

HOLY TRINITY AND ST PETER'S



Sunday 2nd August 2020

8th Sunday after Trinity

A very warm welcome to all those joining us in our virtual worship today and at Holy Trinity Church, Hartshill- welcome back to those attending there. It is wonderful we can worship in our various places as part of the body of Christ. Galley Common we be re-opening next week.

For those using the virtual service if possible, please start at 10am so we are able to continue to worship together. Also try saying the parts in bold aloud.



Introduction

This week's theme is the whole Armour of God which is a way to describe the tools with which God has equipped us to stand firm against the evil one. Those tools or armour are set out in Paul's letter to the Ephesians Chapter 6 verses 13 to 17:

¹³ Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled round your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

We hope our worship today helps us to equip ourselves with the full armour of God so we can live our lives for God and resist the devil.

Before we begin our service today we pause to acknowledge what has happened to us as individuals and as a church family during the Covid crisis and whilst we celebrate the opportunity for some of us to gather together we lament for those who we are still unable to join us and others who are missing from our church community.

(based on liturgy sent to us from the Church of England)

We meet in the presence of God **who knows our needs, hears our cries, feels our pain, and heals our wounds**

Lord Jesus Christ when fear and anxiety besiege us and hope is veiled in grief,
hold us in your wounded hands and make your face shine on us again, for you are our Lord and God. Amen

Come, creator Spirit, source of life;

sustain us when our hearts are heavy and our wells have run dry, for you are the Father's gift, with him who is our living water, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Jesus, Lord of time, hold us in your eternity.

Jesus, image of God, travel with us the life of faith. Jesus, friend of sinners, heal the brokenness of our world. Jesus, Lord of tomorrow, draw us into your future. Amen

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 God, you call us to take our place in the warfare of faith. Arm us, we pray, with spiritual weapons; train us in their use, and help us to defeat evil in the world and in ourselves; by the victory of Jesus our Saviour. Amen

Holy God, faithful and unchanging: enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth, and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love, that we may truly worship you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Confession

We have too often exchanged the worship of the living God for idols of our own imagining. As we gather to offer our praises to the holy and undivided Trinity, and to worship him in spirit and in truth, let us call to mind our sins.

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

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, 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

Our first reading is taken from Isaiah Chapter 55 verses 1 to 5:

Invitation to the Thirsty

55 "Come, all you who are thirsty,
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without cost.

² Why spend money on what is not bread,
and your labour on what does not satisfy?

Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,
and you will delight in the richest of fare.

³ Give ear and come to me;
listen, that you may live.

I will make an everlasting covenant with you,
my faithful love promised to David.

⁴ See, I have made him a witness to the peoples,
a ruler and commander of the peoples.

⁵ Surely you will summon nations you know not,
and nations you do not know will come running to you,
because of the LORD your God,

the Holy One of Israel,
for he has endowed you with splendour.”

New International Version UK (NIVUK)

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, who was, and who is, and who is to come, the Almighty. *cf Revelation 1.8*

Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew chapter 14 verses 13 to 21:

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

¹³ When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

¹⁵ As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.”

¹⁶ Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.”

¹⁷ “We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,” they answered.

¹⁸ “Bring them here to me,” he said. ¹⁹ And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. ²⁰ They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. ²¹ The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

New International Version UK (NIVUK)

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ

Talk

Has the Covid 19 pandemic meant that you have had to change some plans? I’m sure that for most of us the answer to that question is “Yes”. Perhaps you’ve had to change holiday plans, rearrange a special occasion such as a wedding, or cancel celebrations for a birthday or anniversary. Just not being able to be with family and friends has been hard. So many of us have had to face disappointments as plans fall apart and we have had many of the things that we were looking forward to stopped or disrupted.

In the reading from Matthew’s gospel - commonly called “The feeding of the five thousand”, Jesus initially went to a place to rest on his own (verse 13). He had heard about the beheading of John the Baptist and had gone to lie low for a while and

probably grieve for his friend. He was also, no doubt, glad of a rest, which was something he wouldn't have experienced too often with twelve disciples and crowds around him.

However, when he saw that the crowd had followed him, he had compassion on them (verse 14). Most of us, I think, put in this position, might have told the crowd to leave us in peace, but not Jesus. Even though he was putting himself at risk - given what happened to John - he chose to help and heal. He was under no obligation, Jesus simply wanted to bless and provide for the crowds. Jesus had his plans changed....

The miracle of feeding the 5000 is recorded in each of the four gospels. It is a fantastic miracle and clearly made a great impact on Jesus's followers, very simply at the level of providing food. But there is more to it than that. Most Jews knew their ancestral history very well and would have detected the resonances with how God miraculously fed them in the wilderness (Deuteronomy 8 v 3,16)

The 12 baskets left over (verse 20) recall in a strange way the twelve tribes of Israel who constituted the people of God.

One of the greatest themes of Scripture is God's special choice of people to be his own, to worship and obey him and to receive his blessing, provision and protection for ever. He chose the people of Israel, not because they were the biggest and best but simply because that was his sovereign decision; he made a promise to their ancestors and he loved them (Deuteronomy 8 v 1-20). The people of Israel were encouraged by God to expect that, if they kept his commandments, they would be blessed, both spiritually and materially, way beyond what they could have hoped for.

Jesus met the needs of the crowd that day by providing physical food of loaves and fishes. For many who were healed and blessed, He provided spiritual food too. In our Isaiah reading, God offers nourishment - not food that costs money and meets only our physical needs but free nourishment that feeds our souls. How do we get this spiritual nourishment? We come (verse 1), listen (verses 2, 3) and seek, calling and waiting on God. We will starve spiritually without this food as surely as we will starve physically without our daily bread.

God's salvation is freely offered through his son Jesus, but to nourish our souls we must continually seek the refreshment of the Holy Spirit in our lives. God is a faithful God and will meet with us where we are and fill us spiritually by His Spirit. God can do far more than we could dare to ask or dream of, even turning disappointments and changed plans into hopes and goodness.

As we continue in these 'different' days, when so many of our plans have changed, let us learn to rely on God's plans for each one of us. They will probably be different from our own but He longs to feed us, providing generously for our needs.

And taking a quote from last week's talk: "As we rediscover things (plans) we have had to give up, this is a good opportunity to make sure that Jesus is involved in all our actions, activities and decisions". We are, as Christians, called to be the 'yeast' in The Kingdom of God. Let us make every effort, with God's help, to witness in love,

joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control – the fruits of the Spirit.

However life is different for us, with plans big or small changed; God is willing and able to help and guide. He will nourish us spiritually and grant us the comfort of his presence as we wait on Him. We know who holds the future and He'll guide us with His hand...

The chorus from the song "I do not know what lies ahead":

I know who holds the future, and He'll guide me with His hand
With God things don't just happen, everything by Him is planned.
So as I face tomorrow, with its problems large and small,
I'll trust the God of miracles, give to Him my all.

Amen.

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. Heavenly Father we thank you for sending your Son Jesus Christ to be our saviour and for the sacrifice that he made for all upon the cross. We give thanks for life-plans, and changes we make to our plans as you gradually reveal your plan for us Lord.

Lord in your mercy – hear our prayer.

We pray first of all for all those who have heard your call and who minister in your name. Be with them at all times and guide and support them when they are in need. We pray especially for Heather and Sharon here in the parishes of Hartshill & Galley Common. We ask that all clergy who are working extra hard to re-open churches everywhere are uplifted by your presence in their lives through the Holy Spirit. Strengthen Christopher and John our bishops, 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.

Heavenly Father we pray for all the people of the world, we pray particularly for those who are suffering and in need whether due to war, natural disaster, famine or disease. We pray for all people who are living in fear due to conflict and fighting. Be with them Lord and help to bring peace and harmony where there is trouble and discord.

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.

We pray for all who are working to relieve the symptoms and effects of the Coronavirus. Whether that be National Health service workers, care workers in general or other walks of life that have found new challenges during the pandemic. Give grace to us our families and friends and to all our neighbours; that we may serve in Christ in one another and love as he loves us.

Lord in your mercy – hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father we pray for the sick, we ask you to bring them comfort and relief from their pain and suffering. In particular we think of those listed on our notice sheet today....

and take a moment of silence to pray for them and anyone else known to us who is in need of your help due to ill health, worry, loneliness or other troubles.

<Pause>

Heavenly Father be with all those we have just prayed for, give them courage and faith at this time, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord in your mercy – hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father we remember those who have died in faith and in particular Joan Revill whose funeral was held last Wednesday. We pray for the families and friends of those who have died. Grant them comfort and strength as they grieve, shine your light upon them, that they may know your peace, and ease their pain through the love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Lord in your mercy – hear our prayer.

Finally we give thanks for the gift of your grace dear Lord. Thank you for all that you do for us and for all that you provide. Help us to continually seek the refreshment of the Holy Spirit in our lives and, as we continue in these different days, when so

many of our plans have changed, help us to learn to rely on your plan for each one of us.

Merciful Father – Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ

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

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; **O my God, in you I trust.**

You are the God of my salvation, **To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.**

In you I hope all the day long. **O my God, in you I trust.**

Remember, Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; O my God, in you I trust.

It is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4.6

God of love, passionate and strong, tender and caring:

watch over us and hold us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord 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.

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

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour everyone; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.**Amen.**

The Commission

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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Notices for the week ahead

Church Services

Welcome back to those attending our service at Holy Trinity today.

A reminder that all services for the time being at Holy Trinity will start at 10am (there will be no 9am service on the second Sunday – but 10am instead).

Services will start at St Peter's next Sunday (August 9th) and will start at our usual time there at 10.30am.

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 inside the building. **Face coverings will also have to be worn in Church so please come prepared.** 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 at either church 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. Those able to attend will be contacted so please do not turn up if you have not been informed that you can attend. A Guidance note has been prepared for all those attending- please read it carefully. For those not able to attend we will be continuing with 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.

Do read carefully the updates in the text of my email today and for those who will receive briefing papers before their return to church – please read them carefully as we try and help you prepare for worshipping back in the building.

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 are lifted.

This is at a time when the Food Bank is still under huge pressure, especially now that schools are on holiday.

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.

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:

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; 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

Beryl Sankey (Heather's Aunty).

