

Traditional Home service Sunday 26th July Trinity 7

OPENING PRAYER

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; 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.

PRAYER OF PENITENCE

O King enthroned on high,
filling the earth with your glory:
holy is your name,
Lord God almighty.
In our sinfulness we cry to you
to take our guilt away,
and to cleanse our lips to speak your
word, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PRAISE

Let everything be said and done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through Jesus Christ. Sing psalms, hymns and sacred songs:

Let us sing to God with thankful hearts.
Open our lips, Lord:
and we shall praise your name.

HYMN 1 (see page 2)

READINGS - Matthew 7:1-8

TALK (see page 3)

CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Spend some time praying for our nation, our community and our families.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 for ever. Amen.

HYMN 2 (see page 2)

CONCLUSION

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 you and remain with you always.

Amen.

HYMNS TO USE

Jan Struther.

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LORD OF ALL HOPEFULNESS,

Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like,
No cares could destroy;
Be there at our waking,
And give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord,
At the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled
At the plane and the lathe;
Be there at our labours,
And give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord,
At the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome,
Your arms to embrace;
Be there at our homing,
And give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord,
At the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment,
Whose presence is balm;
Be there at our sleeping,
And give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord,
At the end of the day.

234 Walter Chalmers Smith.

IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessèd, most glorious, the Ancient
of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we
praise.

Unresting, unhaunting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in
might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring
above
Thy clouds which are fountains of
goodness and love.

To all life Thou givest, to both great and
small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on
the tree,
And wither and perish; but naught
changeth Thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their
sight;
All laud we would render: O help us to
see
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth
Thee.

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessèd, most glorious, the Ancient
of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we
praise.

Sermon notes - 26th July

Matthew Beeby

Matthew 7:1-8

Good morning everyone. Welcome to this morning's service for St. Marys Wollaston, thank you all for tuning in.

I last spoke at the beginning of May, lockdown had been going for about a month, and apart from a dedicated group of key workers, we were all at home, enjoying some wonderful weather.

I had mentioned that back in January I had spoken about worry, which wasn't then a big part of my life, but since lockdown I was leaning heavily on God's words on worry, and in particular what is said at the end of the Sermon on the Mount. This is essentially that excessive worry represents a lack of trust in God, and to counteract this we must stop focusing on worldly things, and live day by day within our Father's grace.

Back at the beginning of lockdown our choices were limited for the majority of us who are not key workers, we were told to stay at home, with some exercise each day, and the only real contact we could have were with those who we shared accommodation with. We all very quickly understood what was required of us, and we just got on with it, knowing that in our own small way we were helping with the big picture.

Now the situation is very much more complicated. Lockdown has eased, most shops are open, service industries are starting up, we can go and have a meal out and a drink too. I don't know what your experience is, but when our movements were much more restricted it seemed easier to focus on the situations of others who were fairing less well and were in need of help.

Now we are less restricted it seems to me the focus has shifted more to what we can now do ourselves and how we have to operate whilst doing them. It seems that they are a lot of people out there judging others as to how they believe the 'new' rules should be adhered to.

It seems there are some folk who believe they are immune to the virus, greeting people with warm handshakes and

embracing friends. Others are very much the opposite and despite the lifting of the lockdown, they have no intention of leaving their homes. We have gone from being locked down with no choices to having more freedom but with messages that seem confusing, with folk interpreting them in all sorts of different ways

And if we couple lockdown together with all the different pressures and anxieties that a lot of us have felt during this time, it can be difficult to find God at exactly the moments we need Him.

It's not because He's not there, its because at these most crucial of times we sometimes forget to connect with Him.

But I guess that's the problem, in common with a lot of people, I know very little about this, but perhaps judge in a way that makes it seem that I know a lot. So once again, similar to my last message, what is God telling me about this time?

Well the irony of this is directly after Jesus talks about worry in the Sermon on the Mount, his next subject is about judging others. So in this lockdown it seems I'm working my way through the most famous sermon of all.

Jesus starts with, 'Refuse to be a critic full of bias towards others and judgement will not be passed on you'.

It appears too, that the Lord wishes to double down on this for me. The Homegroup I'm involved in is currently studying the book of James, in our last study we looked at chapter 2 verses 1-13. In the last verse of that piece, which is really about judgement throughout, it says, 'And remember that judgement is merciless for the one who judges others without mercy. So by showing mercy you take dominion over judgement.'

These quotes are from the version of the Bible known as the passion Translation. Now, you may have your own thoughts on this, but for me when something comes up in the Bible, two very separate readings in different books but both are about the very same thing, that is not a coincidence. If something like that happens to you in very quick time, then it's very likely that God is

speaking directly to you.

I remember a time back, both in my youth and as a young adult, in fact even later, I was a very judgemental individual. I know since I gave my life to Jesus, back in 2007, it's a part of my character that has improved no end, all with the Lord's help. But that doesn't mean that I'm immune from this sin, and when something happens like this, where the subject matter has come up twice in quick succession, I can be sure I'm being told there is more work to do.

Judgement is a very worldly thing, you really don't have to do too much more than open a newspaper, turn the TV on, there are lots of folk commenting on another individuals choices or their behaviour. These days it just seems the thing to do, and it's very easy for us to get caught up in it all.

But, we are called to a higher standard, we are continuously reminded about the log in our own eye, before we deal with the speck in another's. It is similar to forgiveness, if we expect to be forgiven, we must forgive others, it's crystal clear in the Lord's prayer. Likewise, we will be judged if we judge others, and we will not only be judged but judged mercilessly.

What I love about these lessons we learn from Jesus though is that the answer is not too far away. As soon as Jesus finishes His piece about judgement, which concludes with not throwing dogs things that are sacred, or giving the pigs your pearls, he is leading us done the correct path.

In Matthew 7:7 Jesus instructs to ask, seek and knock. 'Ask and it will be given unto you, seek and you shall find, knock and the door will be opened unto you.'

And in verse 8, 'For everyone who asks receives, the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.'

When we look at these two verses, it's very easy for us to think they apply to new Christians or to those who are trying to find God for the first time, they're asking, seeking, they're knocking. Indeed it is very relevant to them, but we need to look much deeper into these two verses. They are in

fact both a recipe for our whole Christian life. It doesn't matter where you are in your journey, you may be a Christian with 50 plus years of experience, you may be relatively new to your faith, wherever we are we can be assured these two verses are for us. Jesus' intention is that as we grow in our faith, we should learn to become more like Him, and of course this is impossible without us being in a continuous state of mind that is allowing us to ask, seek and knock, to place ourselves in His presence, for whatever He has for us.

So, to sum up. Recently the Lord is working with me on judgement, and it's clear that I must be asking, seeking and knocking for what He really wants to say to me.

As you are watching this online service today, what recently has the Lord been saying to you?

And, as we have established, ask Him for what you need to receive, seek him for what you need to find, knock for the door to be opened.

You may just get what you want, but be assured you will get what you need.

Amen.