

Swaythling Parish

Sunday 18 October 2020

Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

Welcome

Below is a service sheet for you to use at home. You can also find our Sunday morning reflection on YouTube channel, available at 10am on Sunday, (and afterwards). Please search for "Swaythling Parish" on YouTube to find and view it.

Introduction from Rev Peter Dockree

Welcome to our service today, whether joining online, reading from the sheet, or worshipping in person.

October 18th is anti-slavery day, and the Diocese of Winchester is paying particular attention to this this year, so this morning in our service, we will be reflecting on this theme.

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

We take a moment to recognise all that is good, in the midst of our lives. Following on from this our first hymn is :

Hymn: A new Commandment

*A new Commandment I give unto you,
That you love one another as I have loved you,
That you love one another as I have loved you.*

- 1 By this shall all know
That you are My disciples,
If you have love one for another (repeat)
- 2 You Are my friends
If you do what I command you.
Without my help you can nothing (repeat)
- 3 I am the true Vine,
My Father is the gardener,
Abide in me : I will be with you (repeat)
- 4 Now, Love is patient,
Nor arrogant, nor boastful.
Love bears all things, love is eternal (repeat)

1984. 1999 © Kevin Mayhew Ltd

Confession

We now take a moment to say sorry, a moment to recognise the time we have caused pain to others, the times we have failed to act in humility and love, the moments we have let ourselves down, in the knowledge that we are held in God's forgiving love.

For the times when we have been silent or failed to notice the struggles of others.

Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

For times when we have either by omission or action contributed towards an unjust world.

Christ have mercy
Christ have mercy

For the times when we are beaten by inertia, and cynicism and fail to do what we can and should.

Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

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

Faithful Lord,
whose steadfast love never ceases
and whose mercies never come to an end:
grant us the grace to trust you
and to receive the gifts of your love,
new every morning,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Readings:

Isaiah 58

58 Shout out, do not hold back!
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

² Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practised
righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their
God;
they ask of me righteous judgements,
they delight to draw near to God.
³ 'Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not
notice?'
Look, you serve your own interest on your
fast-day,
and oppress all your workers.
⁴ Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.
⁵ Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?
⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your
house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the
dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;

your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear
guard.
⁹ Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I
am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of
evil,
¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Luke 4:16-21

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had
been brought up, he went to the synagogue on
the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood
up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet
Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll
and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the
captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to
the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in
the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he

began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has
been fulfilled in your hearing.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

A Reflection from Peter

When Wilberforce stood up and gave his
speeches in Parliament and eventually the slave
trade was abolished, I am sure he never
dreamed that over 200 years later there would
still be conversations about slavery, but the
truth is that whilst there is no longer a slave
trade as there was then there is still many
examples of people being trafficked, left in poor
conditions, abused and maltreated. People who
may be our literal neighbours, behind closed
doors in this city, or thousands of miles away. I
listened to a radio show recently where
someone told their story. They were working
in a local shop and people came in every day
and saw them, but no one knew what was
going on. They had no money of their own, and
could not go out or be free. On the same
programme a young girl from the UK told the
story of running away from home and ending
up in prostitution, and again not free, no money
of their own and no chance to escape. In both
cases someone they came into contact with
asked the question and they managed to
escape, but there are many many more still
trapped. Perhaps it is easy too to feel like
these examples must be exceptions and not
the rule but In the UK it is estimated that

there are 11,700 people enslaved each year in this way.

Over the years sadly it has been claimed that the bible supports slavery and certainly there are passages in the Old Testament that appear to do so, although I would suggest that these are more about simply reporting what was normal and often speaking into and challenging people to treat their slaves better, but that risks sounding like a cop out. What is very true to me though is that the message of our faith is crystal clear that we should stand up against injustice, look out for the poor amongst us, and seek to set the oppressed free. It can feel impossible to know where to start. The injustices in our world are complex and the solutions never easy, but when I heard the man on the radio speak of how many people walked into the shop every day and never even wondered what was going on, I was challenged to be more aware, to find out more, to ask questions when I can, and to not be one of the people who (without even knowing it) is walking on by on the other side.

Prayers

Let us pray for our world, our community and those in need around us.

A Prayer for the Victims of Modern slavery

Lord of the lost,
we pray today for all those who are victims of modern slavery:
people lured from their homes and families;

people deceived while trying to find a better life;
people who are desperate to trust anyone.
Help us to be more vigilant and watchful;
to be aware of those who may need our help,
and those who do not know where help may lie.

Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in need around our world and the for the struggles and battles known and known faced by so many.
Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are sick at this time and for those who are grieving.
Those whose names we know and those whose names we don't; but known to you.
Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion and mercy, who heard the cry of your people and sent your servant Moses to lead them out of slavery to freedom in the promised land: free us from the tyranny of sin and death and, by the leading of your Spirit, bring us to our promised land; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Some of the above prayers are by the Clewer Initiative
www.theclewerinitiative.org

Prayer of thanks for Gifts

Let us have a moment to acknowledge again all that we have as individuals and as a church community, not what would be but what is. 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 :

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: When I needed a neighbour

- 1 When I needed a neighbour,
Were you there, were you there?
When I needed a neighbour,
Were you there?
And the creed and the colour
And the name won't matter,
Were you there?
- 2 I was hungry and thirsty....
- 3 I was cold, I was naked....
- 4 When I needed a shelter....
- 5 When I needed a healer....
- 6 Wherever you travel,
I'll be there, I'll be there.

Wherever you travel, I'll be there.
And the creed and the colour
And the name won't matter, I'll be there.

Words and music Sydney Carter © 1965 Stainer & Bell,

A Closing Prayer

God of our pilgrimage,
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.
Refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
to live and work to your praise and
glory. **Amen**

Closing Blessing

Thank you to everyone for joining us today.
May we go out and live the lives we have been
given and not the ones we may wish to be
given.

May we go from this moment joyful for the
abundance of creation, mindful of the misuse of
creation, and the mistreatment of people and
hopeful for the future of creation.

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. peter.dockree@outlook.com
023 8055 4231 Songs reproduced under CCLI Licence No
159376. Streaming Licence No 101226. Scripture
quotations from NRSVA version of the Bible, © 1989, 1995.*

Background to Anti Slavery Day

*October 18th is Anti- Slavery Day, marked by
churches and organisations through prayer, services
and events often in conjunction with local partner
organisations.*

*August 2020 saw Winchester Diocese joining the
Clewer Initiative www.theclewerinitiative.org as a
participating member of the Church of England's
fight against Modern Slavery. Modern slavery is a
pernicious and vile form of human exploitation. As
part of our commitment to the Anglican
Communion's Five Marks of Mission, we seek to
engage with unjust aspects of society. The Clewer
Initiative is one way of doing just that in our region.
For some, you may already have some awareness
of this worldwide crime which affects people near
to our homes and 'unseen' miles away, but to
others this may be new. Our shared desire is to
see this whole region as a place where this crime
does not go undetected, and where victims are
offered safety and support.*

*Winchester Diocese are today starting a four
month exploratory awareness programme, which
will culminate in us reviewing what are our next
stages as we mark 8th February, Josephine Bakhita
day (patron saint of victims of modern slavery and
human trafficking).*

*So today marks the start of a journey where we
are invited to prayerfully be open to the prompting
of the Holy Spirit in how we may join this initiative
with other churches across the country, and
alongside other social justice concerns in our local
area.*

*As a diocese we need to demonstrate an
awareness of this crime, begin to understand what
we might look out for, and importantly where to
report if we have concerns.*

*There is a new diocesan webpage,
www.winchester.anglican.org/modern-slavery/, with
more details*

The Modern slavery and exploitation helpline 08000 121700

MODERN SLAVERY

THE FACTS

- 1 40.3 MILLION PEOPLE ARE BEING EXPLOITED
WORLDWIDE.**
(The Global Slavery Index)
- 2 600,000-800,000 PEOPLE ARE TRAFFICKED
ACROSS INTERNATIONAL BORDERS EACH YEAR**
(UN Office on Drugs and Crime)
- 3 1 IN 4 VICTIMS OF MODERN SLAVERY ARE
CHILDREN**
(International Labour Organisation)

APCM - Sunday 18 October after Morning Worship at St Alban's

We will be holding our Annual Parochial Church
Meeting immediately following our morning worship
service (which starts at 10.15am) on Sunday 18
October at St Alban's.

This was due to be held in March, but postponed due to
lockdown.

Please do join us if you would like to.