

Swaythling Parish

Sunday 9 August 2020

Ninth 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. Uncertainty is a reality of life, that we have perhaps become much more aware of in the last few months. Almost all of us will have changed some plans in the last few months. The desire for plans, the sense of the need to know, affects most of us, even those of us who feel like it doesn't, and that same desire can sometimes lead us to put God in a box too. Later on in today's service Ann is going to reflect on a bible story that reminds us of a different reality, and as we begin I invite us to reflect on the image of God that most frequently comes to our mind, when we enter into God's presence.

The image that we first brought to mind, will be one limited by our experiences, let us recognise that.

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

Before we go any further let us take a moment to give thanks to God for all that we have to be grateful 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: Christ whose glory fills the skies

1 Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise,
triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.

2 Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return
'til thy mercy's beams I see;
'til they inward light impart,
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

3 Visit, then, this soul of mine;
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, Radiancy divine;
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.

C Wesley (1740). Public Domain

Confession

Let us take a moment to own the things that have not gone as we would have wished over the last week.

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

Gracious Father,
revive your Church in our day,
and make her holy, strong and faithful,
for your glory's sake
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Readings:

Our first reading is from the second letter of Peter where we hear reference to an event we are going to hear about in our second reading, an event that has come to be known as the transfiguration.

2 Peter 1: 16-19

Read by the Julie in the video

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, 'This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.' We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Our second reading is that story of transfiguration, when the disciples met Jesus on the mountain.

Luke 9: 28-36a

Read by Jean the video

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

A Reflection from Ann Lewin Transfiguration reflection

August 6th is the day in the church calendar when we remember an event we heard about in the Gospel reading, a moment in Jesus' life that we call the Transfiguration, when he was revealed to Peter James and John in his true glory. They were overwhelmed by the experience, and Peter thought it would be wonderful to stay there in that moment. He was all for building a shelter so that

they could prolong their experience. But a voice was heard saying in almost the same words as Jesus had heard at his baptism, 'This is my Son, my chosen. Listen to him.' The special moment was over – if we had read further, we would have heard that they went back down the mountain to the messiness of life at its foot, to the confusion and needs and arguments of ordinary life. 'Listen to him' - Jesus could not be confined to a shelter – his calling was to be in the midst of the mess, teaching, healing, resolving arguments, sharing joys as well as sorrows, bringing new life. That's where his followers had to listen and learn from him.

August 6th is also the day when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Many groups of people throughout the world float lighted candles in paper boats on rivers and lakes on this day, as a sign of sorrow for the devastation caused to human life, and as an act of dedication to peace.

Thoughts on August 6th

*Bright light around him
Transfiguring with glory,
Giving us insight.*

*Harsh light above us,
Mushroom-shaped cloud destroying
Hope for the future.*

*Soft light of candles
Sent on their way by peace folk
Pushing back darkness.*

*Giving us insight,
Hope for the future,
Pushing back darkness.*

(Ann Lewin)

After the Second World War, the Japanese people drew up a new Constitution, and Clause 9 in that document contained a resolution that the Japanese people would never go to war again. They have a military force, but it is dedicated to peace keeping, not to aggression. Japanese Christians, working with others who are concerned for peace, have been working ever since to promote nuclear disarmament. They listened to the voice of Jesus, calling for peace and reconciliation.

What about us, celebrating the Transfiguration in August 2020, faced with a pandemic which has challenged us to the depths of our being. We have been reminded that God is not to be enshrined in buildings – we have had to close ours, and worship has had to do without its ecclesiastical trappings. We have found that it is possible to worship in new ways, even learning to master new technology in order to do so. Like the disciples, and the Japanese in 1945 we have been made to face our contemporary messy world with all its problems. Church buildings have been closed, but the church has been very much alive, as we have joined God who is already at work in and with our neighbours in caring for people in many different ways. We have heard Jesus say - ‘You are the light of the world’, and realised afresh that we are called to push back the darkness of all that destroys human well-being by letting God’s love shine through us. We have learned about our need for each other, and responded in whatever ways we can, some people with courage beyond our imagining, most of us caring in less dramatic ways.

We have come a long way in these last four months, and there is a long way to go yet, because this virus isn’t going to disappear in a hurry. There are times when we probably feel that it’s all too much, we can’t bear any more loss of life or

personal freedoms. But when we listen to Jesus, we hear him say, ‘I am with you, to the end of time’.

Let’s pray that we will continue to be faithful to our calling to transform our world, trusting in the strength of Jesus who will never let us down.

Lord Christ, set us on fire. Burn from us all that dims your light. Kindle an answering flame in lives around, that darkness may be driven back, and glory stream into this world, transfiguring it with light.

Prayers

In the video, Karen leads us in prayers for our world and our community.

Father God, we thank you for your promise to hear our prayers. Strengthen our faith in that promise and help us to bring all our needs to you with confidence.

Lord we thank you for the beauty of the world around us and ask that we will never take it for granted. We pray that in the actions needed against coronavirus that the wider need to combat waste and global warming will not be overlooked, and help us each to play our part.

We pray for all the countries of the world where there is war, conflict, famine, corruption or political unrest, and for those countries who have less resources and infrastructure to respond to the Coronavirus. We remember particularly the Lebanon, Yemen and South Sudan. Inspire the leaders of all nations to work for justice and peace and the good of all their people.

We pray for our government and all in authority making decisions about strategies to contain and deal with the virus. We ask for for wisdom and insight for those working to develop a vaccine and

other treatments, that you will speed their work and make it effective in protecting lives. Help us all to be responsible in the things that we do in our lives to prevent the spread of the virus and protect others.

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

We pray for all those awaiting A level results especially in this unusual year, for those who will celebrate and those who will be disappointed; We ask that you will be with those who are anxious about what the future may bring and pray for those who may have difficult choices to make.

We pray for all children for whom school holidays are difficult rather than fun, for those who are lonely, hungry or scared. We thank you for all those organisations that work with children, and for all that the church has been working to do to support children and families.

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

We pray that you will help us each to play our part in combatting prejudice. We ask that you will work powerfully in our small lives and our big world to break down the barriers that divide people from each other.

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

We pray for all people who are in trouble, in pain or fear today, for those who are sad because someone they have loved had died, for those who are anxious because they are waiting for the results of medical tests and those who are struggling with finance or are facing the prospect of unemployment: Father we ask that you will bring healing in mind, body and spirit, and that in lives darkened by any kind of pain, distress or grief the light of Christ will bring comfort, hope and a sense of your all-encompassing love.

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

Now to him who by means of his power working within us is able to do so much more than we can ever ask for or even think of, to him be the glory in the church, and in our lives, for ever and ever, Amen

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

Prayer of thanks for Gifts

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

I am excited to share with you that we are planning to offer the opportunity to return to worshipping in our church buildings from Sunday 16 August. We plan to start slowly and in a phased way and will adapt and adjust as we go along. On the 16th there will be a Book of Common Prayer Communion at 8 am at St Marys church, and a simple said service of morning prayer at 10:15 at St Albans church.

Due to the size of St Mary's, if you are planning to attend the 8am service, please do let us know as we can then ensure we manage numbers in accordance with current guidelines and keep everyone safe. You can let us know either by emailing office@swaythlingparish.org.uk or by phoning 023 8055 9670 .

In accordance with current Government rules, everyone attending services will be asked to wear a face covering or mask.

We will be continuing to provide an online service each week for the time being at 10am on YouTube as well as a Threshold gathering via Zoom at 5:30pm. We very much hope that whether you feel ready to join us in person or whether you continue to share in worship through our online services or printed materials, that you will feel supported and included as part of our church family at this time.

Hymn: 'Tis good Lord to be here

- 1 'Tis good, Lord, to be here!
Your glory fills the night;
Your face and garments, like the sun,
Shine with unborrowed light.
- 2 'Tis good, Lord, to be here,
Your beauty to behold,
Where Moses and Elijah stand,
Your messengers of old.
- 3 Fulfiller of the past!
Promise of things to be!
We hail your body glorified,
And our redemption see.
- 4 Before we taste of death,
We see your kingdom come;
Before us keep your vision bright,
And make this place our home.
- 5 'Tis good, Lord, to be here!
Yet we may not remain;
But since you bid us leave the mount,
Come with us to the plain.

J A Robinson (1888)

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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