



**St Mark's Church**  
*to love, to serve, to give, to all - in Jesus' name*

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022, 10am**  
**Affirmation of Ordination and**  
**Blessing of Ministry Team in Pennington**

**Led by Rt Revd Debbie Sellin,**  
**Bishop of Southampton**



**Our Lady, Undoer of Knots**

*Painted by Revd Rachel Noël, 2022*

## ***What is this service, and why is it taking place?***

In the Church of England Canon C4:3 states:

*"No person shall be admitted into holy orders who is suffering, or who has suffered, from any physical or mental infirmity which in the opinion of the bishop will prevent him from ministering the word and sacraments or from performing the other duties of the minister's office."*

In 2017, Rachel was diagnosed with ADHD, with Bipolar, and more recently with Autism. In the years since diagnosis, there have been various misunderstandings, ignorance and fear; some had described Rachel as an anomaly as a priest, and questioned her ordination. Rachel had been left feeling devalued and uncertain.

These challenges have overlapped with the global pandemic during which Rachel was identified as clinically extremely vulnerable and was shielding. This has also been a challenging season for the Diocese of Winchester, which the Archbishop has described as "The last years in the Diocese of Winchester and especially 2021 have been characterised by difficult relationships and by disappointment, leading to anger and indeed to crisis."

In this service, there will be a lament for the ways that we accidentally exclude and other people. Rachel will repeat the promises that she made at ordination, and the Bishop of Southampton will anoint her with oil, affirming her ordination.

Ministry is always carried out in relationship with others. In this service, we will pray blessing for the team here for ministry in Pennington. In January, the Archbishop reminded us of the importance of building "relationships with each other that reflect the intimacy of the love of God that is lavished so abundantly on us." Our prayer is that this service will be a blessing of reconciliation and restoration for us all.

*For Reflection before the service:*

***In the Image of My Father***

Made in the image of my Father:  
breath-filled,  
his will to live kindling my life,  
his call to be driving my being.  
My heart is sparked by his heart;  
my mind is fired by his imagination.  
My animation is his declaration:  
because he is, I am.

Made in the image of my Father:  
able,  
artful, articulate,  
created to create,  
pulsing with potential.  
Designed to design,  
invented for invention,  
made to make.  
Through his eyes, I see possibilities.  
Through his ears, I hear harmonies.  
In his heartbeat, I feel life's dancing  
rhythms,  
Because he can,  
I will.

Made in the image of my Father:  
dependent,  
rooted in relationship,  
commissioned for companionship,  
a free individual made free in  
community,

distinct yet needing devotion,  
complete but needing completion.  
Unique, I seek the company of others.  
A part, I seek my meaning in the  
whole.  
Because of him, I need to be needed.  
Because I am loved, I love.

Made in the image of my Father:  
human,  
his word of command shaping flesh,  
his loving intention sculpting the soil  
of earth into life.  
His voice causing, calling, claiming  
me, naming me,  
framing my future,  
fashioning me.  
Because of his dreams, I have  
promise.  
Because of his promise, I have  
dreams.

Ushered into extravagant existence,  
tumbling into time,  
fumbling,  
falling,  
free.  
I am human.  
I am dependent.  
I am able.  
I am breath-filled.  
I am made  
in the image of my Father.

*Gerard Kelly, Spoken Worship, 2007*

## Greeting

*The bishop greets the people*

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

There is one body and one spirit.

**There is one hope to which we were called;**

one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

**one God and Father of all.**

Peace be with you

**and also with you.**

*Bishop introduces the service (from ordination of priests service)*

God calls his people to follow Christ, and forms us into a royal priesthood, a holy nation, to declare the wonderful deeds of him who has called us out of darkness into his marvellous light.

The Church is the Body of Christ, the people of God and the dwelling-place of the Holy Spirit. In baptism the whole Church is summoned to witness to God's love and to work for the coming of his kingdom.

To serve this royal priesthood, God has given particular ministries. Priests are ordained to lead God's people in the offering of praise and the proclamation of the gospel. They share with the Bishop in the oversight of the Church, delighting in its beauty and rejoicing in its well-being. They are to set the example of the Good Shepherd always before them as the pattern of their calling. With the Bishop and their fellow presbyters, they are to sustain the community of the faithful by the ministry of word and sacrament, that we all may grow into the fullness of Christ and be a living sacrifice acceptable to God.

## Hymn:

There's a wideness in God's mercy,  
like the wideness of the sea.

There's a kindness in God's justice,  
which is more than liberty.

There is welcome for the sinner,  
and more graces for the good.

There is mercy with the Savior,  
there is healing in his blood.

But we make God's love too narrow  
by false limits of our own,  
and we magnify its strictness  
with a zeal God will not own.

For the love of God is broader  
than the measures of the mind,  
and the heart of the Eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more simple,  
we should rest upon God's word,  
and our lives would be illumined  
by the presence of our Lord.

*Frederick William Faber. Tune WELLESLEY*

## Lament

*We sit or kneel for our prayers of lament*

Let us recognize before God how far the world is from the kingdom embodied in Christ.

God of glory, in Isaiah, you envisage how the wolf and the lamb may dwell together, but for so long your people have been reluctant to recognize your humanity in one another, and even today people struggle to say to each other 'you are made this way because God wants one like you'; have mercy on your Church, turn hearts of stone into hearts of grace, and make all your people rejoice and sing.

God of glory

**Have mercy on your Church.**

God of abundance, in the Gospels you show Jesus giving your people more bread than they need, more wine than they can drink more blessing than they can receive, but for so long your Church has failed to welcome the identities and gifts of many of its people, and meanwhile experienced its life as scarcity; redeem the ministries of the rejected; shine through the witness of those whose truth must be heard; and infuse your Son's body on earth with the energy and blessing of the gifts it has for centuries despised.

God of abundance

**Shower your people with your grace.**

God of the rainbow, in the story of Noah you paint a world of diversity, suffering, restoration and new hope. Yet for countless generations your beloved children have had to hide who they are, pretend to be who they are not, experience ostracism, contempt, violence and shame. And still there are many places where exclusion, diminishment and oppression are

condoned, encouraged, applauded and perpetrated. Give your people courage to resist, wisdom to know how to respond, solidarity to stand together, inspiration to model a better way, and patience to endure until justice and mercy embrace.

God of the rainbow

**Fill your Kingdom with justice and mercy.**

God of resurrection, in whom the future is always bigger than the past, in Revelation you promise a time when you yourself will be with us, when you will wipe every tear from our eyes, when mourning and crying and pain will be no more, and your Son will make all things new. Yet among your people there have been so many tears when there should have been celebration, so much mourning and crying and pain inflicted, and still today there are so many ways in which your children are downtrodden and patronized and demonized and under attack. Put a new song in our hearts, lift the voices of truth, bring the refining fire of your transformation, and let your glory roll like a never failing stream.

God of resurrection

**Let your glory roll like a never-failing stream. Amen.**

*(adapted from Liturgy on the Edge 2018, ed Sam Wells, p61)*

When they tell me I'm not good enough

**I am more, because you say I am**

When they tell me I'll never make it

**I am more, because you say I am**

When they tell me I'm unwanted

**I am more, because you say I am**

When they tell me I'm dirty and worthless

**I am more, because you say I am**

**Help me Jesus, to see everyone as you see them, to be a bringer of worth, value and peace to those you love. Amen**

Thank you Jesus for showing us how valuable we are. Help us to show others how valuable they are too. We are sorry for when we've made people feel unimportant or unwanted, thank you for loving us, no matter what. Help us to be all that you made us to be.

**Amen.**

*(Gemma Willis prayers, in Sally Nash, Shame & the Church, p104)*

## Prayer of Penitence

Come, let us return to the Lord and say

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

*Psalm 51:10-12, used in Hopeweaver Morning Prayer*

The Lord enrich *you* with his grace,  
and nourish *you* with his blessing;  
the Lord defend *you* in trouble and keep *you* from all evil;  
the Lord accept *your* prayers,  
and absolve *you* from *your* offences,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. **Amen.**

*(Common Worship)*

## Collect

Alpha and Omega,  
our beginning and our end,  
you break through the locks of gated communities and hardened hearts:  
accept our doubts, heal our desire for certainty  
and, by your Spirit's gentle touch,  
make us a people forgiven and forgiving;  
through Jesus Christ, the Giver of Peace.

**Amen.**

*(Prayers for an Inclusive Church, Collect for Easter 2)*



## Hymn:

I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard My people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin,  
My hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear My light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if You lead me.  
I will hold Your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them,  
they turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak My word to them  
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them,  
My hand will save  
Finest bread I will provide,  
Till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give My life to them,  
Whom shall I send?

## Readings

### Psalm 61

Read by Teresa Nivison, Churchwarden & Treasurer, St Mark's Church

- 1 Hear my crying, O God;  
and listen to my prayer.
- 2 From the end of the earth I call to you with fainting heart;  
O set me on the rock that is higher than I.
- 3 For you are my refuge,  
a strong tower against the enemy.
- 4 Let me dwell in your tent for ever,  
and take refuge under the cover of your wings.
- 5 For you, O God, will hear my vows;  
you will grant the request of those who fear your name.
- 6 You will add length of days to the life of the king,  
that his years may endure throughout all generations.
- 7 May he sit enthroned before God for ever;  
may steadfast love and truth watch over him.
- 8 So will I always sing praise to your name,  
And day by day fulfil my vows.

### Proclamation of the Gospel

Read by Fiona MacMillan, Trustee of Inclusive Church, leads Disability Advisory Group and Disability Conference at St Martin in the Fields

God who said: 'Let light shine out of darkness'

**has caused his light to shine within us**

to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God

**revealed in the face of Jesus Christ.**

We have this treasure in earthen vessels

**to show that the power belongs to God.**

Hear the words of the Gospel according to John. (John 4:1-30, 39-42)

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard, 'Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John'— although it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who baptized— he left Judea and started back to Galilee. But he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is

coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.'

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' They left the city and were on their way to him.

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Talk** Bishop Debbie Sellin

## Affirmation of Ordination

*Rachel stands before the Bishop, who addresses the congregation*

Priests are called to be servants and shepherds among the people to whom they are sent. With their Bishop and fellow ministers, they are to proclaim the word of the Lord and to watch for the signs of God's new creation. They are to be messengers, watchmen and stewards of the Lord; they are to teach and to admonish, to feed and provide for his family, to search for his children in the wilderness of this world's temptations, and to guide them through its confusions, that they may be saved through Christ for ever. Formed by the word, they are to call their hearers to repentance and to declare in Christ's name the absolution and forgiveness of their sins.

With all God's people, they are to tell the story of God's love. They are to baptize new disciples in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and to walk with them in the way of Christ, nurturing them in the faith. They are to unfold the Scriptures, to preach the word in season and out of season, and to declare the mighty acts of God. They are to preside at the Lord's table and lead his people in worship, offering with them a spiritual sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. They are to bless the people in God's name. They are to resist evil, support the weak, defend the poor, and intercede for all in need. They are to minister to the sick and prepare the dying for their death. Guided by the Spirit, they are to discern and foster the gifts of all God's people, that the whole Church may be built up in unity and faith.

*The bishop addresses Rachel directly*

Today, I invite you to affirm the declarations that we put to you when you were ordained deacon and priest – when you devoted yourself to God's service, so that as you daily follow the rule and teaching of our

Lord and grow into his likeness, God may sanctify the lives of all with whom you have to do.

Do you accept the Holy Scriptures as revealing all things necessary for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ?

**Rachel I do so accept them.**

Will you be diligent in prayer, in reading Holy Scripture, and in all studies that will deepen your faith and fit you to bear witness to the truth of the gospel?

**Rachel By the help of God, I will.**

Will you lead Christ's people in proclaiming his glorious gospel, so that the good news of salvation may be heard in every place?

**Rachel By the help of God, I will.**

Will you faithfully minister the doctrine and sacraments of Christ as the Church of England has received them, so that the people committed to your charge may be defended against error and flourish in the faith?

**Rachel By the help of God, I will.**

Will you, knowing yourself to be reconciled to God in Christ, strive to be an instrument of God's peace in the Church and in the world?

**Rachel By the help of God, I will.**

Will you fashion your life according to the pattern of Christ, to give wholly of yourself without losing your sense of self, caring for your mind, your body, your spirit, that you may be a pattern and example to Christ's people?

*(reworded, with additional phrase from Clergy Support Trust)*

**Rachel By the help of God, I will.**

Will you work with your fellow servants in the gospel for the sake of the kingdom of God?

**Rachel By the help of God, I will.**

Will you accept and minister the discipline of this Church, and respect authority duly exercised within it?

**Rachel By the help of God, I will.**

Will you then, in the strength of the Holy Spirit, continually stir up the gift of God that is in you, to make Christ known among all whom you serve?

**Rachel By the help of God, I will.**

*The congregation stand, and Rachel turns and faces them.*

Brothers and sisters, you have heard how great is the charge that Rachel has undertaken, and you have heard her declarations.

Will you continually pray for her?

**All We will.**

Will you uphold and encourage her in her ministry?

**All We will.**

*Rachel turns back to face the bishop, who continues, addressing her.*

In the name of our Lord we bid you remember the greatness of the trust that has been committed to your charge. Remember always with thanksgiving that the treasure entrusted to you is Christ's own flock, bought by the shedding of his blood on the cross. It is to him that you will render account for your stewardship of his people.

You cannot bear the weight of this calling in your own strength, but only by the grace and power of God. Pray therefore that your heart may daily be enlarged and your understanding of the Scriptures enlightened.

Pray earnestly for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

*Silence is kept.*

*Rachel kneels before Bishop*

## **Hymn**

Spirit of the living God,  
fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God,  
fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me,  
Spirit of the living God,  
fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God,  
fall afresh on us.

Spirit of the living God,  
fall afresh on us.

Melt us, mould us, fill us, use us,  
Spirit of the living God,  
fall afresh on us.

*David Iverson (1890-1972) © Birdwing Music/EMI Christian Music Pub.*

*Administered by Kevin Mayhew Ltd*

*Congregation sits, Rachel remains kneeling*

*The Bishop stands and faces the congregation and says*

We praise you, God our Father, for the work of the Spirit in your Church. We give thanks that you have called Rachel, who has been ordained in your name, to share as priest in the ministry of the gospel of Christ. Pour down your blessing on your people; and give to your servant Rachel the gifts of grace she needs faithfully to fulfil the ministry as a priest in your church to which she has been called, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**



*The Bishop anoints Rachel with oil of chrism*

God has called you by name, you are his.

*The Bishop, taking her pastoral staff, blesses her, saying:*

Through your Spirit, heavenly Father,  
give your servant grace and power  
to proclaim the gospel of your salvation  
and minister the sacraments of the new covenant.

Renew her in holiness,  
and give her wisdom and discipline  
to work faithfully with those committed to her charge.

In union with her fellow servants in Christ, may they reconcile what is divided, heal what is wounded and restore what is lost.

Rachel, God give you the spirit of holy discipline, of faithfulness, and of love for all his people; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**

*Rachel stands*

## **The Blessing of the Ministry Team**

*This service also marks Rachel's return to parish ministry, after being hospitalised with covid pneumonia at the end of last year and the complications from covid. Rachel invites all those in other leadership roles in the parish to stand where they are.*

*Rachel* Eternal God,

**All the light of the minds that know you,  
the joy of the hearts that love you,  
and the strength of the wills that serve you;  
grant us so to know you  
that we may truly love you,**

**and so to love you that we may truly serve you,  
whom to serve is perfect freedom,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Taking her pastoral staff, the Bishop says*

Almighty God, who has given you the will to undertake this ministry together, give you also grace and strength to perform it.

May the boldness of the Spirit transform you,

may the gentleness of the Spirit lead you,

may the gifts of the Spirit equip you to serve and worship God,

as you care for the people in this place;

and the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer and life-giving Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

*The congregation stand*

## **The Peace**

Christ descended to death and hell,

passed through the doors locked by fear

to breathe the Spirit of peace

and make us one humanity;

Nothing can now separate us from the love of God.

*(Prayers for Inclusive Church)*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*Rachel* Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We remain standing where we are, and wave / make a sign of peace to each other. Online, people share the peace in the chat.*

## The Prayers of Intercession

*We sit or kneel to pray.*

Prayers led by Jane Nicholson, BCM Worship leader, Pennington

As the body of Christ, in the power of the Spirit, let us pray.

Creator God, we pray  
for a fresh outpouring of your life-giving Spirit  
on the people of God all over the world,  
and in all worship traditions.  
For readiness to be changed and made new;  
for a softening of the ground of our hearts  
to receive without fear.

*Silence*

With our whole selves we pray  
**come, Holy Spirit of God.**

Life-Giving God, we pray  
for all the peoples of the earth,  
and especially for the people of this community here in Pennington,  
to know God and honour his name.  
For the healing of the nations and our community,  
a new thirst for righteousness and purity,  
for justice and mercy,  
at every level and in every aspect of society.  
For a dissatisfaction with selfish pursuits  
and all that distracts us from your calling.

*Silence*

With our whole selves we pray  
**come, Holy Spirit of God.**

Living God, we pray  
for the grace and power to live out our faith

in the real and challenging world,  
among those we meet and eat with,  
whose lives we share,  
without compromising that calling  
to be the body of Christ,  
living God's integrity and purity,  
forgiveness and love.

For our schools, our playgroups, our social clubs, our homes,  
to be places that we may learn from one another  
and all grow as children of God.

*Silence*

With our whole selves we pray  
**come, Holy Spirit of God.**

Transforming God, we pray  
for those whose lives feel empty or cheated,  
or filled with pain, or worry or guilt.  
For all whose hopes and dreams are in tatters;  
all who are in any way imprisoned.

*Silence*

With our whole selves we pray  
**come, Holy Spirit of God.**

God with us, we pray  
for those who walk the dark journey of death  
and all who have come through it into your presence;  
for mourners distressed by regrets  
or angry with God at their loss.

*Silence*

With our whole selves we pray  
**come, Holy Spirit of God.**

Holy God, we praise you for all your blessings,  
for your faithful presence with us,  
In silence, we bring into God's safe keeping  
all those people and places in need of God's healing and love.

*Silence*

Creator God, your Spirit has brought us close to you in prayer;  
may she keep us close to you in life.

**Through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer,  
Amen.**

*(Adapted from Susan Sayers, 300 intercessions)*

**The Lord's Prayer**

Rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**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.**

**Hymn:**

Sing of the Lord's goodness, Father of all wisdom,  
come to him and bless his name.  
Mercy he has shown us, his love is for ever,  
faithful to the end of days.

*Come then, all you nations,  
sing of your Lord's goodness,  
melodies of praise and thanks to God.*

Power he has wielded, honour is his garment,  
Risen from the snares of death.  
His word he has spoken, one bread he has broken,  
New life he now gives to all.

Courage in our darkness, comfort in our sorrow,  
Spirit of our God most high;  
solace for the weary, pardon for the sinner,  
splendour of the living God.

Praise him with your singing; praise him with the trumpet,  
praise God with the lute and harp;  
praise him with the cymbals, praise him with your dancing,  
praise God till the end of days.

*Ernest Sands (b. 1949-2016) ©1981 Ernest Sands*

## **An Uncomfortable Blessing**

*Bishop:* May the Spirit bless you with discomfort  
at easy answers, half truths and superficial relationships  
so that you will live deep in your heart.

May the Spirit bless you with anger  
at injustice and oppression, the exploitation of people and earth  
so that you will work for justice, equity and peace.

May the Spirit bless you with tears  
to shed for those who suffer  
so that you will reach out your hand to comfort them.

May the Spirit bless you with foolishness  
to think that you can make a difference in the world  
so that you will do the things which others say cannot be done.

*Mark Wilcox, © 2004, St Aidan Press, Holy Island*

**May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known upon earth, Your saving power among all nations. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.**

*Used in Hopeweavers Daily Office, from Psalm 67:1*

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Life-Giving Spirit,  
be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## **The Dismissal**

Go in peace.

Mend what is broken;

unite what is divided;

live the gospel.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Through the last few years, Rachel has used the image of a sunflower as a symbol of choosing hope, of seeking God's light and love within difficult times. You are invited to take a sunflower seed home to plant, a reminder of each of our choices, to live for peace, for love, for hope.*

*A retiring collection is made for the work of St Mark's Church, Pennington.*

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.** Psalm 51:12  
*Painted by Revd Rachel Noël, 2022*



based on sculpture of Woman at the Well in Chester Cathedral