

HOLY TRINITY AND ST PETER'S



Sunday 19th July 2020

6th Sunday after Trinity

**A very warm welcome to all those joining us in our virtual worship today.
If possible, use this service at 10am so we are worshipping together.**

Try saying the parts in bold aloud.



Introduction

Our theme this week is the More Excellent Way.

God sent his son Jesus Christ to earth to show through his teachings, his miracles, and his life, death and resurrection the Excellent Way for all Christians to try and follow. As Paul identified in Corinthians Chapter 8 verse 31 it is love that is the core theme in the excellent way 'But eagerly desire the greatest gifts. Love, I will show you the excellent way'.

The More Excellent Way is revealed to us in the Scriptures and both directly and indirectly through the actions and love shown to us by others. Through our service today we hope we can learn more of the Excellent Way and that through loving others and with the help of the Holy Spirit that lives within us apply that to the way we try and live in our communities and relate to our families and friends.

Opening Prayers

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

This is the day that the Lord has made

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Lord of love, forgive our failure to love, give us your love, and love others through us; in the name and by the power of Jesus Christ. Amen

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength; ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name.

The whole earth is full of his glory.

The Lord shall give strength to his people; the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. Amen.

Confession

God the Father forgives us in Christ and heals us by the Holy Spirit. Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and malice, and confess our sins to God our redeemer. *cf Ephesians 4.30,32*

Let us begin by reflecting on the week that has just passed:

Consider the things which we have done, or not done, and our thoughts which we now wish to say sorry to God for:

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.

Absolution

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Amen *1 John 1:8-9*

Collect for today

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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

Readings for today

Faithful Creator, whose mercy never fails: deepen our faithfulness to you and to your living Word, who is Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The New Testament reading today is taken from Romans Chapter 8 verses 12 to 25:

12 Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. 13 For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. 15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Present Suffering and Future Glory

18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 19 For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? 25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

Tyndale House Publishers. Life Application Study Bible, NIV (Kindle Locations 78820-78803). Tyndale House Publishers. Kindle Edition.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Talk

How are you coping with the ‘New Normal’? The way we are now expected to live as the lockdown restrictions are eased and social distancing is now one metre plus. For some, it’s a matter of life or death, yet for others it makes no difference, they never follow the safety guidelines and don’t care anyway. Many who are in the at risk group, are unsure, even scared, about coming out of their strict isolation and walking down the street for the first time in three months.

If I had to nominate a Bible passage for these confusing times, I think Romans chapter 8 would be the one.

The news has been reporting that pop songs have been getting more cheerful and up-beat during lockdown. Sad, depressing songs have fallen out of favour. People, it seems, want encouraging and cheering up.

Romans chapter 8, is one encouragement after another and should not, in my view, be divided into sections, which breaks up the flow and development of the good news Paul wants to share.

From the first two verses, 'Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.' things just get better and better, building to a great crescendo in verses 38-39, 'For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

Those first verses were given me at my baptism in 1998, 'There is now no condemnation', I could no-longer be called to account or judged for things in my past, I was free to grow into a new life. It was such great news and has always meant so much to me.

Verses 38-39, I have used so many times to encourage those struggling with their faith, doubting that God still loved them. 'NOTHING in ALL CREATION, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.' This is an eternal truth for us all to be encouraged and strengthened by.

Our reading today, verses 12-25, begins with that great word, THEREFORE. Something has happened, THEREFORE this is how we should respond. In verses 1-11, Paul describes how, through the sacrifice of Jesus, we have been set free from a life controlled by sin and death, and should now live a new life according to the Spirit. The same Spirit that lives in Jesus now lives in us. THEREFORE, Paul says, we have an obligation to live differently. There is for Christians a 'New Normal', letting go of the old life controlled by our sinful, earthly desires, and to live a life led by God's Spirit that leads to eternal life.

We often hear of believers saying things like 'I was led by the Spirit to share the gospel with that person', or 'The Spirit led me to pray for someone'. For Paul, being led by the Spirit means allowing the Spirit to control all our lives, not just responding to the odd little nudge to do something. The Spirit leads us to live a life pleasing to God, not one dominated by our selfish desires, but one that reflects God's love for us and for others, a life focused on serving and loving others as Jesus loved and served us.

No-longer slaves to fear of rejection or judgement, we are free to live in the presence of God. We are in a new, intimate, relationship with Him through His Spirit that now is able to live in us. Paul says that the Spirit in us brings about our 'adoption to sonship' (8:15). This is a Roman legal phrase relating to the full legal status of an adopted, male heir in Roman society (Jews did not practice adoption). Once adopted, the previous life of the child no-longer existed, any crimes they had committed or debts they owed were completely removed.

They were now a different person in a different life. The adopted child now had full rights as heir as any other member of the family and would not be discriminated against in any way. As heirs they would receive the full inheritance due to any member of the family.

Adoption is never by accident. Children are chosen for adoption, dearly wanted by those who would be their parents. Being adopted into God's family means God has chosen us. Our being with Him is what He desires, and we should have no fear of being rejected. He chooses us, because He loves us.

We are now 'Children of God', adopted through the leading of the Spirit, and having the same rights as Jesus, who is now our brother. Just as Jesus could speak to God in a familiar and intimate way, calling him 'Abba, Father', we also are able to do the same, without any fear for punishment. We are family, sharing the suffering Jesus endured and sharing his glory.

Paul considers suffering as a natural part of this fallen and sinful world. As Christians, we cannot avoid this suffering. Paul encourages us to see beyond our pain and troubles and recognise the glory that is to come, the new creation. Just as labour pains do not last forever, so our suffering is temporary and will be forgotten when we enjoy the glory that is to be ours.

Heirs do not receive their full inheritance as soon as they are born or adopted into the family, they have to wait for the right time. Because the Spirit assures us of our adoption, we can be sure our hope of glory will not be disappointed. Through the Spirit, we have glimpses of this glory that is to be ours. It is not just wishful thinking. As a child, I hoped I would get a train set for Christmas. I knew I would get a train set when I saw it on the top of my parents wardrobe. We hope for glory, and we know we will receive it because the Spirit shows it to us.

The Christian's 'New Normal' is a life free from fear, a life of hope and confidence, living as children of God.

When challenged which was the greatest commandment, Jesus answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 'This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'" (Matthew 22:37-39)

This is the life the Spirit leads us to live. A life where our love of God comes first above all things, and our love for others springs from that love.

This is our 'New Normal' **Amen.**

Possible song = "No longer slaves" which includes the line "I'm no longer a slave to fear, I am a child of God" and here is a link to a video of the song

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8TkUMJtK5k>

The Peace

Peace to you from God our heavenly Father.

Peace from his Son Jesus Christ who is our peace.

Peace from the Holy Spirit, the life-giver.

The peace of the triune God be always with you **and also with you.**

Statement of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God:

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

A prayer of thanks for our giving to God

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray for the Church and for the world, and let us thank God for his goodness. Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, you promised through your Son Jesus Christ to hear us when we pray in faith.

Lord God, we thank you that your Son Jesus Christ through his life and death opened up to us a new and more excellent way into your presence. We pray that with the help of the Holy Spirit living within us you will give us pure hearts and obedient wills so that we may worship you in truth and in love. We pray that through your Word in the Bible and through the teaching given to us by your Ministers we may grow in faith and use the skills that you have given us to reveal your glory to others in the work and activities we do in our daily lives.

We ask that you will strengthen Christopher and John our Bishops, Heather and Sharon in their ministries in Hartshill and Galley Common, Nick and Sally our lay readers and churchwardens at Holy Trinity and Kate and Debbie, churchwardens at St Peter's, and all your Church in the service of Christ, that those who confess your name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory to the world.

Lord in your mercy - hear our prayer

Lord God, you plan that all your people should live in freedom as your children but know that it is because people live to their own standards rather than yours that there is so much greed and trouble in the world. We pray for the peacemakers as they work bravely in communities where people incite violence and hatred.

We also pray for those people who are suffering as a result of natural disasters and tragedies.

We pray for all leaders in the world, that they will strive towards a world that has peace, equality of wealth and opportunity. We also pray that they will take measures to protect the wonderful world and creation you have given us.

Bless and guide Elizabeth our Queen, give wisdom to all in authority and direct this and every nation in the ways of justice and peace; that people may honour one another and seek the common good.

Lord in your mercy - hear our prayer.

Lord God, we confess how easily we can be jealous of other people and what they have yet we should know that you will provide for all our needs. Help us to recognise the many blessings you give us and we in return look for ways to help those who are in need in the communities we live.

We think this Sunday of all the schools who are finally closed for the summer holidays after a very stressful period during the lock down for parents, children, teachers and other staff in schools. Give all of them a welcome break and a time to enjoy the rest.

For all those who will not be able to go away this year we pray that they will find enjoyment in the beauty of the countryside near them.

Give grace to us, our families and friends, and to all our neighbours; that we may serve Christ in one another and love as He loves us.

Lord in your mercy - hear our prayer.

Lord God, comfort and heal all those who are ill at this time, give peace to those with troubled minds and restore hope to those who feel there is no future.

We pray in particular for: Rachel M and Family; Mark J; Maureen; Olive; Julie; Jan & Tony; Mark P; Rebecca; Jane; Charlotte M; Stan A; Lucy W; Lucy and Michael B; Mark; and Brian V.

We also bring before you others that we know need your help at this time.

Give all those we have prayed for courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord in your mercy - hear our prayer.

Lord God we pray for those whose lives have recently been saddened by the death of a relative or friend.

We pray in particular for the families and friends of Alan Phillips, Bill Harwood and Joan Revill.

Be with them and give them faith and strength to look beyond their present loneliness and grief to Jesus, who died and rose again and lives for evermore.

Lord in your mercy - hear our prayer.

Finally Lord God, it is through your loving grace and goodness, seen especially on the cross of Jesus, that we can come before you and call you our Father. May we never be ashamed to admit that we follow you. Help us to shine for you in our small corner of the world today and in the coming week.

Lord in your mercy - hear our prayer.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all your saints who shone as lights in the world, we pray that we in our generation may show thy praise and glory and we now commend ourselves and all Christian people to your unfailing love.

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

Prayerful reflections:

Spend some time thanking God for what you have and the blessings you have received.

Pray for those on the front line who are still serving so faithfully.

Pray for those whose livelihoods have been impacted.

Pray for those on your heart.

Pray for yourself – be honest with God about your fears and feelings.

The Diocesan Prayer

Father, pour out your spirit upon us.

Grant us a new vision of Your glory, a new experience of Your power, a new faithfulness to Your word, and a new consecration to Your service, that Your love may grow among us and Your kingdom come, Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us so we pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today 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 forever.

Amen

Closing Prayers

God of our pilgrimage, you have led us to the living water: refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

If you know me, you will know my Father also.

From now on you do know him and have seen him.

Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.

John 14.7,9

Almighty and eternal God, you have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and live and reign in the perfect unity of love: hold us firm in this faith, that we may know you in all your ways and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory, who are three Persons yet one God, now and forever. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

The Blessing

God the Holy Trinity make us strong in faith and love, defend us on every side, and guide us in truth and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

The Commission

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

In the name of Christ. Amen.

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Messages

We do want to encourage our church members (both Churches) to use this section to give messages of encouragement to others or items of reflection. Do try and find time and courage to send us a short message for this section.

Thank you to Nick B-B, Sue F, Katie and Sharon for your lovely messages last week.

Message from Heather

I recently read on a school report a 'tribute' from the teacher about how fast and how far this particular child was able to spread some of the craft resources around the class room. His dad (who is an old friend of mine) regularly posts on facebook about some of the antics his additional needs son gets up to – and recently posted how far the 'gift' of glitter can go...."everywhere" I think was the conclusion! Never underestimate how far things can travel – and the same goes for blessings.

Keep blessing and encouraging others – because you might not realise how far a little bit of kindness goes..... The bible encourages us too by saying "Don't tire of doing good" (Galatians 6:9) Small things may not mean much to us...but it can mean so so much to the person who receives it...because it isn't just the gift or the thing that is given that is important but the thought behind it that keeps on blessing too.

After a very busy and administratively difficult week I received 2 rather lovely acts of kindness. One literally was on my doorstep in the form of 2 gifts that were left there (socially distanced!) for me to receive. One of the blessings was obvious for anyone to see and was so lovely and beautifully kind. The other gift, although not obvious to others, was actually also extremely thoughtful and kind because the people involved knew what a treat it would be for me..... and it is the thought behind it which made it all the more wonderful....and keeps making me smile.

The other blessing was in the form of very practical help...and again was amazingly kind in the gift of time and effort given to me. The main reason I don't feel 'guilty' about the time they have given so faithfully over the years – is because they actually enjoy doing what they do in helping me....so I know that they are blessed in the way they are blessing me – what an amazing example of God's love in action. Blessed to be a blessing We ARE blessed.... Bless others..... Be blessedbless others....

Notices for the week ahead

Happy Birthday to Claire Kelly

Claire is celebrating a special birthday (her 40th!) on Wednesday 22nd July. We all wish you a very Happy Birthday and hope despite the restrictions you will have a lovely day.

Church Services

Church Services are hoping to start again on Sunday August 2nd at Holy Trinity at 10am. All services for the time being at Holy Trinity will start at 10am (there will be no 9am service on Second Sunday – but 10am instead). We are making our decisions for St Peter's at our Galley Common PCC meeting on Monday to decide when we exactly start back there and if the services are likely to resume at 10.30.

A lot of preparation has gone into considering how we can operate to comply with all the Covid 19 secure advice. **Unfortunately we are going to be very restricted on numbers who can attend at both churches.** As the Pastoral Letter explained there will be strict distancing measures including how people sit in church, there will be no singing, no communion, no sharing of the peace and no refreshments. Sadly we will not be able to encourage people gathering for a chat before or after the service. So it is going to be a very different experience with a pared back and simple service. **However** it is a first step to be able to worship with others in Church.

Because of restrictions we do need to know who is hoping to attend a service so please ring or email Heather to ask to be put on a list of attendance for a Sunday. This is vital as we do not want to turn people away. Please note we will be continuing with these services being sent out by email and resources being sent in the post as at present.

We are grateful to all those who have replied to Heather after her questions in the Pastoral letter and especially to those who have said so graciously that they will continue with virtual services at home to enable others to attend church.

The Churches' Premises are still closed to everyone outside service times and entry can only take place with the agreement of Heather or in her absence the Churchwardens- please do not attempt to access them with any keys that you may have.

In the light of constant changing advice and the initial opening up of the Churches we will keep you informed of developments and would ask for your prayers during what is going to be a difficult and developing situation.

Gift Day - Holy Trinity

Many thanks to all who have contributed to our Gift Day so far. The total at present is £1090 (plus £228 gift aid).

If you would like to contribute, please ask Wendy or Heather for bank details or if you wish to wait until we are able to meet in church again, please mark an envelope "gift day" and place on the collection plate and it will be added to this total. Please remember, if you are able to gift aid do let us know.

Daily Hope

Daily Hope is a free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers launched by the Church of England. It has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind. So, if you know someone in this situation, please phone them and tell them about free-phone **0800 804 8044**, and why not try it for yourselves.

* I have never used this service personally – but have it on good authority from someone who has just started to use it – that it is really helpful.* (Heather)

Food Bank

Due to the restrictions in church during services we are **still not able** to continue with the bringing of items to Church or deliveries to the warehouse. We will review that as restrictions restrict.

This is at a time when the Food Bank is still under huge pressure, especially with not all children being able to attend school.

The food bank is still working with its volunteers and there are collection points in most supermarkets. If you are visiting a supermarket for your own shopping please consider adding a few items to donate in this way. A list of the most urgently required items can be found on the food bank website.

Please note, they are no longer able to accept infant formula milk or baby food due to a UNICEF directive.

Can we urge everyone to consider if they can give a donation of money?

Please visit their website- www.nuneaton.foodbank.org.uk and click on the Donate button at the top right of the page.

This is a really valuable way we can collectively as Churches show our love to the vulnerable people in our society.

Scams - Be careful

Please be aware there are an increased number of scams doing the rounds trying to take advantage of these difficult times. Before clicking on links, giving out bank details etc... do check they are genuine as there are some very plausible and convincing scammers.

Any items on messages: prayers; prayers answered; birthdays or anniversaries to be included on the weekly service and notice sheet please email Nick Blamire-Brown at njbb@hotmail.co.uk

If you want to be added to the email prayer chain/group or have any prayers you want to put on the prayer chain please email:- prayers.holytrinity@gmail.com

Please be aware that all documents are now going to be much more in the public domain (emailed out and they have been posted too on Facebook and possibly church websites in the future.) Please be careful to get permission from any person you wish to mention.

Please pray for the following in the coming week:

You may wish to print this section off for use during week

Coronavirus Crisis

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support,
be with those who care for the sick, the anxious
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Leaders and Clergy

Heather and Sharon in their ministries in Hartshill and Galley Common;
Kate and Debbie our St Peter's churchwardens, Nick and Sally our lay readers and
Holy Trinity's churchwardens; Ruth & Rob Kinderman in their youth work; Michael
Brandsma in his ministry in Atherstone; and Bill Walton in his curacy.

Pray too for our Archbishops, Bishops and Bishops' Staff team as they lead the
nation and diocese.

Pray for the government and local/national/international leaders as they make life
changing and potentially life-saving decisions.

Those on our hearts at Holy Trinity

Rachel M and Family; Mark J; Maureen; Olive; Julie; Jan & Tony; Mark P; Rebecca;
Jane; Charlotte M; Stan A

Also for care firms who are under severe pressure to protect both staff and
residents.

Those on our hearts at St Peter's

Lucy W; Lucy and Michael B; Mark; Brian V; and others known to us.

Family and Friends of those recently deceased

Alan Phillips, Bill Harwood and Joan Revill.

