

Swaythling Parish

Sunday 16 August 2020

Tenth Sunday after Trinity

Welcome

Below is a service sheet for you to use for this week's Sunday morning service. This is based on a service that is being broadcast as a video on Sunday morning through the YouTube channel. It will be available on YouTube from 10am on Sunday, (and afterwards). Please search for "Swaythling Parish" on YouTube to find and view it (viewable from any smartphone, tablet or computer, and also from most "smart" TVs). If do not have access to watch the YouTube video, we hope you will be able to use these words and join us too in spirit.

Introduction from Rev Peter Dockree

Welcome to this morning's service. Today some of us will be gathering in church in person for the first time in many weeks while many of us will continue to join in online, and still others using the printed service sheets we have posted to them. Whatever way you are worshipping with us today, you are welcome, and I pray that you feel part of our church family of Swaythling Parish.

Greeting

Grace mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

And also with you.

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Prayer of Thanks

Let us take a moment. A moment to recognise the good things, the things to be thankful for.

Thank you Lord for all you have given us – for the people that brighten our days, the love that you surround us with, your presence with us and the beauty in the creation around us. Help us in all the joys and sorrows of our week to find causes to be thankful.

Amen

Hymn: Let all the world in every corner sing

1 Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
"My God and King!"
The heav'ns are not too high,
God's praise may thither fly;
the earth is not too low,
God's praises there may grow.
Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
"My God and King!"

2 Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
"My God and King!"
The church with psalms must shout:
no door can keep them out.
But, more than all, the heart
must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
"My God and King!"

G Herbert (1633)

Confession

Sometimes the things that many assume are the priorities of God with regard to sin, bear little resemblance to the wide range of priorities in the bible. A few weeks ago we used a prayer for confession which covered ground that perhaps prayers of confession do not always do. We are going to use that prayer again today.

From a need for order and control,
From the need to insulate ourselves from doubt,
From the need to appear invulnerable,
From that need for security which closes our minds:
Good Lord, release us.
From intolerance of others' views,
From fear of others' beliefs,
From fear and rejection of those who are not like us,
From letting our faith hinder our expression of humanity:

Good Lord, release us.

From scepticism of reason and argument,
From disregard of scientific exploration,
From fear of questions and discoveries,
From fear of research and experiment:

Good Lord, release us.

From fear of freedom,
From fear of the responsibility of free will,
From false humility which dishonours your
creation,
From hypocrisy and any exaggerated sense of
self worth:

Good Lord, release us.

From fear of any challenge to our faith,
From the certainty which blinds us to other
possibilities,
From any attempt to claim all truth,
From fear of using all our gifts in worship:

Good Lord, release us.

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May the God of love
Bring us back to himself,
Forgive us our sins,
and assure us of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect

Lord of heaven and earth,
as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent
in prayer,
give us patience and courage never to lose
hope,
but always to bring our prayers before you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Readings:

Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32

God has not rejected his people, the Jews, his
mercy is for all who turn to him.

Read by Robin and Olivia in the video

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no
means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of
Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin.
God has not rejected his people whom he
foreknew...

...for the gifts and the calling of God are
irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient
to God but have now received mercy because
of their disobedience, so they have now been
disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown
to you, they too may now receive mercy. For
God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that
he may be merciful to all.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Matthew 15: 21-28

Jesus heals a Gentile

Read by Chris in the video

Jesus left that place and went away to the
district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a
Canaanite woman from that region came out
and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me,
Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented
by a demon.' But he did not answer her at all.

And his disciples came and urged him, saying,
'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after
us.' He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost
sheep of the house of Israel.' But she came and
knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' He
answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's
food and throw it to the dogs.' She said, 'Yes,
Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall
from their masters' table.' Then Jesus
answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let
it be done for you as you wish.' And her
daughter was healed instantly.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

A Reflection from

Rev Canon Bruce Hartnell

The world of Ross Poldark is not ours. In 19th
century Cornwall there was a gulf fixed
between the powerful (the magistrates and
aristocrats) and the powerless (the poor and
hungry). Those who had property and control
could give or deny justice. The Biblical world
2000 years and more ago is not ours either. In
it we find a gulf between those who hold the
reins and those who must argue for/beg even
for what they want and need.

There seems to be a repeated, perhaps
psychological, tendency to fall back into fear of
rejection and unworthiness. When our classic
prayer-books were compiled in 1549 and 1662

a feudal world was still a reality for many people in England. This strongly influenced the way we expressed our relationship to God too. So we could speak of 'our bounden duty and service' where bounden meant bonded. Next Sunday's collect composed some five centuries back considers prayer to be something undertaken along these lines:

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to your humble servants; that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please you, through Jesus Christ our Lord...

This is hardly the way a loved child approaches a generous parent, now is it? We might worry about their relationship if it is.

Into this scene as early as the first Christian centuries come two alternative examples. One is First Nation, a woman, from the Canaanite original inhabitants of Palestine: the other starts out an enemy of Christ, set on doing all he can to destroy Christ's followers.

Paul was brought up in the strictest of Jewish traditions. Stopped in his tracks on the Damascus Road, he has set his mind on seeing how God's intention to save the Jews, his people, is being achieved by an astonishing roundabout path. God's will and purpose still is to open the kingdom to all – Gentile or Jew, male or female, slave or free.

But in his ministry Jesus concentrated on 'lost sheep of the house of Israel' to quote this morning's Gospel We have every reason to believe that this was his understanding of the mission given him by the Father. The Canaanite

woman he meets in the Tyre and Sidon area has not had the leisure to consider how her request can be presented in a way pleasing to the Jewish preacher in front of her. She fair shouts her need for him to heal her deeply troubled daughter. Yet her approach is not haughty or uppity. She asks his mercy and addresses him as Son of David.

What she gets from Jesus is silence. She's ignored – even beneath notice? And the disciples (may they be forgiven) come and urge she is sent on her way because she's causing a scene.

Jesus now makes his reason for holding back clear and she is brave enough all the same to come closer, falling to her knees before him. Their to and fro about loaves and crumbs shows both her humility (I'll be content with crumbs) and her tenacity. The end of their meeting is swift and clear. He praises her faith and asks that her prayer shall be answered. It is at once!

When you feel doubtful about your standing with God, imagining that he may look past you to greater disciples than you: when your request is urgent and there is no time to set it out in elegant language, take heart from the Canaanite woman. She shouted to attract Jesus' attention and at once shared her crippling problem. Her boldness might have been strictly out of order, but her approach was one of faith and love.

If our approach is like hers, we have every reason to trust the Father's heart to respond to our prayer, whoever we are. For each of us,

every one, in God's eyes, is a precious, beloved daughter or son.

Amen

Prayers

In the video, Gwilym leads us in prayers for our world and our community. Here, we reprint one of the recent prayers from the Corrymeela Community, written at this time:

God of our growing hope,
God of a learned caution:
guide us now as our experiences diverge.
Some are eager to move forward,
with a certain degree of risk;
others continue to rely
on the shield of our collective response.
Grant us patience. Increase our courage.
Give us the sense to know
when we're being overly careful,
and when we're being cavalier.
But keep us united,
so we might find our hope together.
Amen.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Prayer of thanks for Gifts

This has been a tough time for many, and I believe the church needs to be as active as it ever was, if not more so, in embodying love in our community, society and world. Thank you

for helping us try to do this in this time.

If you would like to give to the life and work of this church then you can send a cheque made payable to Swaythling Parish, or give online using the details on the screen.

www.give.net/SwaythlingParish

Let us take a moment now to give thanks to God:

We thank you Lord for all the gifts we have received, financial and in so many other ways. Help us to use them wisely to share your love in this place. Amen

Hymn: Shine, Jesus, Shine

I Lord, the light of your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us
Set us free by the truth you now bring us
Shine on me, shine on me

*Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word
Lord, and let there be light*

2 Lord, I come to your awesome presence
From the shadows into your radiance
By the blood I may enter your brightness
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness
Shine on me, shine on me

3 As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story
Shine on me, shine on me

G Kendrick © 1987 Make Way Music

Closing Blessing

Thank you to everyone for joining us today.
May God's Kingdom grow in you and bring you
freshly to the week ahead.

A Closing :

Notice where your hearts burn,
Dare to walk to the new place,
For the Christ steps with us,
And will greet us there,
With bread, and wine,
Laughter and song,
And we will never wish to return
To how things were before we knew.

Andy Campbell @ Liturgy in a dangerous time.

And the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son
and Holy Spirit, be with you now and always.
Amen.

*Thank you for joining in with us. If we can support you
in any way, please get in touch. 023 8055 4231
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