

HOLY TRINITY AND ST PETER'S



Sunday 16th August 2020

10th Sunday after Trinity

A very warm welcome to all those joining us in our virtual worship, at Holy Trinity Church and St Peter's. It is wonderful we can worship in our various places as part of the body of Christ.

For those using the virtual service, if possible, please start at 10am (or 10.30am if you belong to St Peter's) so we are able to continue to worship together. Also try saying the parts in bold aloud.



Introduction

This week's theme is the serving community. Just as Jesus Christ came to serve, we as believers are seen as the servants of God in the way we live our lives. We have been sent the Holy Spirit and given different gifts to help us do that.

1 Peter Chapter 4 verse 10 says 'Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.'

The Christian Life is therefore one of service to others in many different ways but always showing the love and care of God in what we do.

We hope in our worship today we can think about how we can serve God in our Churches and in our communities to His glory.

Opening Prayers

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Lord God Almighty, you came to live as a servant among mankind. Take from us all false ideas of greatness. Make us one in your service of others, that in the fellowship of your Church we may become the willing servants of all; for Jesus' sake. Amen

Holy God, faithful and unchanging: enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth, and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love, that we may truly worship you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Confession

'How often have I longed to gather your children, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings,' says the Lord, 'but you would not come to me.' Let us as wayward children return to God and confess our sins.

Let us begin by reflecting on the week that has just passed:

Consider the things which we have done, or not done, and our thoughts which we now wish to say sorry to God for:

Let us return to the Lord our God and say to him:

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 Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Amen

1 John 1:8-9

Collect for today

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please you; 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 for ever. Amen

Readings for today

Faithful Creator, whose mercy never fails: deepen our faithfulness to you and to your living Word, who is Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Our reading is Psalm 67

For the director of music. With stringed instruments. A psalm. A song.

- ¹ May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face shine on us –
- ² so that your ways may be known on earth,
your salvation among all nations.
- ³ May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.
- ⁴ May the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you rule the peoples with equity
and guide the nations of the earth.
- ⁵ May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.
- ⁶ The land yields its harvest;
God, our God, blesses us.
- ⁷ May God bless us still,
so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.

New International Version UK (NIVUK)

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Talk ** Please open the audio file attached to hear Nick B-B's sermon**

I pray that my talk is true to your word and provides the messages of hope and salvation that God would wish me to give.

I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

This wonderful little Psalm could be titled '**Blessings and Praise**' and could be summarised as receiving blessings **from** God and then giving Praise **to** God.

The other key aspect of this Psalm is it is not a personal psalm like some of them but very much an outward looking psalm- it is evangelical and has a mission theme. It talks of the peoples and of nations- there are 5 references in this short psalm to the Peoples and 3 to Nations.

But let us start with the title of the Psalm – it is written to the Director of Music and it is with stringed instruments. It is a psalm to be used in worship but most definitely also a song. You can imagine it as a very joyful song which like our mission praise songs is intended to inspire us and help us in our praise of God. It even has a chorus, verses 3 and 5: 'May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you'.

Verse 1 starts with a request, not an individual one but a request that God be gracious to us all and bless us.

The phrase 'and make his face shine upon us' comes from God talking to Moses on Mount Sinai as described in the book of Numbers.

In Chapter 6 starting at verse 22, 'The Lord said to Moses, tell Aaron and his sons (who were priests) this is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord makes his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; The Lord turn this face towards you and give you peace.'

What is it like to have God's face shine upon us? Well, we know from Moses' experience it is very bright – in fact in Exodus Chapter 33 verse 20 God said to Moses, 'you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live'. Moses was only permitted to see the after-glow of God. When he came down from the mountain it says he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the Lord. (Exodus 34 verse 29).

When the apostle Paul met God on the road to Damascus, Acts Chapter 9 describes a bright light from heaven which flashed around him and he was blinded by it but he heard the voice of God.

So we might not want to have God's face actually shine on us but we could think of it as smiling on us. Our youngest grandson Teddy has a rather serious face a lot of the time but after nursery, which is in Ansley Common, our daughter sometimes stops by to see us. She and Teddy stay in the car and we go out to them.

When Teddy sees us he immediately beams with the widest smile. It is so lovely and makes us feel good, loved, and joyful. So it should be when we meet with God.

And what is the result of Teddy's smile? Well, we want to hug him - which of course we cannot do at the moment, thank him and show our happiness to him. So it should be with God - we want to thank Him and praise Him for His blessings on us.

To have God's face shining on us is the opposite of an indifferent or angry face. It means to have his smile or favour on us.

Also, having God's face shine upon us should make us want to get to know him better.

The purpose of knowing God is to show God to those around us, that they might see the works and ways of God through how he relates to us and treats us in our lives. That is the whole purpose and plan of God; that his salvation be known among all people. This goes back to Abraham when God said to him that 'all people will be blessed through you', in Genesis Chapter 12 verse 3.

The ultimate blessing of God to humanity was that by sending his son Jesus Christ to earth and His death on the cross, He would pay for the sins of those who would believe in Him.

Our chorus of praise in verses 3 and 5 reminds us that our praise of God is a corporate activity. That might be difficult when restrictions mean we cannot all attend Church together but by worshipping together in our virtual services as well as in our Churches means that we are all part of the body of Christ all praising God.

Then verse 4 is looking forward to a time when all people and nations know God. The result of that is all nations will be glad and sing for joy as God will rule his people justly and guide the future of all nations.

To have God's blessing and salvation includes the rule of God. God judges people righteously and will govern all nations so there are no more corrupt governments or nations just living selfishly for their own interests.

Clearly we are a long way off that in our world at the moment but just try and imagine what the world would be like if everyone really did know God. Amazing-unbelievable!

The task to us seems so big but as Paul said to the Ephesians in Chapter 3 verse 20, 'Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us'. We all have a part to play and we need to pray to God to show us how he wants us to be involved in making it happen.

The final verse also looks forward to the future when the land has yielded its harvest, that is all the work of Christians has resulted in the harvest God intends and all the earth shall fear him.

Yes, God is so powerful and will judge us so it is right to fear him but I think it is not a case of being scared of God but more about revering him and holding him in the highest esteem. The idea of fearing God should involve, as the commandments require, loving God and recognising God for who he is - the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

The measure of this psalm is that the blessing of God involves not just the intention of God but includes His action for us. God does not just talk about blessing he does it.

When we know God by experiencing his blessings for us we naturally show God to those around us through how he governs and rules our lives. The natural result of this is praising God and that produces results for all peoples and nations.

God's church is to be a people who live in the blessing of God and reflect it out to the people around us. The world should know that we are a blessed people, and if they accept our God and Father, he will bless them too.

Remember we are blessed to be a blessing to others.

I want to finish by using the first verse of the hymn Lord the light of Your love is shining as a short prayer:

Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining: Jesus, Light of the world, shine on us: set us free by the truth You now bring us- shine on us, shine on us.

I ask this in Jesus name. Amen.

After reading this wonderful psalm you may want to show your praise by either reading or singing the words of some of these hymns:

Lord the light of Your love is shining

I just want to praise You

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven

The Peace

Peace to you from God our heavenly Father.

Peace from his Son Jesus Christ who is our peace.

Peace from the Holy Spirit, the life-giver.

The peace of the triune God be always with you

And also with you

Statement of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God:

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

A prayer of thanks for our giving to God

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

Prayers of Intercession

In faith let us pray to God who is Lord of all the earth.

Holy God, may the worship of your Church throughout the world be attentive and expectant, ready to be set on fire again and again with the outrageous foolishness of loving, without exceptions and without limits.

Servant God

Let us honour you with our lives

Holy God, may all that encourages people in goodness, honesty and compassion be blessed and grow; may all that encourages self-seeking and cruelty, prejudice and deceit wither and be exposed as the unsatisfying rubbish it is. May we learn from one another's cultures and respect one another's differences.

Servant God

Let us honour you with our lives

Holy God, we pray for the leaders of our Church.....Archbishop Justin Welby, Christopher Bishop of Coventry and John Bishop of Warwick. Give them the wisdom and insight of your Holy Spirit.

Be with Heather and Sharon in their ministries. Grant them strength and a real sense of your presence with them. When weary, may they know your sustaining love.

May each one of us know your calling on our lives that we may seek to honour you in praise as we receive your blessings.

Servant God

Let us honour you with our lives

Holy God, we thank you for the joy of human love, and for all those among whom we live and work. We pray particularly for loved ones who worry us with their health, or circumstances, or life direction. We pray for those among our friends and families who do not know you, or whose faith has been shaken.

We give thanks for all who help to meet the needs of those whose lives are difficult and sad, or fearful, at this time of the global pandemic. May each one of us seek to be servants, blessing where we are able.

Servant God

Let us honour you with our lives

Holy God, we pray for all who suffer mental or emotional anguish and those who despair. We pray for those facing another day of pain, another day of hunger, another day of fear. We think of those who are refugees, homeless or outcasts of society.

We remember those in our fellowships who need your presence and peace with them today: Rachel M and Family; Mark J; Maureen; Olive; Julie; Jan & Tony; Mark P; Rebecca; Jane; Stan A; Penny H; Sue P; Lucy W; Lucy and Michael B; Mark; Brian V; and in a moment of quiet any other known to us.

Servant God

Let us honour you with our lives

Holy God, gather into your eternal kingdom all who have come to the end of this earthly life and rejoice to see you as you really are. We remember all whom we love but can no longer see.

Servant God

Let us honour you with our lives

Holy God, we remember with gratitude all who gave up so much to bring the good news to our country, and pray that with us it may continue to be spread until the whole earth knows your truth and love.

Thank you that we are blessed in so many ways and may we who are blessed be a blessing to other

Merciful Father – Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ

Prayerful reflections:

Spend some time thanking God for what you have and the blessings you have received.

Pray for those on the front line who are still serving so faithfully.

Pray for those whose livelihoods have been impacted.

Pray for those on your heart.

Pray for yourself – be honest with God about your fears and feelings.

The Diocesan Prayer

Father, pour out your spirit upon us.

Grant us a new vision of Your glory, a new experience of Your power, a new faithfulness to Your word, and a new consecration to Your service, that Your love may grow among us and Your kingdom come, Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us so we 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

Closing Prayers

God of our pilgrimage, you have willed that the gate of mercy should stand open for those who trust in you: look upon us with your favour that we who follow the path of your will may never wander from the way of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength; ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name. The whole earth is full of his glory. The Lord shall give strength to his people; the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. Amen

It is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4.6

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.

The Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you:

The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you:

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

The Commission

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

In the name of Christ. Amen.

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Notices for the week ahead

Lynda and Vince Golden Wedding Anniversary

Lynda and Vince are celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary on Saturday 22nd August. We want to congratulate you both on achieving 50 years of marriage and send our very best wishes and love as you celebrate your very special day.

Church Services

All services, for the time being, at Holy Trinity will start at 10am (there will be no 9am service on the second Sunday- it will be 10am).

Services at St Peter's will start at our usual time there at 10.30am.

There is no communion, or refreshments, at present.

To comply with all the Covid-19 secure advice unfortunately we are going to be very restricted on numbers who can attend at both churches.

Because of the restrictions if you wish to attend a service at either church you need to ring or email Heather to ask to be put on a list of attendance for a Sunday. This is vital as we do not want to turn people away.

Those able to attend will be contacted so please do not turn up if you have not been informed that you can attend. A Guidance note has been prepared for all those attending- please read it carefully.

It is compulsory that face coverings are worn in the Church buildings so please come prepared. Church leaders/preachers/pray-ers are permitted to temporarily lift their face coverings when speaking...but for congregation members it is now mandatory to wear them inside church at all times.

For those not able to attend we will be continuing with services being sent out by email and resources being sent in the post as at present.

The Churches' Premises are still closed to everyone outside service times and entry can only take place with the agreement of Heather or in her absence the Churchwardens – please do not attempt to access them with any keys that you may have.

In the light of constant changing advice and the initial opening up of the Churches we will keep you informed of developments and would ask for your prayers during what is going to be a difficult and developing situation.

Daily Hope

Daily Hope is a free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers launched by the Church of England. It has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind. So, if you know someone in this situation, please phone them and tell them about free-phone **0800 804 8044**, and why not try it for yourselves.

* I have never used this service personally – but have it on good authority from someone who has just started to use it – that it is really helpful.* (Heather)

Food Bank

Due to the restrictions in church during services we are **still not able** to continue with the bringing of items to Church or deliveries to the warehouse. We will review that as restrictions are lifted.

This is at a time when the Food Bank is still under huge pressure, especially now that schools are on holiday.

The Food Bank is still working with its volunteers and there are collection points in most supermarkets. If you are visiting a supermarket for your own shopping please consider adding a few items to donate in this way. A list of the most urgently required items can be found on the food bank website.

Please note, they are no longer able to accept infant formula milk or baby food due to a UNICEF directive.

Can we urge everyone to consider if they can give a donation of money?

Please visit their website- www.nuneaton.foodbank.org.uk and click on the Donate button at the top right of the page.

This is a really valuable way we can collectively as Churches show our love to the vulnerable people in our society.

Any items on messages: prayers; prayers answered; birthdays or anniversaries to be included on the weekly service and notice sheet please email Nick Blamire-Brown at njbb@hotmail.co.uk

If you want to be added to the email prayer chain/group or have any prayers you want to put on the prayer chain please email:- prayers.holytrinity@gmail.com

Please be aware that all documents are now going to be much more in the public domain (emailed out and they have been posted too on Facebook and possibly church websites in the future.) Please be careful to get permission from any person you wish to mention.

Please pray for the following in the coming week:

Coronavirus Crisis

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support,
be with those who care for the sick, the anxious
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Leaders and Clergy

Heather and Sharon in their ministries in Hartshill and Galley Common;
Kate and Debbie our St Peter's churchwardens, Nick and Sally our lay readers and
Holy Trinity's churchwardens; Ruth & Rob Kinderman in their youth work; Michael
Brandsma in his ministry in Atherstone; and Bill Walton in his curacy.

Pray too for our Archbishops, Bishops and Bishops' Staff team as they lead the
nation and diocese.

Pray for the government and local/national/international leaders as they make life
changing and potentially life-saving decisions.

Those on our hearts at Holy Trinity

Rachel M and Family; Mark J; Maureen; Olive; Julie; Jan & Tony; Mark P; Rebecca;
Jane; Stan A; Penny H: Sue P

Also for care firms who are under severe pressure to protect both staff and
residents.

Those on our hearts at St Peter's

Lucy W; Lucy and Michael B; Mark; Brian V; and others known to us.

Family and Friends of those recently deceased

xxx

