

Fifth Sunday After Trinity, 12th July 2020

Song: 'At Your Name'

Welcome to this morning's Service of Holy Communion on Sea Sunday.

Sea Sunday has been a longterm fixture on The Mission to Seafarers calendar and this is the Mission which St Mary's supports in the month of July. Later, our Mission Link, Paul Weatherill, will be reading out a letter from The Mission to Seafarers Secretary General, The Revd Canon Andrew Wright.

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, we give thanks for all those who work at sea. We acknowledge our need for the food and raw materials they transport. We recognise that they are sometimes in danger and their long absences often involve sacrifices in their family life. Help us to show our gratitude not only in our words, but also in our actions. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Paul Weatherill, Mission Link to Mission to Seafarers

Hymn: 'Shine Jesus shine'

For the Introduction to Confession, I'm taking words from the book of Micah, chapter 7 verses 16 - 19

Nations will see and be ashamed,
deprived of all their power.
They will lay their hands on their mouths
and their ears will become deaf.
They will lick dust like a snake,
Like creatures that crawl on the ground.
They will come trembling out of their dens;
they will turn in fear to the Lord our God
and will be afraid of you.
Who is a God like you,
who pardons sin and forgives the transgression
of the remnant of his inheritance?
You do not stay angry for ever
But delight to show mercy.
You will again have compassion on us;
You will tread our sins underfoot
And hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

We say together:

All:

Father we have sinned against heaven and against you.
We are not worthy to be called your children.
We turn to you again.
Have mercy on us,
bring us back to yourself,
as those who once were dead,
but now have life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Absolution

May God who is both power and love,
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Song: 'How deep the Father's love for us'

Verses from Psalm 93 read by Ray Rodgers

The Lord reigns, he is robed in majesty;
the Lord is robed in majesty
and is armed with strength.

The world is firmly established;
it cannot be moved
Your throne was established long ago;
you are from all eternity.

The seas have lifted up, O Lord,
the seas have lifted up their voice;
the seas have lifted up their pounding waves.

Mightier than the thunder of the great waters,
mightier than the breakers of the sea –
the Lord on high is mighty.

Your statutes stand firm;
holiness adorns your house
for endless days, O Lord.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning,
is now and shall be forever. Amen.

Peruvian Gloria sung by Revd Canon David Foster

Glory to God, glory to God,
Glory to the Father.

*Echo: Glory to God, glory to God,
Glory to the Father.*

To him be glory for ever.

Echo: To him be glory for ever

Alleluia! Amen.

Alleluia! Amen.

Alleluia! Amen

Glory to God, glory to God,
Son of the Father,

*Echo: Glory to God, glory to God,
Son of the Father*

To him be glory for ever.

Echo: To him be glory for ever.

Alleluia! Amen.

Alleluia! Amen.

Alleluia! Amen

Glory to God, glory to God,
Glory Holy Spirit.

*Echo: Glory to God, glory to God,
Glory Holy Spirit.*

To him be glory for ever.

Echo: To him be glory for ever.

Alleluia! Amen.

Alleluia! Amen.

Alleluia! Amen.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 21: 5 – 14

All: Glory to you, O Lord

Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?”

“No,” they answered.

He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ

Talk:

May I speak in the name of the living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

We’ve heard at the end of this Gospel reading from John, that this was the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples. Let’s remind ourselves of the previous occasions recorded in the Gospels. We know that any eyewitness account of an event can vary, according to the angles from which the onlookers are viewing something that’s happening, the clarity of their memories and taking into account the surprise of the unexpected.

According to Matthew’s and Mark’s accounts, Mary Magdalene and others went to the tomb where Jesus had been buried following his crucifixion. An angel told them that Jesus had risen from the dead and urged them to go and tell the disciples, that Jesus was on his way to Galilee, where he would meet them.

Luke’s account is similar, except there are two angels at the tomb and there is the extra part of the story concerning Peter running to the tomb to see for himself. As well, Mark touches on the additional account more fully recorded in Luke, concerning Jesus joining two travellers on the road to Emmaus, who did not recognise Jesus, but invited him to stay with them. It was as they ate together that they realised the man who’d joined them was the risen Jesus, who’d been with them on this journey. These two returned to Jerusalem and explained everything to the disciples, before Jesus himself appeared to them.

This brings us to the Gospel of John. **Firstly**, in this account we have the appearance of the risen Jesus himself to Mary Magdalene at the tomb. She thinks he is the gardener and begs

him to tell where Jesus has been taken. He then utters her name and she recognises her Lord. Mary did what Jesus asked and told the disciples.

Secondly, when the disciples were meeting together, Jesus appeared to them and commissioned and empowered them, by breathing on them to receive the Holy Spirit. Thomas was not there and didn't believe for himself until a week later when Jesus reappeared in the house.

This brings us to today's Gospel passage when, **thirdly**, Jesus appears on the seashore. As happened at their original call, the fishermen were catching no fish, until Jesus urged them to cast their nets on the other side of the boat – which side wasn't actually their common practice – and then they recognised him. They went to shore and ate together. It is after this that Jesus reinstates Peter as the Rock on whom Jesus will build his church.

John's account pulls together the three appearances of the risen Jesus **at the tomb, in the house** where the disciples were meeting and **along the seashore**.

In these appearances of Jesus, he is allowing the disciples to bring back their memories into this new reality. The disciples had been in lockdown since the trauma of Jesus's terrible death, tearing him away from all their hopes and dreams. The disciples were left with their disappointment, doubts and confusion. They were uncertain what to do and so returned to their default, what some of them knew best, fishing. It's interesting that in this account, the disciples didn't argue with Jesus as they had first time round when he'd met them catching nothing. You may recall Simon, later called Peter, as declaring "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets". You have to wonder if their confidence had so been knocked back, that they were open to any encouragement. And, indeed, we might ask, how long ago had it been since their last fishing trip anyway? It's easy to get out of the habits even of the familiar and to rely on someone else to make the decisions, but what would those decisions be for the future of the disciples? They'd left everything for him. This was a whole new unknown...

Jesus's words must have circulated round their minds and they must have tried to go over and over what he'd meant when he tried to communicate what would happen. John records in chapter 16 the disciples saying to one another "What does he mean by saying, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me' and 'Because I am going to the Father'?" They kept asking, "What does he mean by 'a little while'?" We don't understand what he is saying".

Through his appearances, Jesus has been reconnecting them with their memories, reinstating them in their self-defining relationships and renewing their self identity and their identity with Himself.

One to one with Mary Magdalene at the tomb....in just saying her name, Jesus was reminding Mary he knew who she was...all about her. He had not left them.

Jesus came to them just where they were, as they were in the house, with their doubts and fears and confusion; accepting them and reaching out to them, just as who he was now too.

The disciples put out to sea, did the familiar – back to fishing where they started. And then, through eating together with Jesus, they were recovering their identity as his disciples. Jesus was reinstating them and strengthening them for the Great Commission, to fish for men...as Matthew's Gospel puts it "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations....and surely I am with you always to the very end of the age".

Out of lockdown, the disciples' memories now merged with the changed reality. Jesus was taking them from the fear of being behind doors, to the confidence of stepping out in faith into the unknown. They needed to learn to trust in him with this new normality, because they didn't understand it at all. Yet, when we read the confidence that Peter had speaking out in the Acts of the Apostles, we know that based on their faith, putting their trust in Jesus, their confidence grew, their hope was fulfilled and the new normal purpose and plan and pleasure emerged.

Take a moment and think how all this resonates with us now....What an encouraging message. We must lay aside our ifs and buts and listen to God and to each other. Let's allow God to tease out and bring together, for each and all of us, our memories; those based on our earliest and more recent experiences of the living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. May we allow our Lord to lead us into the 'And so'.... What his purposes and plans are next....

We can trust in our Lord appearing to us through the power of the Holy Spirit and believe he will speak into our church plans and all parts of life, just as he spoke through the prophet Isaiah in chapter 30 verse 21: "Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it'. **Amen.**

Please join in with saying the Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
who made all things?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ,
who redeemed the world?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

We believe and trust in one God:

Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

Prayers prepared by Licensed Lay Minister/Lay Reader Jackie Cook

Bidding Father, you are our hope and strength Response **hear our prayer**

In thankfulness you created a world with no boundaries, in whose greatness is all embracing. Today we bring our prayers for those who ride the oceans risking everything to bring our provisions and for those who support them.

Today we lift before you the Seafarers Mission who build bridges between crews and on land services.

Thank you for their commitment in these challenging times as they work tirelessly to recreate and renew lives.

Father, you are our hope and strength / **hear our prayer.**

We lift to you those now separated from loved ones. Stranded in docks hundreds of miles from home. Mindful within Covid-19 this brings added strain of extended separations. Bring comfort to these relationships.

Father, you are our hope and strength / **hear our prayer**

We pray for the crew's confinement on board their ship. The struggles this creates from months of limited movement. We hold their physical well-being in our prayers.

Father, you are our hope and strength / **hear our prayer**

We pray for all the families back home. We ask that our prayers reach into their anxieties. Bring them comfort they come to know their loved ones are being cared for. Through the depths of communication issues, we give thanks for the Mission Chaplain and the on-line systems allowing the crew to reconnect with families.

Father, you are our hope and strength / **hear our prayer**

We give thanks The Seafarers Mission has responded to Covid-19 with The Flying Angel Campaign. In the diverse languages and cultures we pray for this work filling lives with faith and kindness.

Father, you are our hope and strength / **hear our prayer**

Loving God, as you call us out into world-wide fellowship, may we be people responding to the challenges this Mission faces. Help us to weigh up what we can offer in prayer and charitable giving.

Father you are our hope and strength. /**hear our prayer**

We commend to you all the pieces of our lives. Grant us a share of your grace to experience the living Word. Help us to seek for ourselves and others, the presence, direction and power of the Holy Spirit.

Merciful Father,
**Accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
Jesus Christ, our Saviour.
Amen**

Song: 'My Jesus my Saviour'

The Peace

The peace of God be always with you

All: And also with you.

The Holy Communion

The Lord is here.

All: His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;
in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away
you did not reject us,
but came to meet us in your Son.

**All: You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life
that we might live in him and he in us.

**All: He opened his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed,
at supper with his friends
he took bread, and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

**All: Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;
do this in remembrance of me.

**All: Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**All: As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you this sacrifice of praise
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We say together The Lord's Prayer:

**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.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many,
we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

The body of Christ given for us. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ shed for us. **Amen.**

We say together the Post Communion Prayer

All: Grant O Lord, we beseech you,
that the course of this world may be
so peaceably ordered by your governance,
that your Church may joyfully serve you
in all godly quietness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Song: 'My Lighthouse'

Notices brought by Steve Bibby

Blessing:

May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord bless you and keep you safe. **Amen.**

*Song leaving worship 'Was it a late Summer's Day?.....performed by Aslan,
from 'Second Helpings' 1977*

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*I encourage you to log on to google versions of the songs we sing through
iSingWorship, so you can experience the original youtube recordings by different
artistes, which are often so very inspiring...*