

HOLY TRINITY AND ST PETER'S



Sunday 6th September 2020

13th 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

Today we are starting a sermon series on "Communion" by 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 a 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 first theme is Welcome which is hopefully the first thing you receive when you arrive at Church and at the start of our services (also see the first four words on the front page of the virtual service)

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 Holy Trinity and at St Peter's 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.

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

'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

Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, 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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 10 verses 40 to 42:

Glory to you O Lord

⁴⁰ 'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹ Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. ⁴² And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.'

New International Version – UK

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

Hear our second reading from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 25 verses 31 to 46

Glory to you O Lord

The sheep and the goats

³¹ 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

³⁴ 'Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was ill and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

³⁷ 'Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you ill or in prison and go to visit you?"

⁴⁰ 'The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

⁴¹ 'Then he will say to those on his left, "Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was ill and in prison and you did not look after me."

⁴⁴ 'They also will answer, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or ill or in prison, and did not help you?"

⁴⁵ 'He will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me."

⁴⁶ 'Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.'

New International Version - UK

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

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

I would like to start with a short prayer.

May the words of my mouth and the thoughts and meditations of all our hearts and minds be always pleasing in your sight, O God, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

First of all I would like to use some words from the booklet accompanying our sermon series as written and distributed by Heather on behalf of the preaching team.

“Welcome to our first sermon series in our Covid limited world. Even though some of us are physically worshipping together back in our church buildings and others remain [at home] in our on-line or ‘services posted out community’ - we are painfully aware that we are not yet as complete or united as a church family in the way that we once were. We miss you...and pray for the day when we can be literally all together again in the real and physical world.

Communion, by its very definition, is something that is shared in the context of unity and fellowship. Never before has this service been missed as much as a communal experience....as we miss worshipping and sharing alongside one another in person.... as we remember Jesus’ words at the last supper...whenever you eat and drink...remember me.

Communion services, however, contain so much more than the bread and wine which we will explore together during this series of readings, prayers, reflections and questions. How do we prepare our hearts for worship? Confession and absolution, God’s word, Sharing the peace, Blessings, and The great commission. These and other things will be looked at each week. ”

And so we start with The Welcome.

In July this year my daughter Amie was due to get married. The wedding however, for obvious reasons, was postponed and is re-scheduled for April next year. I must say I am very proud at the way Amie and her Fiancé, Lewis, have handled the situation they find themselves in, showing a level of maturity and calm beyond their years. Of course the extra time gives me the opportunity to compose a fantastic ‘Father of the Bride’ speech. As part of the speech preparation (yes I have started already) I have been looking at the etiquette for wedding speeches.

Who does what when etc. after all I don’t want to steal the duties of the groom or the best man and so am determined to stick to my official responsibilities as the Father of the Bride. I have discovered that apart from recounting a few amusing stories from the brides past (that shouldn’t be too difficult) I have only one main formal responsibility and that is to welcome everyone. On the face of it, that is not going to take very long, which is good as no one likes long speeches (or dare I say long sermons). But what is important is that I do it right. How does the saying

go? You only get one chance to make a first impression. And while I will obviously know many of the people at the reception I will be meeting many other guests for the first time.

And so a good welcome is important - as it is as part of a Communion Service.

The Key Question on our Sermon Series booklet says: How do we welcome people into church? And I would ask us all to look into the mirror and ask ourselves that question. How do we welcome people into church? Do we greet people with a genuine warm smile - difficult while wearing a face mask I know - but you can smile with your eyes! Or do we look them up and down and frown at the unkempt hair style and shoes that need a clean maybe? Do we say to ourselves, welcoming people is the responsibility of the welcome team, it's nothing to do with me? But what if the person walking into church was a disciple of Jesus, one of the twelve chosen!

Matthew Chapter 10 verse 40 says "Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me."

So we should look to see God in the people we welcome into church. Listen to their reasons for being here, the challenges they are facing, the trials in their lives. At the very least be courteous and polite to them and welcome them with genuine warmth.

I am reminded of the story of the Bishop who was on his way back from his annual summer holiday one year and dropped into a small country church to attend the service on Sunday morning. He had only been seated a few minutes when the church warden tapped him on the shoulder (not knowing he was a bishop) and said "Excuse me sir, but that is where Ethel usually sits, would you mind moving to another pew."

Clearly, welcoming people into church, whether they are regulars or total strangers, is important.

If we ourselves are welcomed here by God as part of the preparation for worship and receiving the body and blood of his Son then the least we can do is make others feel welcome so that they can be a part of the communion service too. As it says in the liturgy - "We are all one body because we all share in one bread."

In our other reading referred to today Matthew says in Chapter 25 - v34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since

the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

Do we realise that whatever we do (or don't do) for the stranger or friend is a direct parallel to how we treat God. And difficult though it may be sometimes we should always strive to see all people as God's children.

As the leaflet accompanying our sermon series shows there are many aspects to a Communion service; the intended outcome being that we are all united in God's love and that when we leave we feel a sense of belonging - belonging to one another and belonging to God. But if the Welcome is poor or non-existent, if it all goes wrong before we've even taken our place and begun then what follows can all be for nothing and can even divide people or drive them away. So as we prepare to re-introduce Holy Communion in the coming weeks, take some time to think about how we welcome one another. Be kind, be caring, look for God in others and see God's children all around. And remember it is how we treat others that reflects on how we treat God himself.

I would like to finish with the prayer by Thomas Ken featured in the sermon series booklet.

O God, make the door of this house wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship; Narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and strife. Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling block to children, nor to straying feet, but rugged and strong enough to turn back the tempter's power. God make the door of this house the gateway to thy divine kingdom. 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

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to our Heavenly Father.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for Your church throughout the world, asking for your blessing, guidance and inspiration for all who go out in your name to love and serve others.

Be with our Bishops, Christopher and John, and all ministers in Christian churches and communities everywhere. At Holy Trinity, Hartshill and St Peter's Galley Common we ask you to give strength and courage to Heather and Sharon in their ministries and ask you to bless and guide all our church wardens, lay readers and those who have responsibilities however large or small. We thank you for all who serve you so faithfully and ask that you will enable us to remain in strong fellowship as brothers and sisters in Christ even though we are not able to gather together.

Be with the Kinderman family and all youth and aid workers who work with youngsters, help them to serve in new ways in order to overcome the loneliness and isolation some young people are feeling at this time.

Lord in Your Mercy

Hear our Prayer

We pray for our local communities especially for the safety and welfare in the schools as the children have been returning. Be with those who have businesses locally and with those who are working less or have lost their employment. Lord help us all to be good neighbours, supporting one another and offering friendship to all.

Lord in your Mercy

Hear our Prayer

We remember places in the world, where there are difficulties and pray that peace will prevail in areas where there is trouble or war. We particularly pray for Belarus at this time.

For those areas that have encountered disasters recently we pray that you will be with all who are having to rebuild their lives, we remember refugees, and ask you to bring comfort and hope that their present difficulties will soon come to an end.

We pray for nature, especially where there are problems with pollution, help us to see that some of our actions are having a very bad effect and help us to be kinder to our planet. We thank you for the beauty and wonder of our world, may we make it a safer and cleaner place.

Lord in your Mercy

Hear our Prayer

We remember those who are sick or disabled. May they feel your presence and your healing touch upon them.

We especially remember 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 silence we remember those known personally to us.... We also remember those who are elderly, housebound, in care homes, or in hospital. And we ask you to give strength to all care home workers and hospital staff as they continue to work hard to care for and protect those who are most vulnerable.

We pray for the work of our local food banks and for the families that currently make use of them.

We ask you to protect all frontline workers and those who live in areas that are experiencing higher numbers of COVID 19.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Lord Jesus, be near to those who have lost someone they love. May they draw on you for comfort and receive your peace at this sad time.

We especially remember the family and friends of baby Rueben Daniel Baddeley whose funeral took place on Wednesday.

Lord in your Mercy

Hear our Prayer

Lord, we praise you for the power, the joy and the peace that you bring and ask you to help us to extend love and forgiveness to everyone we encounter.

It is so wonderful to have you in our lives. We thank you for the reassurance of your promises and we thank you for surrounding us with your peace and goodness. As we trust in you, guide us to those who need you in their lives as well, and help us to bring them to you to receive your grace and mercy.

May our lives and our worship with the power of your Holy Spirit work powerfully in this world so that we can bring as many souls as possible with us into your glorious heavenly kingdom.

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, 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 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 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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Notices

Theme for 13th Sunday after Trinity

This week's theme is The Family. Traditionally we think of families as parents with children but we also refer to the Christian Family which can contain the traditional family as well as other individuals. We often refer to the Christian Family at Holy Trinity or St Peter's and in the wider world. The Christian Family is made up of people who believe in Jesus Christ and are committed to the principles and values Jesus gave us by witnessing to the love, power and forgiveness of God. We all have a role to play in the Christian Family according to the gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit that lives within us. There is a direct link to this Sunday's theme of welcome in the communion service as all are welcome in the Christian Family and are equal in God's eyes.

Lord God, you came as a neighbour to mankind in Jesus. Give us eyes to see you in other people and make us instruments of your care to all, that everyone may become true neighbours in Jesus Christ our Lord. 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/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 stil 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 on line or in different ways.

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

Baby Rueben Daniel Baddeley

