

First Sunday After Trinity, 14th June 2020

Song: My Lighthouse

Welcome to Everyone

In a moment we'll be saying as an Opening Prayer the 'Collect' set for this day. The Collect is meant to gather; to collect, the intentions of the people and the focus of worship into a succinct prayer.

Today's Collect mentions the phrase 'law of love'. A law is a rule defining correct procedure or behaviour.

How wonderful if love could define all our behaviour. We're not meaning romantic love, although that is part of it, but the kind of respect and openness to understanding, that bids us 'love our neighbour' as ourself....whoever and wherever we are.

The second phrase is that we may walk in, God's ways of wisdom. If we all conformed together to his rules of life and love for us and all creation, what a different framework for focussing our intentions emerging from lockdown.

Then the last part captures what the outcome can be,
if we keep God's law of love
and walk in His ways of wisdom,
we may find true life.

Special thanks to Valerie Semlyen, who has prepared the Prayers for today.

Thank you, Kyla for singing the Gloria.

We say together as an Opening Prayer, the Collect for the first Sunday after Trinity

:

**God of truth,
help us to keep your law of love
and to walk in your ways of wisdom,
that we may find true life
in Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.**

Hymn: Trust and obey

Preparation for Confession

The grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all.
Let us come to him, in sorrow for our sins, seeking healing and salvation.

Confession

Father, you come to meet us when we turn to you and return to you:
Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Jesus, you died on the cross for our sins:
Christ have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Spirit, you give us life and peace:
Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

May the Father forgive us
by the death of his Son
and strengthen us
to live in the power of the Spirit
all our days. **Amen.**

Peruvian Gloria (led by Revd Kyla)

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.

Reading: Genesis 18: 1 – 2, 6 – 15; 21: 1 - 7

The LORD appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. “Quick,” he said, “get three seahs of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread.”

Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.

“Where is your wife Sarah?” they asked him.

“There, in the tent,” he said.

Then one of them said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son.”

Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, “After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?”

Then the LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Will I really have a child, now that I am old?’ Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son.”

Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, “I did not laugh.”

But he said, “Yes, you did laugh.”

Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him. When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

Sarah said, “God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.” And she added, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Romans 5: 1 - 8

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Song: This is Amazing Grace

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 9: 35 – 10: 8

All: Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy,^[a] drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ

Talk

In the news this past week was the tragic story of five surfers, described as ‘very experienced watermen’, who died in the Netherlands, when they experienced not only strong winds and high waves, but met an avalanche of sea foam.

Very quickly conditions can change in all parts of life. Suddenly you can feel in danger, anxious, and out of your depth; the darkness closes in and you can’t see how to get out of the situation.

A lighthouse is a structure designed to **emit light** to mark dangerous coastlines, and guide safe entries to harbours.

Earlier we sang a song called 'My Lighthouse' and that was focussing on God as the Lighthouse, in the storm of our lives. The lyrics went:

In my wrestling and in my doubts; in my failures You won't walk out. Your great love will lead me through; You are the peace in my troubled sea.

In the silence, you won't let go; in the questions, your truth will hold. Your great love will lead me through; you are the peace in my troubled sea.

We all, in this pandemic, are experiencing our own 'storms'. It could be illness, or isolation or separation, or genuine hardship, or loss of income or hope of work resuming, or of longing to make a journey by air, if not by sea. Perhaps anxiety because investigations or surgery is on hold. There are decisions and regarding the wider family concerning children and grandchildren, older members and losing loved ones. Our hearts go out to those right round the world, often experiencing more extreme and dangerous situations than us. We are worried about the escalation of the latest unrest resulting in the damage to statues and the extremist behaviour, arising from peaceful protests. Where is all this going? Where are we going?

Imagine you're not even in the waves like those poor surfers, but you're standing on the beach watching the waves. They rise in height. They grow in momentum. They gather other eddies along the way until, together, they crash on the shore, greedily swallowing the sand, coursing their pathway up the beach to your feet. Even experienced seamen can find the elements beyond their control and need to watch out for the lighthouse's guiding light on that part of the shoreline.

Only God can see us through whatever dilemma, wherever we're in difficulty. With all the rescuing and the support we can give others and they can give us, it doesn't always work out or last. God knows how we're truly feeling and he hears us. He knows the longings, just as he did Sarah, Abraham's wife, in the reading Valerie brought to us. God promises to hear us and to act. God is faithful. How do we get to know? We sang 'Trust and obey, for there's no other way'.

Only God can bring peace in the storm, but to know that, we have to put our faith in him and trust him to bring us through.

The Apostle Paul wrote that we rejoice in sufferings. That sounds ridiculous. But not if this means we align ourselves with the suffering of Jesus Christ for us. In choosing to come close to him, we receive the grace, that is his undeserved unconditional love and his peace to strengthen us for whatever the storm of life brings. There comes an intimate understanding through the depth and height and breadth because of the

closeness of this relationship. And we keep on persevering with growing together, just like the disciples with Jesus; just like any parent with a child.

I watched one of those inspiring nature programmes on television. A seabird had nurtured her young. They were poised on a cliff ledge. It was the season for the water rising and crucial for them to dare to fly, in order to join their father on the seawater way below. Otherwise, they would be swept away, because that cleft in the rock which had held their nest, would be engulfed by the waves. The young birds hesitated, went back and forth to where had been their place of safety, but they had to decide to trust their mother bidding them leave and jump and fly to their father awaiting them.

God fills and refills us with the Holy Spirit to help us persevere and be formed into the people we need to be for the times which we face ourselves, as do our families, friends and all those others, just like the disciples, whom he has called us to help and to serve.

We've witnessed literally or through the airwaves, TV, radio, internet, telephone, how many people have risked their lives to help others in so many ways. There is a God-given instinct within us that prompts us and it is God's amazing grace and love that sustains us and will never let us go. His light will guide us in our darkness and it never goes out, whatever the conditions. Jesus reminded the disciples "Freely you have received, freely give." And in giving we receive back, as we follow the one who loves and cares for us, but we have to keep on keeping on trusting, as the song goes:

Shining in the darkness, I will follow you. I will trust the promise you will carry me safe to shore.

Fire before us, you're the brightest, you will lead us through the storms.

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 Valerie Semlyen

The response to 'Heal us Lord' is '**Use us to your glory**'

Heal us Lord,

Use us to your glory

Father we thank you that through the ages you have led your people out of darkness and into light. We bless you for the gift of your son Jesus, who walked this earth showing your compassion and love. Teaching us that we are never alone, whatever the suffering. Strengthen our faith we pray at this time of unprecedented change so that we may be ready to take up our discipleship in whatever way we called

Heal us Lord

Use us to your glory

Lord Jesus we thank you for the richness of our world, for its diversity, for the great discoveries that have been made. Forgive us our abuse of your resources and of one another. We ask for guidance and courage to correct our failings. We pray for those whose lives have been harmed by our deliberate and unthinking behaviour.

Heal us Lord

Use us to your glory

Holy Spirit comfort all who mourn especially at this time of coronavirus.
We thank you for all who work in any of the frontline services for their dedication and care. May we become a world more united working together to improve the health and inequalities in all countries.

Heal us Lord
Use us to your glory

Blessed Trinity we pray for all those who have died, may they rest in peace and join with St Mary and all the saints in praying for us.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers

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and because, through the weakness of our mortal nature,
we can do no good thing without you,
grant us the help of your grace,
that, in keeping of your commandments,
we may please you both in will and deed;
through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Peace

John 14 v 27: Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

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: Eternal Father, we thank you for nourishing us
with these heavenly gifts, whether literally,
or through our inner strengthening,
by drawing close to you.
Please build us up in hope,
and make us grow in love, as we walk in the ways of your wisdom, in the name of
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Notices:

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.**

Closing Song: Oh Lord, You never let go

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iSingWorship, so you can experience the original youtube recordings by
different artistes, which are often so very inspiring...*