

HOLY TRINITY AND ST PETER'S



Sunday 27th September 2020

16th 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 are able to 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. Although we aren't yet actually sharing the bread and wine in a Communion service there is much more in the wider aspect of the Communion service than that part of the service, and we hope that, through following the series, we will all grow in unity and in the faith of God.

Our fourth theme is God's Word and Harvest. This is looking at how we read and take in God's word. We should allow God's word to sustain us each day so God's Harvest can be reaped.

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 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

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

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

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; 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 from 2 Timothy Chapter 3 verses 14 to 17

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God^[a] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew Chapter 4 verses 1 to 4:

Glory to you O Lord

Jesus is tested in the wilderness

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² After fasting for forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ The tempter came to him and said, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.' ⁴ Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."'

New International Version – UK

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

Talk ** Please either open the video attached to view the sermon or audio to hear it ** or read it below:

Let's pray:

Oh God, grant that hearing your word,
We may understand and be touched by your glory
Not with a short-lived enthusiasm
But with perseverance;
Not enticed by the false glamour and values of the world,
But bringing forth the fruit of the Spirit in our lives,
Thirty fold, sixty fold and a hundred fold. Amen

Based on the Parable of the Sower

The Word of God is the Bible; the telling of the story of God and his purposes and plans for God's people, written by a minimum of 36 different authors over a period of 1500 years and as Christians we believe that those authors were all guided by God's Holy Spirit in what they wrote, for " All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Tim. 3:16-17). The Bible originates with God. If you like, we could say it is written by God through human beings, and because God is its ultimate author it is also truth..... it can be nothing else because God is truth.

When I was a little girl going to Sunday school, I was often given the honour of reading the Bible reading in the main service. As such, I used to arrive at the empty church on a Saturday afternoon to be rehearsed by one of my Sunday school teachers in readiness for the 'big event of me reading the next day. Years later, as an adult I worshipped at Coventry Cathedral and those who were reading the Bible reading during the service were likewise rehearsed beforehand. As an adult I thoroughly disliked being rehearsed over and over again by someone who was an 'Actor' because it could feel like the service was perhaps staged than being genuine. However, the reality was the need for rehearsal was about ensuring the pace was correct for such a vast space where the spoken voice projected was often difficult even with sound equipment AND because it was an acknowledgement of the importance of Word of God being read and received within services.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer tells us we should read God's word "with personal interest and regard. Proper reading of Scripture is not a technical exercise that can be learned; it is something that grows or diminishes according to one's own spiritual frame of mind.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer – 'Life Together'

Mark Santer tells us: "Attention to the word of God is an integral part of every Eucharist celebration because the word of God is an essential element of Christian life. How do we listen to the scriptures in the liturgy? Not as a collection of individuals who happen to be in the same place at the same time thinking any old thoughts that come into our heads. It is as members of a community as members of the body of which Christ is the head, that we

come together to give our common attention to those words and events which have brought us together and have made us into this community.....we come then to attend and to give ourselves. The attention required of us is in fact a kind of sacrifice.

Mark Santer – ‘The Church’s Sacrifice’

Charles Miller tells us: “The public reading of Scripture is the critical first element in the proclamation of the word. It is designed not chiefly to instruct or inform, but to allure us into response to God’s loving kindness, in prayer and praise. For this hearing is meant to be the hearing of the heart. It is to be received into the depths of our being. The process of deep hearing begins as we actually hear the words spoken. The hearing however, is but the beginning of a hearing which much reach deeply within us. If those words are to engage us at our spiritual centre something more is needed.

Charles Miller – ‘Praying the Eucharist’

So, over and over again, we hear that the speaking and receiving of the Word of God is incredibly important, and for us as Christians, not simply in our reading of it, but also in acknowledgement that it is a key element of every Christian act of worship and it is never to be taken lightly. That’s why, as preachers, it’s important that we pray before and after we’ve opened up the meaning of the scriptures we read each week.

And the word of God actually does something to us: The Bible tells us that God’s word has power, it affirms our faith and in what it teaches us about God provides our freedom:

Firstly, it’s power: The prophet Isaiah tells us “It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.” *Isaiah 55:11(NLT)*. God works through his word, so it is really important for us to have a good knowledge and understanding of what scripture says. In the book of Hebrews we read “For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.” *Hebrews 4:12 (NLT)*. In other words, the word of God has the power to penetrate us completely and bare our very souls up to the light of God and with it, it brings fervent life and joy, such that we might never have otherwise known that changes us forever once we meet with God through his word.

Secondly, the word of God affirms our faith: “So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.” *Romans 10:17 (NRSV)*.

Thirdly, the word of God gifts us freedom through and in Christ: “Jesus said to the people who believed in him, “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” *John 8:31-32 (NLT)*. The Bible teaches us all we need to know about God’s love for humankind and his willingness to gift

us his grace through his son Jesus Christ, who lived and died and rose again so that we can have a life worthy of relationship with God our creator and redeemer.

Ultimately, the word of God is our very sustenance: the maintenance of life, of our existence, our source of strength and nourishment. Let's think about that for a moment in the context of Jesus himself: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God." *John 1:1 (NRSV)*..... "In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth.....(etc.).... Then God spoke" *1 Genesis 1-3a (NRSV)*..... God Word was in God's loving creation of all things..... "And the Word became flesh and lived among us." *John 1:14a (NRSV)*.

Our Gospel reading today tells us that in Jesus' encounter with the devil in the wilderness Jesus says "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." He is quoting from ancient scriptures, Deuteronomy 8:3 where God is reminding Moses about God's mercies to his people in the wilderness; "(God) humbled you by letting you hunger, then by feeding you with manna, with which neither you nor your ancestors were acquainted, in order to make you understand that one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." We exist because God says, we have because God says. Apart from God there is nothing, we have nothing. It is God who rules, God is King and God decides – 'he gives and takes away.' *Job 1:21*. So at this harvest time, it is particularly good to reflect, in this knowledge, on all the goodness that God's creation gifts to each of us and to celebrate together as his beloved children in Communion his perfect gift of himself through Jesus Christ.

God speaks and it happens. Jesus speaks and things happen. Jesus and his words were powerful and had influence over creation (remember the disciples in the boat in the storm?) and God's word is intentionally concerned to teach us about Jesus, so that we can begin to understand the heart of God.

Without God's love, and Jesus, and what he has done for us on the cross, we cannot have salvation and a life with Christ. The apostle Paul in trying to explain to the Athenians who their 'unknown God' is, told them "God himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things" *Acts 17:25 (NRSV)* "in him (Jesus) we live and move and have our being." *Acts 17:28 (NRSV)*. God's Word, both in the person of Jesus and in written form is integral to all that we are as children of God.

God's Word is and of God. God's Word is the truth. God's Word is power; power that cuts us to the core of our being, the very depths of our soul bringing life in abundance, a life that is found through and in Christ, with all its good and its bad, but a life that is surely worth living all the same.

Let's not ever take the word of God lightly.

I'd like to end with a beautiful prayer that is an example of how we might prepare ourselves in the future to respond to God's Word:

Living Word, help me so to attend with my mind and hear with my heart, that all vain wandering and self-pre-occupied thoughts may drop away. Search, nourish and quicken me through these words, that my life may speak of the Father. 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

Father in heaven in the wake of a possible second wave of coronavirus we pray to you Lord. We ask that you support and all of the frontline workers who are exposed to an increased risk and yet provide care to all those who need it. We also ask that all those who are involved in testing can receive your Love as they work in very difficult and stressful situations.

Lord in your Mercy **Hear our Prayer**

We pray for your church Lord, and all those who serve you. Guide and mentor all of the clergy who are leading the church through an ever changing covid outbreak and still delivering services in church and at home in very challenging circumstances. We consider all

those individuals who provide support in whatever function they perform and ask that you also guide and mentor them in their roles so that your Church remains a place of worship and faith for all.

Lord in your Mercy **Hear our Prayer**

Heavenly Father we bring to mind all those individuals and their families who are dealing with Mental illness in whatever form it takes. Help them to feel your healing Love and provide a sense of hope and strength to face each day as it arrives. We pray for this God as many people who are already suffering will more anxious as covid cases increase and the availability of services will come under increased pressure and they will struggle to access the help they require

Lord in your Mercy **Hear our Prayer**

Thinking of our reading today where Jesus was alone in the desert, we pray for all those who are living alone or feel isolated and dejected. We ask Lord that those of us who know people in this situation make an effort to try and contact by what ever means is possible. We pray for your comforting Love to be given to them, and for those who are reaching out to you Lord in desperation that their prayers of hope can be answered.

Lord in your Mercy **Hear our Prayer**

Heavenly Father we pray for all those who are ill in the parish or are carers for people who have long term illnesses. We ask you to bless them and comfort them and bring the healing light of the Holy spirit so that they may gain some relief if they are in pain and discomfort. We bring to mind the following people who currently ill - 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 others known to us. Also for care firms who are under severe pressure to protect both staff and residents

Lord in your Mercy **Hear our Prayer**

Heavenly Father take into your kingdom all those who have left this earth. Give your comforting Love to all those family members and friends who are grieving the loss of someone. We remember those who have recently passed away in the parish in particular and pray for the family and friends of Robert Sugrue and Peter Southall

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

Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law: grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our neighbours as ourselves; 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

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

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.

Common Worship: Times and Seasons, material from which is included in this service, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2006

Notices

There are a number of new notices today so please do look at them

Theme for 16th Sunday after Trinity

This week's theme is The Proof of Faith.

God has given us a lot of good evidential reasons to believe that He does exist, and Jesus is who He says he is.

There is a lot of historical evidence that Jesus did live some 2000 years ago. Even some non-Christian writers have made reference to Jesus, the good he did and his dying on the cross.

Acts 1 verses 3 and 4 talks of Jesus appearing and talking to the disciples after his resurrection:

'After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God'.

After Jesus returned to his Father the disciples established the early church which grew at a rapid rate despite great persecution.

We can see God at work in our lives through the many blessings he gives us and the love we receive from other people.

**Lord, you command us to hear your word and obey it. Help us to put our faith into action, that your kingdom and your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Amen**

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/prayer-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.

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

Harvest

Sadly, there will not be a harvest collection of tinned/packet food this year. We will not be able to do an auction of fresh produce either. Instead we will be taking a cash collection for those who would like to give in that way. If in church - there will be an envelope for your gifts (Hartshill's gifts will be split between the local food bank and Aim for Change which is a charity we have supported in the past), Galley Common's gifts will all go to the local food bank. If you are not physically in the building – see below for details of how you can support online or in different ways.

Thank you so much to all those who have given in response to Harvest. Although this is the last week for this notice there is still time to give.

St Peter's Fund Raising for Macmillan

Around this time of year the Coffee Club would host their annual fund raising event for Macmillan. Obviously such an event is not possible this year but we would still like to send a donation. If you would like to contribute to this – and you are coming into St Peter's church – please place it in the fund-raising box. If you are not coming into the building at the moment – then please place it in an envelope and post it through Sylv Page's door – marked Macmillan. Macmillan definitely needs your help as it announced this week that it is facing a large shortfall in funding and is making valuable people redundant. Holy Trinity members may wish to consider if they can make a one-off donation. Thank you.

2020 Annual Parochial Church Meetings for both Holy Trinity and St Peter's

Both of these meetings will take place on Sunday October 25th.

Holy Trinity's will take place from 9.15am to 9.40am and booking is required if you wish to attend.

St Peter's will take place straight after the Sunday service.

For both Churches, elections will be held to the posts of Churchwardens, PCC members and Deanery Synod representatives. Lists will also be taken for sidespeople (although this role is on hold and they are not elected positions....but will be 'noted' in the meeting.)

Please prayerfully consider if God is calling you to serve in any of these roles. If so, please contact Heather or in her absence Sharon who will be delighted to hear from you and will run through the nature of the roles and the procedure for nomination.

Remembrance Services on Sunday November 8th

Sadly, due to very difficult practical issues to remain Covid 19 secure for the nature of these services, it is very unlikely that there will be a physical 'all gathered together' kind of service inside either church building on this Sunday. However, we are planning special arrangements to commemorate Remembrance Sunday on November 8th and more details will be forthcoming on those.

Memorial Services on Sunday November 15th

Again, for practical reasons it seems very unlikely that we will be able to hold our usual memorial services in either Church. However as with Remembrance 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. More details will be made available.

Christmas Fayre and Wreath Display (Holy Trinity)

The PCC decided at their meeting last Monday that it was not going to be feasible to hold our usual Christmas Fayre or the display of wreaths in Church this year. This is an important fund-raising event for the Church so we would ask that, if possible, you consider give 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 photo's) perhaps? We will also be creating other resources to celebrate Christmas in a safe / distanced / at home / on line way.

Food Bank

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.

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.

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

Robert Sugrue and Peter Southall

