

HOLY TRINITY AND ST PETER'S

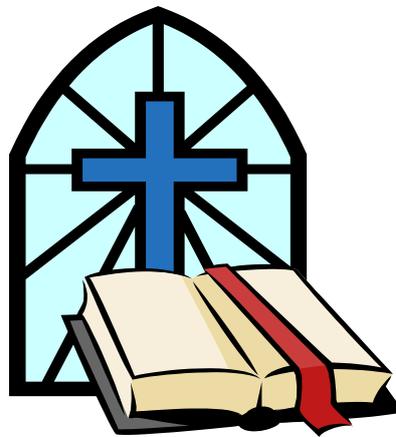


Sunday 25th October 2020

20th Sunday after Trinity

A very warm welcome to all those joining us in our virtual worship, and in Church at Holy Trinity 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 continue to worship together. Also try saying the parts in bold aloud.



Introduction

We continue with our sermon series on "Communion" looking at different themes that we find in a traditional Holy Communion service.

Our eighth theme is Blessing and in today's service we will exploring what is a blessing to us and how we have experienced God's blessings in our lives.

For those who have enjoyed following the themes of the Trinity Season we are continuing those with an appropriate prayer, and you will find them in the Notices section.

Lighting of Candle

At the start of the services in both our churches a candle will be lit and the following prayer will be said. Those using the virtual service are welcome to do the same.

Dear Lord,

We light this candle as a symbol of your light and grace.

Please watch over us all:

**Those of us gathered here at St Peter's and Holy Trinity to worship you;
Those who, for whatever reason, are unable to attend our services, but
worship with us from their homes;**

Those who are no longer here with us but are always in our hearts.

**Let your light shine in the darkness so that those that feel lost in these
uncertain times can find their way back to you.**

**Help us all to be a reflection of your light so that those who don't yet know
you might begin to see you in us. Amen.**

Opening Prayers

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from
whom no secrets are 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. Amen.**

The Lord is here. **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

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

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:*

**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

May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins, and restore us in his image, to the praise and glory of his holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Collect for today

God, the giver of life, whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church: by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ and make us eager to do your will, that we may share with the whole creation the joys of eternal life; 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 today is taken from Numbers Chapter 6 verses 22 to 27:

The priestly blessing

²² The LORD said to Moses, ²³ 'Tell Aaron and his sons,' This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:

²⁴ 'The LORD bless you
and keep you;

²⁵ the LORD make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;

²⁶ the LORD turn his face towards you
and give you peace.'

²⁷ 'So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them'

New International Version – UK

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Our second reading today is taken from Ephesians Chapter 1 verses 2 to 4:

² Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
Praise for spiritual blessings in Christ

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

New International Version – UK

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Talk ** Please either open the audio file ** or read it below:

Morning, welcome to the 8th in the communion series. Today we are talking about blessing.

So may the Lord bless me by speaking through me, may the Lord bless you by speaking to you and may we all be blessed if the two coincide.

So, what is blessing? We use bless quite a bit. We will say bless you when someone sneezes. We will talk about it and say 'Oh they are blessed' 'Oh it is a blessing'. In the urban dictionary the one they came up with was their top result was 'Oh bless' like when we see a small child or something cute or someone says something sweet we hear it when we are walking with Boaz and people are talking about him and going 'Oh bless'. But I don't think that is the real meaning, I don't think most of those people are actually asking for a blessing upon Boaz. Though maybe he already has a blessing because he is young and cute and can charm people, maybe that is his blessing and they are just recognizing it.

When we say bless you when you sneeze the belief was that when you sneezed your soul left your body and you needed to be blessed so while it was trying to get back in. But what does it mean, what is a blessing? It says in the dictionary that it is a Gods favour or protection, conducive to happiness or welfare. Blessings are things we would like, that are good to receive. At this time, it may be difficult to think of blessings, but I would like us all to take a bit of time to think about blessings.

Activity : Take some time to say things that you feel you have been blessed with in the last month, the last week, today, yesterday as close as you can, something that you are blessed by. If you are in a group try going round without repetition or hesitation.

I don't necessary feel that my situation is always a blessing to me but I am aware that I have had more time recently. I have been able to spend time with my family, with my son, just be able to do things and maybe relax a bit, that I needed. I have had that blessing. Other people have had the blessing of being able to continue with their life and carry on as though nothing much has happened.

Maybe we should instead of saying bless you when someone sneezes, say bless you when someone coughs because Romans 12 v 4 reminds us that we should bless those who curse us, and coughing nowadays quite often seems to be a curse to some people. We are trying to, we should be trying to, bless other people. Genesis reminds us that we are blessed and the part of the reason for that is that so we can be a blessing to other people.

In Ephesians it says we have all spiritual blessings, we also have physical blessings I imagine a lot of the things you said out where things that you have been blessed with, like daily food, family, things that you can see and touch and . We have had harvest recently and we thanked God for those blessings. But we are talking today about communion and sometimes people don't go up and have communion. They go up and have a blessing instead. But the rest of us are being blessed through communion. Communion itself is a blessing, it is reminder of the greatest blessing we have that Jesus died and rose again for us. That He gave us new life, that He gave us all the spiritual blessings through that act.

Sally, a couple of weeks ago talked about the peace and that blessed are the peacemakers, if we make peace then we will be blessed. It is a blessing to be able to go and make sure we are right with everyone else before we take communion. It is a blessing to be able to forgive. I don't think that is always seen that way, but it is a blessing towards us, if we have an issue with someone they may not even know about it and if God can help us to deal with it then we are blessed. We have our welfare improved by being able to forgive and deal with those feelings or thoughts or whatever it is which was keeping us bound.

Our numbers reading is a famous blessing. It was given to Moses by God; it was given for Aaron to bless as the priests. As we are all part of the priesthood now it is for all of us. And throughout the blessing there are 6 times it says you. It is for you, it is a personal thing it is not just a general, it is to you.

May the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord, this is from Him, this is not just from anybody. This is like if you get a letter from the Queen, it is kind of like 'Wow'. Might appeal to some, might not appeal to others. They might more like a letter from a friend because they know them better, well God is both. He is the most important and our closest friend or hopefully. We can know that this is from Him. This is for us from Him. The Lord bless you and keep you.

May His face shine upon you. So He is not grumpy, He is not miserable, He is not kind of going 'arg, I suppose'. It is shining when you get a lovely smile, when you get a greeting that warms your heart you know what that means when someone shines on you. Again of course I think of my son.

And be gracious to you. His grace is a free gift. He will bless us and give to us freely, we don't have to earn it, we don't have to do anything. Communion reminds us that it is about us just coming and receiving.

The Lord turn His face towards you. Is that just His face again? No He is turning towards us. When someone is busy and doing stuff, and you are talking to them you know you only have got part of their attention. But when they stop and turn towards you, when you know you have got their full attention it is just so much more.

And give you peace. We come back to peace. May we be people of peace, may we have the blessing of peacemakers, may we have His peace that truly enters our hearts and helps us to deal with, not just forget about, all those things so that we can be truly at peace. This is a blessing that is from God to us.

So I want to leave you with a couple of blessings. One is be blessed and be at peace. But remember that that blessing is hopefully for you then to go out and bless others. And the other one I want to leave you with is an Irish blessing that someone I worked with used and I really like the blessing so I am going to read it to you.

May the road rise to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the sun shine warmly upon your face.
May the rains fall softly upon your fields
And until we meet again

May God hold you
In the palm of His hand
Amen.

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

The Lord bless you and keep you

Response **The Lord make His face shine upon you.**

Lord we pray for you to bless the world by bringing peace to those in conflict, comfort those in despair and hope for the nations futures.

We ask for your blessing on world leaders by choosing to do the right thing for their country, and play their part in these uncertain times. We pray for those countries facing unrest for whatever reason, may Christians be a blessing to those around them and bring peace in their neighbourhoods.

We ask for your blessing on all the Christian organisations out there bringing peace in your name, bringing comfort and hope. Bless the missionaries, Church leaders and aid workers by giving them rest and peace in the sometimes stressful situations they work in.

The Lord bless you and keep you**The Lord make His face shine upon you.**

Lord bless our government and our country by letting them seek to do your will to serve our country wisely. We pray you bless them in all their decisions that they will be good, beneficial, and appropriate for our country at this time.

Lord bless our queen and her family by keeping them safe and protection them from harm physical and emotionally.

The Lord bless you and keep you **The Lord make His face shine upon you.**

Lord bless our bishops Christopher and John, bless Heather and Sharon and all the lay readers at Holy Trinity and St Peters. Bless them and fill them with your Holy Spirit so they can lead our churches forward. Help them with in their decisions for the future of the church. Bless them and keep them safe in the palm of your hand. Let them know your guidance and support, your rest and peace daily.

Lord bless us as your body and shows us how we can be your hands and feet in our community.

The Lord bless you and keep you..... **The Lord make His face shine upon you.**

Lord bless our communities, let us be a beacon of light in these dark times. Let the church be strong and steadfast to those around us. We thank you for all that communities are doing for each other and how they have been coming together. We thank you for scarecrow trails and Christmas trails initiatives that they bring joy to everyone and unite people.

Bless those in our communities who look after the elderly, sick and homebound, give them a fresh love for those they care for. Bless them and their families and keep them safe. Bless nurses and doctors, paramedics and other emergency personal by giving them strength to get through each day. Bless those on our notice sheet and in a moment of quiet we think of those known to us

Bless them with your healing hand and family and friends to be there for them.

The Lord bless you and keep you... **The Lord make His face shine upon you.**

We ask your blessing on our schools and colleges, hold your hand over them and help those who are struggling emotionally or academically. Bless those children and teachers who are struggling and give them peace.

Lord we ask for your blessing on those of our community who have gone back or started uni, those young people graduated and looking for a job. Bless them with courage to carry on looking. Bless them with peace in their studies as they are faced with different kind of measures. Bless them with friendships and joy to beat loneliness and despair. Bless the lecturers with understanding and patience as all are adapting to new situations.

The Lord bless you and keep you..... **The Lord make His face shine upon you.**

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

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. Amen

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 our Father, whose Son, the light unfailing, has come from heaven to deliver the world from the darkness of ignorance: let these holy mysteries open the eyes of our understanding that we may know the way of life, and walk in it without stumbling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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.

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

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you 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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Message from Maria Hambidge

Although this lovely and inspiring message is entitled Memories of Galley Common it is definitely applicable to both Churches.

A few of you may remember me visiting - my Daughter Lucy W, who is on your prayer list, rented a house in Galley Common and I lived in Birmingham. I came to the Wednesday group and read my Mom's poems ' Bless Her' and sold books in aid of Kidney Research. My Daughter and her Partner have moved to Derbyshire and I have moved to be near them after the passing of my Dad, Bless Him.

I want to Thank You All for the lovely welcome I always received in St Peters and I always felt a special connection with it. I will continue to worship with you virtually and will never forget you.

When time alters, I will visit some of the Summer or Christmas Fayres etc you hold. We are in very challenging times, but God is with us in whatever situations we find ourselves in. The virtual service connects us all together and reminds us we are all supporting each other through words and prayers. We can remind ourselves that although we all cannot meet as we used to, WE are the Body of Christ and we can reveal Him to our neighbours, friends and anyone we come into contact with. If we show God's love in whatever way we can then they will meet Him through us and there is a chance that their lives will be changed for the better. I have written many poems this year, and I would like to share one with you and trust you will gain strength, hope, peace and love through reading it: -

FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY

The cross is a symbol of faith, may you always believe
That God is there for you, whatever may be
The anchor is a symbol of hope and strength to hold things firm
So keep on pressing onwards, and good times will always return
The heart is a symbol of charity - love from one to another
So give out lots of love, and treat everyone as a Sister or Brother
Faith, Hope and Charity - three things that bring peace
So always keep them in your life, and for you, happiness will never cease

God Bless, Maria Hambidge x

Happy Birthday

We want to wish Dave, and Shaun, a very Happy Birthday for yesterday. We do hope they each had a lovely day despite all the restrictions at present. Next year hopefully we will be able to sing Happy Birthday at Holy Trinity Church!

Notices

Theme for 20th Sunday after Trinity

This week's theme is The Christian Hope.

Christian Hope is a confidence that something will happen because we know it is part of God's plan for our life.

Paul in his letter to the Hebrews Chapter 11 verse 1: 'Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see'.

Christian hope should provide us with reassurance as well joy and peace from knowing the power of the Holy Spirit working in us.

Paul in his letter to the Romans Chapter 15 verse 13 said, 'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit'.

Lord God, your mercy never fails; you bring us new hope and new life; without you we are nothing. Give us your help in all we do and keep us always dependent on yourself, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Church Services

Please remember that 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.

You need to wear a face mask while in the church building. For clarification, a face shield cannot be used as a replacement for a mask- it can be used in addition to a mask **but not as a substitute for one.**

Please when you leave the church building move away from the church entrance so people can leave safely.

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. We would ask for your prayers during what is going to be a difficult and developing situation.

Remembrance Services on Sunday November 8th

We can confirm that there will **not** be an in-person service at **either** Church on Remembrance Sunday. We are encouraging people to mark the 2 minutes silence at home – perhaps standing outside your front door at 11am, where you may hear the church bells ringing either side of the 2 minutes silence. There will be an order of service emailed / sent out before the day (or available to pick up from Hartshill community centre from Mon 2nd – Fri 6th between 9.30am-2.30pm). We also we kindly ask that if you wish to go to either war memorial you avoid 11am on either the Sunday or on the 11th itself as we DO NOT wish to encouraging gatherings of lots of people at the same time that could put others at risk – hence suggesting that you commemorate the 2 mins silence on your doorstep. It is not a decision we have taken lightly or are pleased to have made – but we have a duty of care to you and the community and so feel this is the safest option for all.

Memorial Services on Sunday November 15th

Again, we can confirm that we are unable to hold our usual memorial services in either Church. However as with Remembrance Sunday we are making special arrangements to ensure that families and individuals will be able to remember their loved ones as part of the church families of Holy Trinity and St Peter's. Again we will be emailing and posting out service sheets that can be used on the day with the option of sending in names / messages that we will be using to remember your loved ones and for creating a communal memorial with candles that we will then photograph and make available for people to see on line (via our websites for example).

Christmas Fayre and Wreath Display (Holy Trinity)

Our usual Christmas Fayre and the display of wreaths in Church sadly cannot take place this year.

This is an important fund-raising event for the Church so we would ask that, if possible, you consider giving a one-off gift to the Church to cover what you might have spent at the Fayre.

We may instead be able to do a virtual display of wreaths (collection of photographs) perhaps? We will also be creating other resources to celebrate Christmas in a safe / distanced / at home / online way.

Harvest – Another Thank You

Following our Harvest collections, we have now also received a thank you from Ruth James at 'Aim for Change' – for the donation given from your donations at Hartshill.

Very many thanks for your kind donations towards the work of Aim for Change, we really appreciate your continued support

During the lockdown the charity continued with work in both countries. Many people in rural areas were suffering with sickness and starvation, due to the lack of work, no daily pay was received and food could not be purchased. The charity sent a great deal of funds so that food parcels could be given out to families who had nothing, these were given to families looking after orphans, our street project, Amazing Grace school and orphanage, individual people and the refugee camp in Pakistan.

Our yearly news letter will be sent out with our spare a meal and shopping list details at Christmas. It has certainly been a busy time, the toilet and shower block at Bakka School is now complete and we are in the process of constructing a dormitory for 100 children, also at Bakka.

I trust you are all keeping well

God bless, Ruth

Another Thank You

Thank you to all who supported the Macmillan collection that replaced the usual fund raising event hosted by the coffee club at Galley Common. Because of your generous donations we were able to send off £300 to this worthwhile cause. Thank you!

Foodbank - what we can continue to do

Due to the restrictions of the volunteers / space at the local foodbank warehouse we are **still not able** to continue with the bringing of items to Church or deliveries to the warehouse. This is at a time when the Food Bank is still under huge pressure.

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 – especially as we are not able to support them with our usual harvest collection of tinned/packet food.

Coventry Cathedral – Sunday services via telephone

We're acutely aware that not everyone has access to the internet and so have now started a service which means that you can listen to the latest recording of a Sunday service from Coventry Cathedral over the telephone. You can choose between listening to the whole service, hearing just the sermon or enjoying an anthem sung by our virtual choir. The number to dial is **02476 939700**. You pay just the cost of a local call – which may well be included in your phone package anyway.

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.

They are planning resources for the seasonal and special Sundays that are coming up in the next few months such as Remembrance and Christmas

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; Amie.

**We pray in particular this week for Sheila who is self-isolating as her
daughter Rachel, her grandson Josh and his girlfriend Olivia have all tested
positive for Covid 19. Rachel is feeling poorly with the virus. Please hold the
whole family including Rachel's husband Richard in your prayers.**

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

Those on our hearts at St Peter's

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

Family and Friends of those recently deceased

Peter John Burton and Lorna D.

