Trinity! God is sound and life, Creator of the Universe, Source of all life, whom the angels sing; wondrous Light of all mysteries known or unknown to humankind, and life that lives in all.

*(Hildegard of Bingen, 13th Century)*

*Opening Sentences*

We gather in the image of the Creator

**who is a community of love.**

We gather in the name of the Redeemer

**who reconciles all of creation.**

We gather in the presence of the Life Giver

**who inspires new life and renews it.**

*Hymn* **Fairest Lord Jesus**

*Reading - Psalm 104*

*Confession & Forgiveness*

You tell us that the Land needs to rest

**We demand that it produces more.**

You call us to pause from our work, our cutting and growing

**We demand more energy, more of everything**

You assure us that there is enough

**We confess our lack of trust in your generosity**

All of creation is yours and your renew it.

**We confess to thinking of Creation as ours.**

*Silence is kept for reflection*

*Absolution*

Turn is from our fear and mistrust

**Free us to imagine a life reconciled to the earth and all creatures,  
through the good news of Jesus Christ in whose name we prayer**

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 **Amen**

*(Romans 8:26–27).*

*Collect Trinity 14*

Almighty God,

whose only Son has opened for us  
a new and living way into your presence:  
give us pure hearts and steadfast wills  
to worship you in spirit and in truth;  
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  
**Amen**

Hymn **Now the green blade riseth**

*Reading* - Mark 7.1-8, 14, 15, 21-23

This is the Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

Hymn **Indescribable (Chris Tomlin)**

*Sermon*

*Profession of Faith*

We belong to the Creator in whose image we are all made.

**In God we are breathing, in God we are living,  
in God we share the life of all creation.**

We belong to Jesus Christ,  
the true icon of God and of humanity.

**In him God is breathing, in him God is living,  
through him we are reconciled.**

We belong to the Holy Spirit,  
who gives us new life and strengthens our faith.

**In the Spirit love is breathing,  
in the Spirit truth is living, the breath of God always moves us.**

We belong to the Holy Trinity,  
who is one in all and Three-in-One.

**In God we are all made,  
in Christ we are all saved,  
in the Spirit we are all united.**

*What has God been doing?*

*Prayers and Intercessions*