

Traditional Home Service

Sunday 23rd August Trinity 11

OPENING PRAYER

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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

Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAISE

Let everything be said and one 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

Psalm 124
Romans 12.1-8
Matthew 16.13-20

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

Let's pray for:

- The universal Church
- Bishops, synods and all who lead the Church
- The leaders of the nations
- The natural world and the resources of the earth
- All who are in any kind of need

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 of power, may the boldness of your Spirit transform us, may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us, may the gifts of your Spirit equip us to serve and worship you now and always. Amen.

HYMNS TO USE:

All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice:
him serve with mirth,¹ his praise
forth tell,
come ye before him and rejoice.

The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make:
we are his folk, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise,
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his Name
always,
for it is seemly so to do.

For why? the Lord our God is good,
his mercy is for ever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
the God whom heaven and earth
adore,
from men and from the angel host
be praise and glory evermore.

Immortal, Invincible, God holy wise.

In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, Almighty,
victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, 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 nought 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 splendor of light hideth Thee.

SERMON - Matthew 16:13-20

Your friend, a member of your family, even an acquaintance, knows you are a Christian and says to you - you talk about Jesus, you live your life around Jesus, but who is Jesus?! What would your answer be? Maybe spend a moment right now deciding what are the top 4/5 things you would want to say to answer their question?

In v15 Jesus asks Simon Peter exactly that question - who do you say I am, never mind what anyone else says, who do you say I am? Simon Peter's response was 'you are the Messiah, the son of the living God'. Jesus makes it clear that this had been revealed to Simon Peter entirely supernaturally. Of course we can't know exactly what Peter understood by this but he would have certainly known the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah coming, and so images of a deliverer and leader would have been uppermost in his mind. So it's likely that Peter, and the others although Peter is the voice in this particular passage, that they understood Jesus the Messiah to be the true king, the one that Israel had been waiting for, the one who the psalms and prophets spoke of. Calling him the 'son of the living God' was a biblical phrase in which the king stood in particular relation to God, adopted to be His special representative. So they wouldn't at this point have understood him as the second person in the trinity, that he was divine. It was only following Jesus's death and resurrection that those first disciples come to understand much more of who the Messiah really is.

Furthermore, as Peter begins to recognise who Jesus is and that this meant being part of a prophetic movement which would challenge the earthly authorities, so Jesus had a prophetic word for him. The name Peter means 'rock' and Jesus essentially says, if you Peter are prepared to acknowledge who I am and all that that

is going to mean, because of your allegiance, because of your faith, then I am prepared to say that you will be the foundation of my new building, the church. Jesus wasn't going to literally build a building (the temple had been so important for Jews, being the place where God resided) but was now instead building a new community consisting of all those who confess that Jesus is the Messiah. And it is through them that the living God will put the world to rights, bringing heaven and earth into the new state of justice and peace.

As those who live this side of the resurrection we now know Jesus the Messiah as:

- Saviour
- Alive and with us by the power of the Holy Spirit
- The one who has won forgiveness for us, making a way for us to have an eternal relationship with the Father
- The one who brings transformation, who has the power to transform and change lives
- The one who is Lord
- The one who chooses us/calls us
- The one who heals
- The one who loves us perfectly

And it is through us, this Jesus community - the church - that God chooses to work, chooses to reveal His kingdom, His justice, His peace, His purposes. As we live with this virus, how is God using you, a precious part of His church, His new community, to help establish His purposes? It may be through showing His love with phone calls, door step visits to people, praying for people prophetically, practical support, speaking against the injustices we see on the news, and so much more.....