



United Parish Worship - Sunday 10 May 2026

Welcome and Prayer

Leader Let us worship God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

This is the day that the Lord has made.

All **We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

Hymn **367 Jesus is Lord**

Confession

All: **Holy God, we are sorry when we place our selfishness above helping others, when we ignore what we know we should do, when we take things or people for granted. Help us to remember our place in this world you made, to be humble and hopeful. Forgive us and hear us as we open our hearts to you. Amen**

Friends, this is the Good News:
by God's grace, we are forgiven.

And we are not only forgiven, we are also freed, people made new in Christ **Amen**

Prayer Interview Jenny Carter

Readings Acts 17:22-31

²² Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: 'People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship – and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

²⁴ 'The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. ²⁵ And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. ²⁶ From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he

marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. ²⁷ God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ²⁸ “For in him we live and move and have our being.” As some of your own poets have said, “We are his offspring.”

²⁹ ‘Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone – an image made by human design and skill. ³⁰ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹ For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.’

Hymn **50 Be still for the presence of the Lord**

Prayer stations – *See next page*

Afterwards we say together

**All 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 forever. Amen**

Notices

Hymn **449 Love divine** *during which the offering will be taken*

Blessing

May the love of the Father fill our hearts;
May the love of the Lord Jesus fill our homes;
And may the grace of the Holy Spirit bind us together in
love in our families and our church.
And may the blessing...

Dismissal

**All Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, alleluia, alleluia
 In the name of Christ, alleluia, alleluia.**

Please stay on for our APCM if you are a church member



Prayer Stations

*Please try two or three types of prayer in the locations below – 20 minutes
Use the resources there and the guidance notes below to help you.*

Location	Purpose	Resources
Outside	Praise	Nature!
Font	Thanksgiving	bricks
Back	Lament	Newspapers
Lower vestry	Intercession/petition	List of prayer topics, leader
Chancel	Listening with images	Icon, images, candle
In pews	Praying the bible	Acts 17

Year of Prayer – “Lord, teach us to pray”

Today, as part of our year of prayer, we are spending some time praying in different ways. You can do this using the different prayer zones that have been set up around the church and outside. There won't be time to use all of them so choose 2 or 3 to try today then take this leaflet home and try some other ideas as part of your regular prayer time.

Be still

Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth. Psalm 46:10

We begin together by being still, preparing our hearts to come before God as we repeat the phrase 'My God and my all' to focus our minds on God. If you find physical stillness hard then put something in your hand to help you focus.

Praise – outside

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! Psalm 8:1
Have a wander around outside and see what catches your eye – a leaf, flower, butterfly, the bark of a tree. Wonder about what is unseen – under the soil, inside the plant, behind the clouds. Consider it closely and let it speak to you about God the creator. Let it lead you into praising God for who he is. Psalm 8 or Psalm 148 might help lead you into praise.

Thanksgiving – font area

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Take a brick or use your fingers. As you feel each bump or touch each finger, thank God for something – either something personal or something more general. Build something you are thankful for. As you remember each of these good gifts, rejoice that we have a heavenly Father who loves us so deeply.

Lament – back of church, under the stairs

O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. Psalm 130:7

Take a page of a newspaper, local or national, and choose a news story to pray about. Use Psalm 130 as a way of praying into this story, offering it to God and placing your trust in him.

Intercession and Petition – lower vestry

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

Join a small group to pray for one another, our church family and our parish.

Listening through images – in chancel

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. Colossians 1:15

Praying with icons is an ancient Christian practice that uses sacred images as "windows to heaven" to facilitate a deeper, contemplative connection with God. Icons are not viewed as idols or mere decorations, but as tools that help focus the mind and heart during prayer.

Let your eyes rest on the icon or image with a soft gaze, and allow it to gaze back at you, drawing you into the presence of God. Let your heart and mind slow down as you begin to notice certain details within the icon or image. Let your heart hear what God is saying to you.

Listening through scripture – in chancel

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. Colossians 3:16

Slowly read Acts 17:22-31 above. Read it through one or twice more, using your heart rather than your mind, noticing what jumps out to you. Spend time meditating on this and turn a phrase that you notice into prayer e.g. I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god' may lead you to pray for someone who doesn't know and worship Jesus.

Adoration – at home

I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long. Psalm 146:2

Enjoy some time worshipping God in music. Allow the music to lift your soul to God and adore him, tell him how much you love him.