

# Church Together

**A Church Knows The Power Of Christ Displayed**

**18th January 2026**



# Welcome

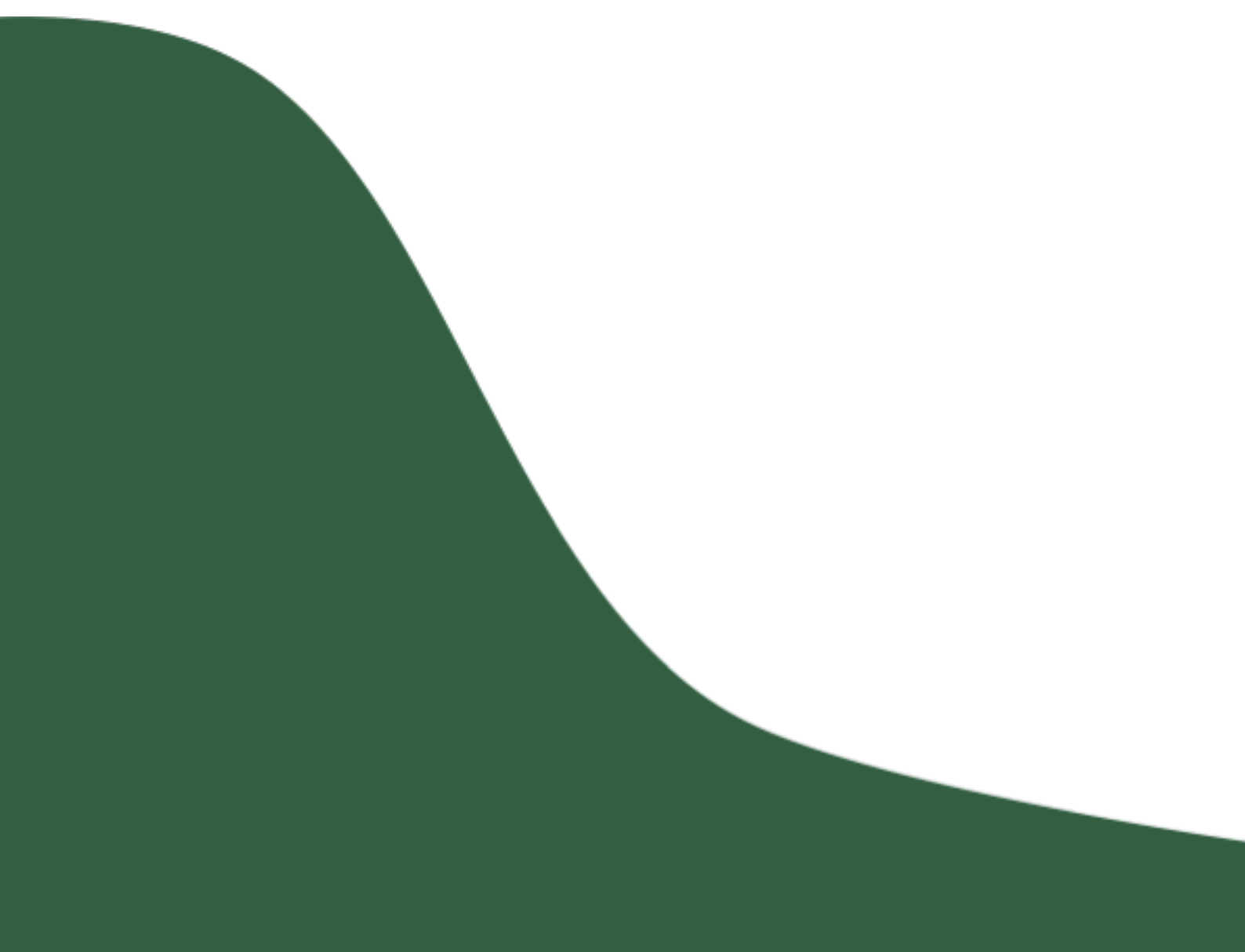
In today's Service we will be looking at: **2**

**Thessalonians 2 v. 1 – 12**

The theme for our service today is: **A Church Knows  
The Power Of Christ Displayed**

Today our service also includes: **Communion**

We hope that you will be able to engage with everything that has been produced for today's service and that you would be able to **See The Truth  
Of Who Jesus Really Is!**



# Call To Worship

## **Psalm 8 v. 1 – 9 NIV**

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory in the heavens.

Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?

You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honour.

You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

# Opening Prayer

God our Creator, Father and Friend, we give thanks for the wonderful gift of life, with all its joys and responsibilities, its experiences and opportunities. We praise you for good health and daily food, for the shelter and care of our homes, and the love and loyalty of our friends. We bless you for work honestly done, for games well played, and for all the truth we have learned and the good we have been able to achieve. We thank you for the teaching and example of our Lord Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness and salvation we have received through him, for his presence with us always and for the service into which he has called us. Help us to express our thanks not only in our praises and prayers, but also through the lives we lead; through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray.

**Amen**

“When He returns  
is not as important  
as the fact that  
we are ready  
for Him when  
He does return.”

*A. W. Tozer*

# Song Suggestion

Morning Has Broken, Like The  
First Morning



# Bible Reading

## 2 Thessalonians 2 v. 1 – 12 NIV

### The Man of Lawlessness

2 Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, 2 not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. 3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. 4 He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

5 Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? 6 And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. 7 For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendour of his coming. 9 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, 10 and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. 11 For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they



will believe the lie 12 and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.



# Song Suggestion

As The Deer Pants For The Water





# He is Coming Back

"So you also  
must be ready,  
because the  
Son of Man  
will come  
at an hour  
when you do not  
expect him."

Matt 24:44

# Church Together

## Thought

Here are two splendid, but unlikely, stories. One of them is true and one of them is made up. Can you work out which is which?

The first one happened in a big church in Birmingham. There had been torrential rain overnight, which overflowed the drains and sent a mess of leaves floating in huge puddles. It was difficult even to get in the front door. The pastor of the church had asked three people who were regularly involved in cleaning the church to do some frantic sweeping to make it easier for people to enter. The result was that they were the last people to come into the service, well after it had started. Standing at the front of the church, the pastor saw them coming in and realised that there was nowhere left for them to sit. He whispered across to the guitarist who was leading the singing, 'Three chairs for the cleaning team.' The musician completely misheard him, and shouted out, 'Three cheers for the cleaning team. Hip hip!' And the congregation roared back, 'Hooray!'

The other story comes from Wales, where a primary school class was doing a project as part of their religious education, and went on a trip to the local church. One little boy loved exploring the building and couldn't wait to get home and tell his family about it. He said to his grandmother, 'We went into God's house today. It was great!'

His grandmother was delighted and asked, with a twinkle in her eye, 'Did you see God?'

'No,' replied the boy seriously. 'But I did see his wife vacuuming the carpet.'

Now then, which of those stories is true, and which was made up? While people are thinking, explain that there is a point to them. All the work which members of the congregation do to prepare the buildings and the people of the church for worship is work they do for God. It may seem like making tea or practising music or giving out hymn books or sweeping floors, but it is actually work in God's service. That's why they call a service a service! So, the little boy was not so wrong — in the tasks we are doing it is as if we are being God's wife or child or husband or friend or neighbour, working alongside him to make his world a good place. And God's attitude is to declare, 'Three cheers for the cleaning team ... and the children's leaders, and the gardeners, and the flower arrangers, and everyone who serves me as part of my family. Sadly, we may sometimes forget to say thank you to them. So today, let's add our gratitude to God's.

OK, so which was true?' Take a vote. In fact, the story about three chairs really happened and the other one is invented!

### **WHAT IS MY CONNECTION?**

Pose a challenge to the congregation! What connects these four objects?

Produce them one at a time: **a cup of tea, a clock, a radio and a mother** (a real, live one!). Give the congregation a moment to talk about it and then ask for guesses. The answer is that they are all things which wake you up in the morning. Conduct a little survey to see how many people

use each method. Does anyone have a different method?  
Or wake up on time infallibly without an artificial aid?

Now everybody is to think: **‘What are the very first words you hear when you wake up on an average morning?’**

Tell the congregation that you will give them a few seconds to remember and then set off the alarm clock. Everyone should say together the words they have in mind. Do this and then ask a few people what they said. In the part of 2 Thessalonians that we heard read today, Paul tells the church, ‘Wake up!’ Why? Because Jesus is coming back to earth one day, and we need to be ready. We don’t know when it will be — soon or many years to come. At the time when Paul was writing they assumed it would be very soon indeed, but as we all know, it has been a longer wait than anyone predicted — except God himself, who has known all along precisely when the best time will be.

Ask everyone to think again: **‘When Jesus returns and you wake up to meet him face to face, what will be the very first words you say to him?’** Go through the same procedure: time to think, an alarm bell, everyone speaking at once, and then some suggestions.

Congratulate and thank all who took part.

Go on to say that there is a warning in what Paul writes as well. Before Jesus returns, the world will become a terribly harsh place to be. The forces of evil will try their hardest to make the world bleak just before Jesus comes to put everything right once and for all. So don’t be surprised when you see dreadful things reported on the news. It does not mean that God has lost control or that Jesus has forgotten to come back. What it does mean is that the nightmare is at its worst. But it will not be long until we

wake up to see Jesus taking control and bringing his perfect kingdom of heaven, where there will be peace and joy forever. Good, good times are ahead for those who follow Jesus. So be ready!

# Song Suggestion

Amazing Grace, How Sweet The  
Sound





JESUS CHRIST  
IS COMING BACK  
WHETHER  
YOU'RE READY  
OR NOT.

# Communion

Jesus said: 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty'. **Romans 5 v. 8** also tells us: 'God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us'.

## **An Invitation to the Table:**

Come to this table, not because you must but because you may, not because you are strong, but because you are weak. Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you a right to come, but because you need mercy and help. Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love him more. Come, because he loved you and gave himself for you. Come and meet the risen Christ, for we are his Body, his People.

## **A prayer of Approach:**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secret is hidden; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

## **As we prepare to receive the bread and the cup, we hear the words of The Institution:**

The Apostle Paul tells us of the institution of the Lord's Supper, when he says: 'For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night that he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said: 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me'. In the

same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying: 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me'. For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 1 Corinthians 11 v. 23 – 26

**A Prayer of Thanksgiving before we eat the bread and drink the cup:**

Loving God, we praise and thank you for your love shown to us in Jesus Christ. We thank you for his life and ministry, announcing the good news of your kingdom and demonstrating its power in the lifting of the downtrodden, and the healing of the sick, and the loving of the loveless. We thank you for his sacrificial death upon the cross, for the redemption of the world, and for your raising him to life again, as a foretaste of the glory we shall share. We give you thanks for this bread and wine, symbols of our world and signs of your transforming love. Send your Holy Spirit, we pray, that we might be renewed into the likeness of Jesus Christ and formed into his body. This we pray in his name and for his sake. Amen.

**WE NOW SHARE AND EAT OF THE BREAD AND SHARE AND DRINK OF THE CUP**

**A Final Prayer of Acclamation:**

Your death, O Lord, we commemorate. Your resurrection we confess. Your final coming we await. Glory be to you, O Christ.

**Amen.**

# Prayers Of Intercession

Loving God, we lift up to you in prayer today, the communities in which we worship, and those whose lives interweave ours.

**We pray for the other local churches in the community that is around us.** May their lives of worship and service be used by you, guided by your Holy Spirit, and may they be filled with the joy of your risen Son; and may they with us, be brought into a deeper partnership as we celebrate and serve you together.

**We pray for the local schools in our community.** May they be places where children and young people are prized, where education is valued, and the best of our society's understanding is passed on to the future.

**We pray for places of work within the community.** May those who work in them find their work adds value to their lives and to those of others.

**We pray for those whose occupation is to serve within the community:** for health workers, police, fire fighters, social workers and many others. May they, together with all who live here, help this to be a community where need is met and hope is given.

**We pray for the city, town or village that we call our community.** We pray for its own particular mix of races and ages, and its unique character and traditions. May this be a place of compassion, justice, and vision. May your will, Lord God, be done and your love be active, in our

community and within us.

**We think and pray for the homeless, the unemployed, the asylum seeker and those in greatest need in our community.** Lord Jesus be with those who find

themselves lost and alone in society. Support all those who work and volunteer to bring hope to these people.

**We pray for our families and friends.** Lord we all face the normal ups and downs of life in many different ways. We thank you that Jesus knows our every situation. Help us we pray to face the different situations we face with dignity and love.

**We continue to pray for those who are unwell, both at home and in hospital, or hospice.** We think of the elderly, the housebound and those in care homes. We pray for all those who care for their needs, both professionally and in the family. So again, as we share a moment of silence together, we bring before you those known only to ourselves and name them before you, Lord Jesus, in our hearts.

**And finally, Lord we pray for ourselves.** Help us Lord to follow your example in all that we do and say as we journey with you. We place ourselves, this Church and all your people into your loving care. Please accept these our prayers, in Jesus name.

**Amen**

# Tithes, Gifts & Offerings

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If you feel that you are able to, then please keep on giving to the work of the church here at Salendine Nook, with a generous and cheerful heart, praising God for all that he has given to you and share in the finances of the church.

# The Lord's Prayer

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.  
Lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power  
And the glory, forever and ever.  
**Amen**





Jesus isn't looking for you  
to be like other Christians,  
He's looking for you to be  
like Him.

# Song Suggestion

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine



# Blessing

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We have gathered here today, Lord God as your people to offer you our sacrifice of prayer and worship.

May the love of Jesus Christ bring us wholeness, the grace of God the Father grant us peace, the breath of Holy Spirit instil within us passion and the unity between them give us strength for this and every day.

**Amen**