

# Swaythling Parish

## Sunday 2 August 2020

### Eighth 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

A warm welcome to everyone joining us for this service today, whether you are joining us for the first time or have been with us often since we began this new way of being a few months ago. We will soon be offering some worship within our buildings for those who wish for this, but we want to work out what is most helpful for people going forward, so if you have any feedback, do please get in touch with Peter (023 8055 4231)

#### 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

When a young child is given something they are taught to say in wrote manner, *thankyou*. Thankyou becomes a natural response at times from those days of childhood onwards, and yet sometimes thankyou may roll of our lips, but never really come from our hearts. Have we really noticed the things around us that are worth saying thankyou for. Have we really noticed the people that bless us and support us, have we really recognised the good things that have happened?

Let's take a moment to do just that.

*On the video, Robin and Olivia will now lead us in our first hymn.*

#### Hymn: Give me joy in my heart

- 1 Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,  
Give me joy in my heart, I pray;  
Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,  
Keep me praising till the break of day:

*Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,  
Sing hosanna to the King of kings.  
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,  
Sing hosanna to the King.*

- 2 Give me peace in my heart, keep me loving,  
Give me peace in my heart, I pray;  
Give me peace in my heart, keep me loving,  
Keep me loving till the break of day:
- 3 Give me love in my heart, keep me serving,

Give me love in my heart, I pray;  
Give me love in my heart, keep me serving,  
Keep me serving till the break of day:

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#### Confession

In my role and job I often hear the joke, "*oh if I go in a church lightening will strike me down*". It's a joke but behind it lies a fear. A fear that God is simply waiting to gloat about our mistakes. A fear that we will never ever be good enough for God's standards.

Church is a place where we call hold ourselves accountable. Accountable for the mistakes we make, accountable for the times when we fail to live out the love of God in the lives we live. Accountable for when a hunger for justice does not flow out of our lives. Being accountable is not putting ourselves into the line of the lightening, but putting ourselves into the hands of love, that forgive and encourage us to be better.

I don't believe in a God who gloats over our mistakes and waits to strike, but in one who longs for us to succeed.

In light of that, lets bring our mistakes and failing to God now:

For the moments of selfish endeavour, and blindsiding those who need us.

Lord have mercy  
**Lord have mercy**

For the moments where cynicism replaces a striving for justice.  
Christ have mercy

### **Christ have mercy**

For the times when we fail to be who we can  
and become who we fear.

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**

Lord God,  
your Son left the riches of heaven  
and became poor for our sake:  
when we prosper save us from pride,  
when we are needy save us from despair,  
that we may trust in you alone;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

In the video our first reading is read by Mark. This reading is the beginning of a section of the book of Romans that is often side lined. People argue it is an appendix to the main message. I have no desire to get into the theological debate here, but sometimes passages that we side line has more to do with the fact that we find them uncomfortable and baffling. So before reading the passage I invite you to enter Paul's pain in this passage. We have just had the powerful passage at the end of chapter 8 about the love of Christ crossing all barriers " for I am convinced that neither and then we have a passage that

seems to be putting barriers up, but I invite you rather to see this passage as a heart cry of frustration from Paul, that many of his own people seem so unconvinced by Jesus.

### **Readings:**

#### **Romans 9: 1-5**

Paul acknowledges that Jesus is the one the Jews have been waiting for.

*Read by the Mark in the video*

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit— I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Our second reading today is well known. One of the most told miracle stories of Jesus, but as you hear it today I invite you to reflect not on what happens but on Jesus's reactions and actions, as we go onto reflect together about what we say and what what we do.

#### **Matthew 14: 13-21**

Jesus meets the needs of all who come to him.

*Read by John in the video*

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## A Reflection from Peter Dockree

One of my heroes is Martin Luther King. As a teenager I could recite large sections of the I have a Dream Speech. The great power of that speech was something that every time I watch it still moves me. King had an ability to move people with words. That was an ability that Paul had too, but he was frustrated in today's first reading, frustrated that many of his fellow countrymen did not respond to his message and words. And yet the message matters, Paul believed that there was an important message to share, King bothered gathering large crowds to hear him, because he knew the power of the message.

Sometimes Christians can find themselves dividing into two camps, those concerned with the message and those concerned with the action. One of the reasons why Martin Luther King, Paul and Jesus were followed was because they understood that both matters, they put themselves out there to demonstrate that what they said they truly believed. Jesus did that in the passage today, recognising that the physical needs of those who had travelled far to hear his words mattered too. Paul's frustration at his failure to be listened to in the passage today, demonstrates that he did care about communicating the message.

They all knew that actions could communicate sometimes better than words, but they also knew to their cost that sometimes they needed to speak out, even when doing so angered as many as it inspired. Speaking out should never be done out of arrogance or certainty, always

with a humility that seeks to engage and learn from the other.

Sometimes though a desire not to disagree can lead to silence when this is not helpful. If I was a doctor and a friend was sick and I knew of a cure that could help, I would share it, if I knew a friend had a problem and I had an idea that could help, I would probably tell them unless there was a good reason not to. Yet sometimes we may believe our faith has something to say to a situation but we stay silent, perhaps because we fear we may be wrong, may appear arrogant, or may cause upset. There have been many times in my life where I have spoken and wished I had been silent, but many, many more when I was silent and wished I had spoken. If we check and balance our motivation for speaking then sometimes to remain silent is the worst thing we can do.

Let us take a moment to think of a time when we could have spoken up, let's not dwell on what could have been but now reflect on something we might wish to say now. Is there something burning within us about which we remain silent. Is there something we want or need to say, but haven't? Does our faith nudge us to speak, but our voice remains silent?

### Prayers

*(on the video Sarah will lead the prayers, but due to timeframes the prayers below are by Peter).*

### Let us pray:

For the world at this time. For those worldwide battling to cope with the myriad of impacts of

Covid. For those ill with the disease, those battling other diseases in beleaguered health care systems, and those facing uncertain income and an inability to put food on the table. We pray for those working to provide support, for the work happening locally and globally, and for the hope carried in the hands that help.

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

For those who struggle with change, and decisions. Those who have been unsure of what to do in this period where restrictions are loosening. Those who feel burdened by the choices that now exist, whether to go out, whether to visit friends and family, whether to go away. Give peace to everyone in their choices and remove the desire to judge the choices of others.

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

For those who are lonely at this time, particularly those who continue to be self-isolating when so many others are no longer doing so.

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

For churches as they begin to return to worshiping in their building, but also seek to continue to serve their communities, and those struggling, give wisdom as they seek a way forward.

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

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

## Prayer of Thanks for Gifts

Sometimes the roles we do define us, and in this time many have taken up new roles, have found themselves unable to contribute in the ways they normally do. This may have been both liberating and challenging to people, to greater or lesser degrees. As we have navigated this time, we have felt supported by so many people, in so many ways it is impossible to put into words, but know this, please know things that may seem as simple to you as words of encouragement have been hugely valued.

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](http://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**

## Notices

Please note that Peter will be on annual leave from Tues 4<sup>th</sup> to Sat 15<sup>th</sup> August inclusive.

## Hymn: When I needed a neighbour

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?

I was hungry and thirsty  
Were you there, were you there?  
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?  
And the creed and the colour  
And the name won't matter  
Were you there?

I was cold, I was naked  
Were you there, were you there?  
I was cold, I was naked, were you there?  
And the creed and the colour  
And the name won't matter  
Were you there?

When I needed a shelter  
Were you there, were you there?  
When I needed a shelter were you there?  
And the creed and the colour  
And the name won't matter  
Were you there?

When I needed a healer  
Were you there, were you there?  
When I needed a healer, were you there?  
And the creed and the colour  
And the name won't matter  
Were you there?

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

Sydney Bertram Carter © 1965 Stainer & Bell

## 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 :

Enjoy beauty / Forgive recklessly / Accept forgiveness / Stand up / Tear down / Be heard /  
Don't be afraid.

Be a sister / Be a brother / Cry / Pay attention / Listen / Be released / Be reborn / Welcome / Be known / Be loved / Love / Remember.

We are dust and shadow / And God's ok with that

© Emma Major, 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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