Abbotsford Anglican Church

St Andrews

All Age Service

Sunday 4th October 2026

Service of Word and Prayer Form 1A
from Common Prayer

WELCOME – Michael
(Service Leader welcomes people to church and introduces people involved in the service)

Good morning. Welcome to church.
A special welcome to those who are visiting us today.
My name is Michael.

Helping me in today's service are our musicians Rosemary, Young Lan and Trevor
Reading to us from the Bible will be Robyn, and Trevor will bring our Bible Teaching.

We here at Abbotsford Anglican
are a group of local people
of all ages and backgrounds
who have come to find meaning and purpose for life by living life God's way according to his word the Bible.
We invite you to know God with us.

INTRO TO BIBLE TEACHING – Trevor
(Service leader invites Bible teacher up to give a one-minute intro to their sermon)

MISSION FOCUS REMINDER – Michael
(See News and Notes – Ministry to Refugees The Blairs, State Government and Anglicare Prison Chaplains)

SENTENCE OF SCRIPTURE – Michael

"The eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him"
2 Chronicles 16 verse 9

Please stand and let us sing our first song

SONG – Immortal, Invisible God only wise

Immortal, invisible, God only wise
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes
Most blessed, most glorious,
the Ancient of Days
Almighty, victorious,
your great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting,
and silent as light
Nor wanting, nor wasting,
you rulest in might
Your justice like mountains
high soaring above
Your clouds which are fountains
of goodness and love

To all life you givest,
to both great and small
Creator, sustainer, the true life of all
We blossom and flourish
as leaves on the tree
And wither and perish;
but naught changes Thee

Great Father of glory,
pure Father of light
Your angels adore Thee,
all veiling their sight
And so in your mercy,
Almighty, impart
Through Christ our redeemer, your grace to our hearts

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LITTLE PEOPLES' BIBLE STORY TIME & SONG - Michael

GREETING TIME – Michael

Please, take a moment to greet the people nearby you.

DRAWING NEAR TO GOD – Michael

Please be seated.

"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he (God) is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness".
1 John 1:8-9

The Bible tells us not to hide our sins from God our heavenly Father, but to confess them with a repentant and obedient heart, so that we may be forgiven through his boundless goodness and mercy.

We ought to admit our sins to God at all times, and especially when we come together like this, to give thanks for the benefits we have received from him, to offer the praise that is due to him, to hear his holy word, and to ask him to supply whatever we need.

So let us approach the throne of our gracious God, with a true heart in full assurance of faith, and pray together…

Merciful Father,
we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much the schemes and desires of our own hearts, and have broken your holy laws.
We have left undone what we ought to have done, and we have done what we ought not to have done.
Yet good Lord, have mercy on us, restore those who repent, according to the promises declared to us through your Son, Jesus Christ.
Grant merciful Father, for his sake, that from now on, we may live godly and obedient lives, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Almighty God and loving heavenly Father, we rejoice that you pardon and forgive those who truly repent and sincerely believe your holy gospel. Grant us true repentance and your Holy Spirit, that we may live godly, righteous and holy lives, and finally come to your eternal glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good.

His steadfast love endures forever!

The Bible reading this morning is from Ruth Chapter 2. You can find it on page 264 of your pew Bibles, on the screen or printed in your news and notes.

As Robyn comes up to read let me pray.

PRAYER HEARING GOD'S WORD - Michael

Thank you, Father, for making yourself known to us and showing us the way of salvation through faith in your Son. Teach us through your word and equip us for every good work, for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

(Bible Reader comes forward unannounced and reads the Bible reading)

Bible Reading – Robyn

Ruth Chapter 2

1 Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side, a man of standing from the clan of Elimelek, whose name was Boaz.
2 And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favour."
Naomi said to her, "Go ahead, my daughter." 3 So she went out, entered a field and began to glean behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she was working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelek.
4 Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, "The Lord be with you!"
"The Lord bless you!" they answered.
5 Boaz asked the overseer of his harvesters, "Who does that young woman belong to?"
6 The overseer replied, "She is the Moabite who came back from Moab with Naomi. 7 She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the harvesters.' She came into the field and has remained here from morning till now, except for a short rest in the shelter."
8 So Boaz said to Ruth, "My daughter, listen to me. Don't go and glean in another field and don't go away from here. Stay here with the women who work for me. 9 Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the women. I have told the men not to lay a hand on you. And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled."
10 At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She asked him, "Why have I found such favour in your eyes that you notice me—a foreigner?"
11 Boaz replied, "I've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. 12 May the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge."
13 "May I continue to find favour in your eyes, my lord," she said. "You have put me at ease by speaking kindly to your servant—though I do not have the standing of one of your servants."
14 At mealtime Boaz said to her, "Come over here. Have some bread and dip it in the wine vinegar."
When she sat down with the harvesters, he offered her some roasted grain. She ate all she wanted and had some left over. 15 As she got up to glean, Boaz gave orders to his men, "Let her gather among the sheaves and don't reprimand her. 16 Even pull out some stalks for her from the bundles and leave them for her to pick up, and don't rebuke her."
17 So Ruth gleaned in the field until evening. Then she threshed the barley she had gathered, and it amounted to about an ephah.13 Kilograms 18 She carried it back to town, and her mother-in-law saw how much she had gathered. Ruth also brought out and gave her what she had left over after she had eaten enough.
19 Her mother-in-law asked her, "Where did you glean today? Where did you work? Blessed be the man who took notice of you!"
Then Ruth told her mother-in-law about the one at whose place she had been working. "The name of the man I worked with today is Boaz," she said.
20 "The Lord bless him!" Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. "He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead." She added, "That man is our close relative; he is one of our guardian-redeemers".[See Lev. 25:25-55]
21 Then Ruth the Moabite said, "He even said to me, 'Stay with my workers until they finish harvesting all my grain.'"
22 Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, "It will be good for you, my daughter, to go with the women who work for him, because in someone else's field you might be harmed."
23 So Ruth stayed close to the women of Boaz to glean until the barley and wheat harvests were finished. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

(Bible Reader returns to the congregation and Bible Teacher comes forward)

BIBLE TEACHING – Rev Trevor Young
"As it turned out" Ruth Chapter 2

(Bible Teacher returns to the congregation and Service Leader comes forward and invites congregation to say the portion of the Psalm together and sing the next song)

Let's say this Psalm together….

The Lord is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.
The Lord is good to all;
he has compassion on all he has made.
All your works praise you, Lord;
your faithful people extol you.
They tell of the glory of your kingdom

and speak of your might,
so that all people may know of your mighty acts
and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures through all generations

Glory to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, so now and forevermore. Amen.

Please stand and let us sing again…

SONG – The perfect wisdom of our God

The perfect wisdom of our God
Revealed in all the universe
All things created by his hand
And held together at his command
He knows the myst'ries of the seas
The secrets of the stars are his
He guides the planets on their way
And turns the earth through another day

The matchless wisdom of his ways
That mark the path of righteousness
His word a lamp unto my feet
His Spirit teaching and guiding me
And O the mystery of the cross
That God should suffer for the lost
So that the fool might shame the wise
And all the glory might go to Christ

O grant me wisdom from above
To pray for peace and cling to love
And teach me humbly to receive
The sun and rain of your sovereignty
Each strand of sorrow has a place
Within this tapestry of grace
So through the trials I choose to say
Your perfect will in your perfect way

Each strand of sorrow has a place
Within this tapestry of grace
So through the trials I choose to say
Your perfect will in your perfect way
Stuart Townend |Keith Getty

Remain standing as we say together what we believe…

WHAT WE BELIEVE - Michael

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 from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of the Father;
from there 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.
**universal, complete*

Please be seated

PRAYING FOR GOD'S WORLD – Michael

(Prayer Leader comes forward unannounced and continues prayer)

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Let us pray.

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.

The set prayer for today.

Father of everlasting goodness, our creator and guide, be close to us and hear the prayers of all who praise you. Forgive our sins and restore us to life. Keep us safe through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**
(A Set Prayer for the day – 18th Ordinary Sunday).

(Further prayers for our community, the mission focus, Anglicare Chaplaincy, Government, our world, local community and for the church.)

Be exalted, Lord, above the heavens.
Let your glory cover the earth.

Keep our nation under your care.
And guide us in justice and truth.

Let your way b known on earth.
Your saving power among all nations.

Send out your light and truth.
That we may tell of your saving works.

Hear our prayers, O Lord.
For we put our trust in you.

(When finished, the prayer leader returns to the congregation and the Service Leader comes forward to give announcements and introduce last song)

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Michael

As we prepare to leave let's stand and sing…

SONG – Sovereign of us.

There is strength within the sorrow
There is beauty in our tears
And You meet us in our mourning
With a love that casts out fear
You are working in our waiting
You're sanctifying us
When beyond our understanding
You're teaching us to trust.

Your plans are still to prosper
You have not forgotten us

You're with us in the fire and the flood
You're faithful forever
Perfect in love
You are sovereign over us.

You are wisdom unimagined
Who could understand Your ways
Reigning high above the Heavens
Reaching down in endless grace
You're the lifter of the lowly
Compassionate and kind
You surround and You uphold me
And Your promises are my delight.

Your plans are still to prosper
You have not forgotten us
You're with us in the fire and the flood
You're faithful forever
Perfect in love
You are sovereign over us.

Even what the enemy means for evil
You turn it for our good
You turn it for our good and for Your glory
Even in the valley, You are faithful
You're working for our good
You're working for our good
And for Your glory.
(Repeat)

Your plans are still to prosper
You have not forgotten us
You're with us in the fire and the flood
You're faithful forever
Perfect in love
You are sovereign over us
You're faithful forever
Perfect in love
You are sovereign over us.

Michael W Smith

SENTENCE OF SCRIPTURE – Michael

The sentence of Scripture for today is…

"The eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him"

2 Chronicles 16 verse 9

GOING OUT TO SERVE - Michael

Lord Jesus Christ fill us with your Spirit and send us out with confidence in your word, to tell the world of your saving acts, and bring glory to your name. **Amen.**

Together…

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore. Amen.

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