



***Bruton and
Cary Deanery
Synod Plus***

***Opening Worship -
Mission:
The Holy Ground of God***

Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace be with you.
And also with you.

Opening Sentences

The field of mission
is the holy ground of God.

We tread this way with awe:
in the mystery of grace.

For walk we must,
though the way be challenging:
following the call of Christ.

Confession

Voice 1:

We hear your voice, O Christ,
saying 'Whom shall I send?'
and there is a longing in our hearts
to say 'Send us.'

But we have made so many mistakes
in our ignorance, in our complacency,
in our fear of taking risks,
and even in our enthusiasm;
and we wonder whether
we should stand in silence,
on this your holy ground. *Silent reflection*

Voice 2:

We have been saying so many things
for so many years,
and we wonder whether
we should stand in silence,
on this, your holy ground,
and stop our speaking,
our strategies,
our writing and our meetings.

Silent reflection

Voice 3:

We have been working so hard, for so long,
with small energies and few resources and,
when others rush past us without speaking
as though they will carry the gospel
beyond us and without us,
we wonder whether
we should stand in silence
on this, your holy ground,
and simply listen
for you to speak to us. *Silent reflection*

Reading 1: *Isaiah 6: 1-8*

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the word of God for us:

‘I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness and will hold your hand.

I will keep you

and give you as a covenant to the people.

Behold, the former things have come to pass and new things I declare.

Before they spring forth,
I announce them to you.’

Thanks be to God.

Reading 2: *1 Corinthians 2: 1-12*

Reflecting on our Mission

Affirmation of Faith

In response to God's word, let us stand and affirm our faith:

**We believe in light beyond our seeing,
flowing forth from the flame of life in God
who goes on creating us
down through the ages of ages.**

**We believe in healing
beyond our knowing,
from Christ, whose robe stands close
to the reach of our hand
and the pain of our struggle;
whose love draws us close
and asks us to bring others
into the circle of welcome.**

**We believe in the energy of God's Spirit.
Stirring in our being
with a rhythm of courage and passion,
moving our feet to walk Christ's way again
as those who are always called to be
the humble, human witnesses
to the faithfulness of God.**

Intercession

Mission belongs to you, O God.
The ground is holy
because you are already there.
All we are and all we do in faith
is dependent on you
and the victory already won.
We place ourselves in your hands again
and ask for all that we need to do the task.
We bring before you
those who are our partners in this task
and place them in your hands,
loving God.....

We name before God, aloud or in the silence, the needs of those whom we serve, those with whom we serve, and one another.....

Into our emptiness:
breathe your fullness.

Into our tiredness:
pour your energy.

If we are discouraged:
bring us your hope.

If we are afraid:
bring us your courage.

If words have failed us:
inspire us to tell your story.

If our wells of love have run dry:
kindle the flame of your love in our hearts

If we do not know the way:
give to us your wisdom,
for we are your people
and you are our God,
for ever and ever. Amen.

And now we pray your prayer as one:

**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.

Hymn: O thou who camest from above

O thou who camest from above
the fire celestial to impart,
kindle a flame of sacred love
on the mean altar of my heart.

There let it for thy glory burn
with inextinguishable blaze,
and trembling to its source return
in humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
to work, and speak, and think for thee;
still let me guard the holy fire,
and still stir up the gift in me.

Ready for all thy perfect will,
my acts of faith and love repeat;
till death thy endless mercies seal,
and make the sacrifice complete.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Prayer of Commitment

Living God, you send us out to share in your mission, wherever and whoever we are.

Living God, you call out our names,
“Who will go for us?”

Here we are. Send us.

Closing Prayer

***Deanery
Ascension Day Service***

***7.00pm Thursday May 10th
St Mary's Church, Bruton***

***Preacher: Revd Tina Hodgett
Diocesan Team Leader for
Evangelism***