

HOLY TRINITY AND ST PETER'S



Sunday 9th August 2020

9th Sunday after Trinity

A very warm welcome to all those joining us in our virtual worship, at Holy Trinity Church and St Peter's - welcome back to those attending there. 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 Mind of Christ. As Christians we should look at how we live our lives from the perspective of Jesus Christ, trying to follow his values and teaching. Paul said in his first letter to the Corinthians in Chapter 2 verse 16, 'For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ'.

It means trying to think God's thoughts and not think as the world might think. It is a shared perspective of humility, compassion and dependence on God.

We hope through our worship today we can learn more of the Mind of Christ.

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.

Almighty God, in Jesus you humbled yourself and took the form of a servant, Let this mind be in us, that we may show forth your love in caring for the needy and distressed and by humbly serving one another; to the glory of your name. Amen

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power. For you have created all things, and by your will they have their being. You are worthy, O Lamb, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed us for God.

From every tribe and language and nation, you have made us to be a kingdom and priests serving our God.

To the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might for ever and ever. Amen. *Revelation 4.11;5.9b,10,11*

Confession

God the Father forgives us in Christ and heals us by the Holy Spirit. Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and malice, and confess our sins to God our redeemer. *cf Ephesians 4.30,32*

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

Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church: open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; 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 first reading is taken from Psalm 105 verses 1 to 10

- ¹ Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name;
make known among the nations what he has done.
- ² Sing to him, sing praise to him;
tell of all his wonderful acts.
- ³ Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
- ⁴ Look to the LORD and his strength;
seek his face always.
- ⁵ Remember the wonders he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced,
- ⁶ you his servants, the descendants of Abraham,
his chosen ones, the children of Jacob.
- ⁷ He is the LORD our God;
his judgments are in all the earth.
- ⁸ He remembers his covenant for ever,
the promise he made, for a thousand generations,
- ⁹ the covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath he swore to Isaac.
- ¹⁰ He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree,
to Israel as an everlasting covenant:

New International Version UK (NIVUK)

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Our second reading is taken from 1 Kings chapter 19 verses 9 to 18:

The LORD appears to Elijah

And the word of the LORD came to him: 'What are you doing here, Elijah?'

¹⁰ He replied, 'I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.'

¹¹ The LORD said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.'

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. ¹² After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?'

¹⁴ He replied, 'I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.'

¹⁵ The LORD said to him, 'Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. ¹⁷ Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. ¹⁸ Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel – all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed 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 Sharon's sermon **

Let's pray: Lord may our hearts be open to your word and your word open our hearts to respond. Amen.

I wonder if you enjoy history? I know I do, but I also struggle with it as it is often full of violence and power struggles and limited on peace.

The two books of Kings are a fascinating portrayal of the history of leadership through the good and the bad kings of Judah and Israel from King Saul to Zedekiah. Some say the books are 'a "holy history" of the spiritual and moral, the beliefs and behaviours' of the many successive kings. Others say they're 'a record of God's people told from God's perspective – perhaps written by the prophet Jeremiah or at least part of it could have been, whilst another suggests they tell a story which is vital for humankind.'

The most fascinating thing about these books of Kings is that two thirds of them are spent on telling the stories of two prophets Elijah and his successor Elisha.

Elijah challenged the people of God because they chose to turn to a false god Baal, who was worshipped by King Ahab's wife and whom she had introduced into their country during Ahab's reign. Elijah's primary concern was always for his people and their need for restoration and reconciliation with the God of Israel.

Elijah himself was a true man of God. His relationship with God was good. He trusted God, he listened to God and whenever he prayed, because of his ongoing relationship with God, his prayers were effective and meaningful. His prayer life was completely connected to his spiritual life in God, his prayers were powerful and they made things happen.

His prayers flowed from a mutual relationship with God where he listened or asked and God responded. Elijah was so in tune with God that his heart and concern was God's burden and passion to bring his beloved people back to himself. Elijah's heartfelt desire was to see God glorified by his people and God's purposes fulfilled. Dedicated to his task, despite the threat to his life – Elijah didn't give up praying for what must have seemed like the impossible.

In hugely difficult times, Elijah was utterly dedicated to God. He was obedient, patient and tenaciously persistent in his pursuit of God's people on God's behalf. God responded because of Elijah's absolute dedication and perseverance.

As we reach today's reading Elijah had previously told King Ahab that "As the Lord God of Israel lives there will be no rain in the next few years unless I say" (1 Kings 17), which caused three years of drought. Later he challenged hundreds of priests of Baal to go up against God's power and might. Elijah called down fire from heaven which consumed all the sacrifices to Baal and as the people witnessed God's power over Baal they fell on their faces to worship God declaring "The Lord, he is God." At that the people were on his side and Elijah had four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal killed. (1 Kings 18).

Ahab's queen, having already had hundreds of the God of Israel's prophets killed was fuming, and Elijah, overwhelmed by his fear of her threats, fled into the wilderness. He was so frightened for his life that he even asks God to kill him instead of having to face the wicked queen's wrath. But God's love and faithfulness to Elijah ensured provision for all his needs in the form of food and rest and a visiting angel even in such a place. Here God invited Elijah to renewal and restoration.

And so the story goes on..... God and Elijah have a conversation – something very normal and natural for Elijah. God says "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." And because Elijah has a good ongoing relationship with God, he recognises where God really is the gentle whisper and "when Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave" (verse 13).

Elijah is a great example of a person of godly faith. Every day he steeped his life in the pursuance of God, despite personal danger and his life constantly threatened. If we, like Elijah, were persistent for an ongoing relationship with God, we read the Bible and pray regularly, if we believe in God's guidance in our lives through his Holy Spirit, then we should also trust that God provides us with everything we will ever need to live as God's holy people striving to see his kingdom purposes. If our hearts are constantly tuned in to God, then our ways will become God's ways and our love for one another will be as God's passion expressed for humankind.

The story of Kings ultimately seeks to show God's sovereignty over humanity and his intervention in both the good and the bad times. Elijah's role as God's prophet's was to discern God's leading and guiding and to challenge those who had turned their back on him, turning instead to false gods. I believe this story shows us that we too can recognise God when we are faithfully committed to following him.

Elijah's ongoing relationship with God enabled him to recognise God and to live out his faith with absolute passion for him. When we search for God, he reveals himself.

How then might we nurture our own relationship with God? Regular reading or hearing of God's word enables a greater understanding of God's character and nature.

As Christians, when we read and learn more about God, we can't help but want to spend time and respond to his call on our lives in deeper reverent commitment.

The story today ends with God giving Elijah instructions as to what his next steps will be and telling him he will rescue all those who did not bend the knee or kiss false gods. God promises a successor to Elijah in Elisha and God's work will continue through his faithful servants - his purposes fulfilled.

I came across a poem called 'In the womb of silence' which I would like to share. I don't know who the author is, but it fittingly focuses on God's still small voice:

Not in the whirlwind. Not in the lightning,
Not in the strife of tongues,
Or in the jangling of subtle reasoning
Is He to be found, But in the still small voice
Speaking in the womb of silence.
Therefore be silent.

Let the past be silent, Let there be no vain regrets,
No brooding on past failures, No bitterness,
No judgements of oneself, Or of others.
Let all be silent.

Be still and know. Be still and look.
Let the eyes of the mind be closed.
That you may hear what otherwise you would not hear.
That you may know what otherwise you would not know.
Abandon yourself to Him.
In longing love, simply, holding on to nothing but Him.
So you may enter the silence of eternity
And know the union of yourself with Him.
And if in the silence he does not answer. He is still there.
His silence is the silence of love.
Wait then in patience.

And in submission It is good to wait in silence for His coming.

Let us endeavour to follow him as faithfully as Elijah did, trusting that his kingdom purposes will be worked out.

We finish by praying the Diocesan prayer together

**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.**

Song: 'The goodness of God' by Jenn Johnson

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=the+goodness+of+god+youtube&view=detail&mid=405E196250DF5852B83C405E196250DF5852B83C&FORM=VIRE0&ru=%2fsearch%3fq%3dthe%2bgoodness%2bof%2bgod%2byoutube%26cvid%3d04efe695c4604a0dbf2471b0814acd6b%26pglt%3d299%26FORM%3dANNTA1%26PC%3dU531>

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

Let us pray to our Heavenly Father who has the power to split mountains apart and also has compassion and control to use that power as an incredible force for good. Praise him for his love that is so strong that he cherishes each and every one of us as his own and desires so much to have us close to him that he gave his only beloved son to be sacrificed in our place so that we can be saved from eternal separation from him.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer

Help us to keep sight of the truth within the Bible and may our lives and our worship be obedient to your ways.

We pray for our Bishops and clergy throughout the world, be with them all and help them to work powerfully for good throughout all nations.

Here we particularly ask for your blessing upon Heather and Sharon as they lead us and serve our communities of St Peter's Galley Common and Holy Trinity Hartshill. We pray for Nick and Sally and Debbie and Kate our Church Wardens, and for everyone who has responsibilities or leadership roles, especially at this time when the church buildings are opening for worship under the restrictions of COVID. Bless and guide them and keep them, and all who come to worship, safe.

We ask you to bless all who go out into the world to spread the life changing message of Jesus, may many receive the news of your sacrifice and believe. We pray that social media may be used in truth and goodness to communicate with and influence many. May the truth of your amazing love reach those who need to hear and receive your healing in their lives.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer

We pray for peace in your world, asking you to be with people who are in areas where life is difficult, whether due to natural disaster, food or water shortage, war, unrest or oppression, may they be able to receive aid to meet their needs or justice to end their current situations. Give them hope for a brighter future.

We particularly remember today those who have been affected, injured or lost loved ones in the enormous explosion in Beirut this week.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer

We remember everyone today who is suffering due to COVID, for those who are currently in hospital, those who are recovering and for those who have lost relatives and friends. We ask you Lord to guide medics and scientists to understand this virus and work out the best ways to treat it, and of course we pray for a vaccine.

Be with those whose lives are disrupted because they are unable to go to work or school, for those who have had operations postponed and for those who usually go to respite care. We pray for those facing redundancy and businesses that are getting into difficulty. Be with all that are facing hardship. We pray for all charities as they will have higher demands put upon them and possibly less donations. We pray for the youngsters who should be moving on to college, university or work. Lord for all the consequences of COVID may those who need your help, financially, physically, mentally and spiritually turn to you in their times of distress knowing that you will not let them down but will answer our prayers and that you will walk through this time with each and every one of us that calls on you for help. We remember all who work in shops, hospitals, care homes, the emergency services and other places where they are vulnerable to catching the virus. Please protect them. It is difficult to find the words to express our gratitude to them and we thank you that these people are prepared to risk their wellbeing and health to help others.

Lord in Your Mercy, Hear our Prayer

We pray for those who are need of your healing at this time. For Rachel M and Family; Mark J; Maureen; Olive; Julie; Jan & Tony; Mark P; Rebecca; Jane; Stan A; Penny H; Lucy W; Lucy and Michael B; Mark; Brian V; and in a moment of silence we pray for everyone else who is on our mind....

We also remember the family and friends of those saddened by the loss of someone they love.

May they all know that you are with them in their sufferings and grief, give them comfort and strength at this time to face the days ahead and bring them all your hope and your peace.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer

We thank you Lord that you provide for all our needs, and that you help us to face all our fears, thank you for your faithfulness to us and help us to be faithful to you, As you were able to protect Elijah when he was weak and afraid, help us to remember to come to you every day to hear your gentle whisper guiding us in the way we should go, may we draw strength from you to undertake what you call us to do and may we receive courage from you as we obey and follow the guidance you give.

Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Glory in his holy name, let the hearts of those who seek the Lord Rejoice. (Psalm 105 1-3

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 Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us so we pray:

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

Closing Prayers

Almighty and eternal God, you have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and live and reign in the perfect unity of love: hold us firm in this faith, that we may know you in all your ways and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory, who are three Persons yet one God, now and forever. Amen.

If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him. Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.

John 14.7,9

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity: keep us steadfast in this faith, that we may evermore be defended from all adversities; 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 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

God the Holy Trinity make us strong in faith and love, defend us on every side, and guide us in truth and 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

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/prayerers 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

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

