

**Traditional Home service  
Sunday 16th June  
Third Sunday after Trinity**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Almighty God,  
you have broken the tyranny of sin  
and have sent the Spirit of your Son into  
our hearts  
whereby we call you Father:  
give us grace to dedicate our freedom to  
your service,  
that we and all creation may be brought  
to the glorious liberty of the children of  
God;  
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**

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.*

**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** (*Come, Ye Thankful People,  
Come*)

**READINGS** - 1 Samuel 15.34 - 16.13  
2 Corinthians 5.6-10 14-17  
Mark 4.26-34

**TALK**

**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 to-  
day 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** (*My Jesus, My Saviour*)

**CONCLUSION**

O God, whose beauty is beyond our  
imagining and whose power we cannot  
comprehend:

show us your glory as far as we can  
grasp it, and shield us from knowing  
more than we can bear  
until we may look upon you without fear;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**Amen.**

## Hymns to use

### **Come, Ye Thankful People, Come**

Come, ye thankful people, come,  
raise the song of harvest home;  
all is safely gathered in,  
ere the winter storms begin.  
God our Maker doth provide  
for our wants to be supplied;  
come to God's own temple, come,  
raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field,  
fruit as praise to God we yield;  
wheat and tares together sown  
are to joy or sorrow grown;  
first the blade and then the ear,  
then the full corn shall appear;  
Lord of harvest, grant that we  
wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come,  
and shall take the harvest home;  
from the field shall in that day  
all offenses purge away,  
giving angels charge at last  
in the fire the tares to cast;  
but the fruitful ears to store  
in the garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come,  
bring thy final harvest home;  
gather thou thy people in,  
free from sorrow, free from sin,  
there, forever purified,  
in thy presence to abide;  
come, with all thine angels, come,  
raise the glorious harvest home.

### **My Jesus, My Saviour**

My Jesus, my Saviour  
Lord there is none like you  
All of my days, I want to praise  
The wonders of your mighty love

My comfort, my shelter  
Tower of refuge and strength  
Let every breath, all that I am  
Never cease to worship You

Shout to the Lord, all the earth let us sing  
Power and majesty, praise to the King  
Mountains bow down and the seas will  
roar At the sound of Your name

I sing for joy at the work of your hands  
Forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand  
Nothing compares to the promise I have  
In YOU

My Jesus, my Savior  
Lord there is none like You  
All of my days, I want to praise  
The wonders of your mighty love

My Comfort, My Shelter  
Tower of refuge and strength  
Let every breath, all that I am  
Never cease to worship You

Shout to the Lord, all the earth let us sing  
Power and majesty, praise to the King  
Mountains bow down and the seas will  
roar At the sound of your name

I sing for joy at the work of Your hands  
Forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand  
Nothing compares to the promise I have  
In YOU

Sermon - Adrian Morton  
2 Cor 5,6-17

*"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due to him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad."*

How does that make us feel this morning?

Its a sobering thought isn't it.  
That all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ.

I would imagine that most of us want God to be a God of justice.  
I certainly do.

When I look at the heinous crimes committed across the world.  
The severe injustices, I want there to be a reckoning.

Whatever your political views are, or your view on world events.  
It is clear that there are many awful things happening to innocent and vulnerable people.

So I want justice to be served.

People will say how unfair it is when bad people get away with awful crimes.

I console myself with believing that nobody gets away with it.  
Everyone will have to give an account of their lives.

So whilst most of us are fairly ok and comfortable with God being a just God who will exercise judgment.

It can be less comfortable thinking that we ourselves might come under judgment!

But this is what our reading from 2 Corinthians says.

Firstly, this isn't about our salvation.

As if salvation might depend on our good works.

Paul has made clear in Romans that no human being shall be justified in God's sight on the basis of what he or she has done.

(Rom 3:23) *For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.*

Our salvation doesn't depend at all on our good works.  
It depends entirely on whether we accept Jesus.

Romans 10:9 says: *"if you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."*

Jesus is both the judge and the criteria of judgement when it comes to salvation.

There are many people in our neighbourhoods, villages, towns and cities who like to believe, if God is there and salvation is at stake..

Then all that is required is that they outweigh anything bad they do with the amount of good they.

That is foolish and mistaken thinking...

Sadly there are going to be many surprised and devastated people when they come face to face with Jesus.

So this isn't about our salvation.

The judgement spoken of here, is about heavenly rewards for the things done while in the body.

While being part of a Christian community.

Its about being faithful to what gifts the Lord has given us.

In Matthews Gospel, Jesus gave a parable about Talents:

It is a story of a master, who summons his slaves.  
He entrusts his property to them.  
He gives one 5 talents, one 2 talents and one 1 talent.

A talent was equivalent to 15yrs of a labourers wage.

As the parable plays out.

The one who received 5 talents makes another 5.  
The one who receives 2 talents makes another 2.

And both these receive the same accolade.

*'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'*

Or enter into the joy of the master which is better...

The slave who buries and hides his one talent fairs less well.

Jesus was speaking into Israel's relationship with God.

He was making the point, that Israel had hidden what God had given them.

The law, the temple, their special relationship with God was to have been a light to the world.

But they hadn't used it well.

But there is an application for us today...

Earlier in Matthew 21 Jesus had said:

*I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.*

He is looking for a people who will produce the fruit of his kingdom.

He is looking for a people who will use the talents that have been given them to bring return for the kingdom.

I believe He has give us all talents that can be used to bring his kingdom in.

Our own word 'talent', that word is derived from this word 'talent'.

It meant a measure of money in the ancient world.,

But it is a word now used to describe our gifts and abilities.

How are we using the gifts and abilities we have been given to bring return for the kingdom.

That's what we'll have to account for.

When I was first a Christian I listened to an album by Larry Norman.

Who was an ageing long haired Christian rocker.

The album was entitled 'Only Visiting this planet'.

The truth behind the title being that as Christians our true home is a heavenly one.

That is where we are heading.

And it is a recognition that despite the trials and tribulations we have while on earth.

There is a glorious future awaiting us.

Paul has mentioned how we groan and are burdened whilst in our earthly body.

Now I'm sure many of us can relate to that! Many of us will be aware of how our earthly bodies are wearing out.

Things don't work as they used to. Our bodies are subject to decay.

Involuntary groans when I pick things up... Others of us have more serious concerns

But its not that Paul wants release from his earthly body.

But rather he longs for a bodily existence that is permanent and heavenly.

His hope is the redemption of his body. It is the transformation of his body to be like Christ's glorious body. As shown by Christ's resurrection.

That is the root of His hope.

And in our reading, Paul says in light of our future glory.

He says: "we make it our goal to please him." To please God.

It's getting our hearts right.

It's making sure we forgive those who have hurt us.

It's ensuring we don't live with any bitterness. It's not allowing riches and possessions to draw us away from His kingdom purposes.

And its being faithful with the gifts and abilities He has given us.

And when we come to the judgement seat of Christ.

He will say, well done good and faithful servant.

Here is your rewards.

Amen!