

Sunday 7th July

– Trinity 6

Morning Worship

Led by Sue Nelms, LLM

<https://zoom.us/j/82311473640>



Gathering and Greeting

O Lord, open our lips

And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

Opening Prayer

Blessed are you, Sovereign God, creator of all,
to you be glory and praise for ever.

You founded the earth in the beginning
and the heavens are the work of your hands.

In the fullness of time you made us in your image,
and in these last days you have spoken to us
in your Son Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

As we rejoice in the gift of your presence among us
let the light of your love always shine in our hearts,
your Spirit ever renew our lives
and your praises ever be on our lips.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

After Lancelot Andrewes (1626)

Hymn – Lord of all hopefulness

1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like, no care could destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,

Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

3 Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Jan Struther (1901-1953) © Oxford University Press
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Confession

St Paul says

‘Be imitators of God; love as Christ loved;
do not grieve the Holy Spirit;
put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and malice.’
So let us confess our sins to God, who forgives us in Christ.

cf Ephesians 4.30 – 5.1

**God of mercy,
we acknowledge that we are all sinners.
We turn from the wrong that we have thought
and said and done,
and are mindful of all that we have failed to do.
For the sake of Jesus, who died for us,
forgive us for all that is past,
and help us to live each day
in the light of Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins
to all those who with heartfelt repentance and true faith
turn to him:

have mercy on us,
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and bring us to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Readings by Clare Crang

Ezekiel 2:1-5

2 He said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. ² And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. ³ He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. ⁴ The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God.' ⁵ Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

Mark 6:1-13

6 Jesus left that place and came to his home town, and his disciples followed him. ² On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, 'Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! ³ Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?' And they took offence at him. ⁴ Then Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honour, except in their home town, and among their own kin, and in their own house.' ⁵ And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶ And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷ He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸ He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹ but

to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰ He said to them, 'Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹ If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.' ¹² So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³ They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

Reflection by Rev Clare Coates

Heavenly Father, help us to listen to your words today. Let us be inspired and guided by you so that we can work together to build your kingdom here. Amen.

The press often talks about how divided the Church of England is currently. It is clear that for any organisation to succeed, it needs teamwork and a sense of shared purpose. These are essential. In order to thrive in the future, the Church as a whole needs to re-double its focus on good teamwork and people working together, with a common vision inspired by Jesus. We may not all share the same views on every aspect of our faith or in how we approach worship but the simple message from Jesus in our gospel reading today is that he wants us to be humble. To set aside our differences so that we can work together for him, and to love one another as Christians

In our Gospel reading today, Jesus gives the Apostles clear instructions before being sent out on the first mission together. Jesus's instructions to them are applicable to us too: Jesus teaches us that, as his disciples, we too are to:

1. work together
2. to remember Jesus is Lord
3. to travel lightly
4. to not be discouraged by the setbacks
and
5. to tell the truth that God loves us: regardless of our gender, sexuality class or social background, race, or whether we are able-bodied or disabled.

1. Work together

Jesus sent his Apostles out in pairs. He knew that they needed the support and encouragement of each other. It is much harder to be a Christian on our own. We need others and God to help us. Jesus calls us all to be part of his community and family. He gathers us together and sends us out together, maybe even to unexpected places. And we need his help and presence, but we need each other too.

2. Remember Jesus is Lord

It is important to listen very carefully to Jesus. Jesus was empowered by God's authority and power and that is gifted to us too. As he said in Matthew (28:18-19):

“All authority and Heaven and Earth are given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.”

Jesus empowers us with his Holy Spirit to step out in faith and with confidence. He is asking us to continue his work in his name. Jesus's way is the way of love and faith in action. Compassion underpinned everything Jesus did and said, and his love for others shone through. Jesus did not judge anyone; he simply said “follow me,” no strings attached. Jesus wants us to go out together and to care for others, just as he did. And there's lots of good things going on in our communities across the Lordsbridge Team. And it's wonderful to see churchgoers and villagers working together for the common good. As Christians we listen to Jesus and follow his example to love and serve others whoever we meet with compassion and kindness and not judgement. Together we are an example to others of how God is at work in and through us.

3. Travel light

In our Gospel reading today, the Apostles are sent out in pairs in the clothes and shoes they are wearing. Not with trailers of stuff, but in the expectation that God will provide. Jesus tells them ‘do not take anything for the journey. Go as you are.’ The important lesson for us today is that we too need to travel light on the path Jesus has set us on. This signifies that we are to put our full trust in him, trusting he will

show us the way and he will equip and sustain us enroute. The thought of a no Plan B can be a scary thought, when following Jesus. But listen to his words of encouragement: 'you don't need stuff. You have all you need. You are enough.' You just need to be willing to say yes, to step out and follow where he is leading. And all you really need when travelling light is faith and trust. God has got this.

4. Don't be discouraged by the setbacks

It's clear in today's passage that Jesus fully expects there to be setbacks and challenges. We may find ourselves faced with indifference or hostility. Some simply do not want to hear Jesus's message of love and forgiveness for all people. Jesus's words are a great encouragement. Our task is simply to go and tell this message to everyone we meet and invite them to learn more for themselves. And then leave the rest to God and move on. We will face setbacks. So let's let our faith be active in love, serving Jesus and others.

5. Tell the truth: God loves everyone

The simple truth is: God loves everyone. For us, this can sometimes be challenging. It's maybe not very easy to really see the person in front of us. Psalm 139 reminds us that we are all 'fearfully and wonderfully made' by God, in His image. He knows us inside out, right from the start. Each one of us is deeply loved by Him. As Christians Jesus tasks us all to proclaim this fundamental principal which underpins the whole Bible: love. As Christians, we are expected to walk in this truth. Tell everyone this truth about God's love and that we are all loved by Him, just as we are. Our job is to invite people to turn to God, but then trust the rest to Him.

It is clear from our Gospel reading today that Jesus wants his followers to work as a team together. It is very important to respect each other and to listen to one another. We all have our part to play, however big or small because everything we do in Jesus's name makes a big difference.

Responsory

Awake O sleeper, and arise from the dead

And Christ shall give you light.

You have died and your life is hid with Christ in God

Awake O sleeper, and arise from the dead.

Set your minds on things that are above,

not on things that are on the earth.

And Christ shall give you light.

When Christ our life appears you will appear with him in glory.

Awake O sleeper, and arise from the dead,

and Christ shall give you light.

from Colossians 3

Affirmation 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.

Prayers of intercession prepared by Rick Nelms

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the Bible, for the Gospels and for the knowledge of Jesus in scripture. We thank you for the incarnate ministry of Jesus Christ, Messiah, Saviour, who through his death on the cross, burial, resurrection and ascension to sit at your right hand, paid the price for our sins and brings us true freedom. We thank you

for the Holy Spirit, Spirit of Truth, Friend, Helper, Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor, Counsellor, Strengthener and God within, who abides within each one of us and brings our individual gifts and will, if we follow obediently, help us to yield fruits of the spirit.

Lord of Joy and Peace, **Hear our Prayer**

Heavenly Father, we pray for the worldwide Church of Christ, held together by Holy bonds far stronger than the human inventions which we use to divide ourselves up into cliques and denominations. We pray for the ongoing processes to fill vacancies within the Diocese of Ely and Lordsbridge Team, for all those impacted by the resulting interregnums, and for everyone who is responsible for the training of ministers of all sorts. We pray for those who contribute to making our churches what they are: ministers, lay and ordained; churchwardens and PCCs; those who work behind the scenes and the congregations who come together to worship and to pray. We pray for those who shine your light out into our communities, taking the Gospel to people where they are, through our words, actions and prayers.

Lord of the Church, **Hear our Prayer**

Heavenly Father, we pray for the nations of the world and especially for their leaders. We pray for honesty and integrity in those with responsibility, including those in government as well as those in the media who collect and disseminate news. We thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the political process through democratic elections and pray that we never take that freedom for granted. We pray for peoples who are prevented from influencing the political future of their nations by autocratic leaders and injustices such as apartheid. We pray for those affected by conflict of all kinds, and especially against genocide and extinction of peoples, languages and cultures. We pray for nations and peoples impacted by natural disasters including those apparently natural disasters resulting from human activities.

Lord of all People, **Hear our Prayer**

Heavenly Father, we pray for the beautiful, fragile glories of your creation. We pray for all people to realise the value of those parts of creation as yet undamaged by human activities, and that these ecosystems, habitats and communities will be protected and conserved for the future. We pray for recognition that some regions, whilst damaged, can be repaired by protection from further damage and by active development to restore them to an enhanced status closer to their created magnificence. We pray for recognition that there are eight billion people living on this planet, and that some regions, already far removed from their natural status by human exploitation, can and should be managed in order to maximise their contribution to feeding and caring for humanity.

Lord of Creation, **Hear our Prayer**

Heavenly Father, we pray for everyone who lives in the communities around us, wherever we happen to be, for friends, family and neighbours both known and unknown. We pray for all young people, for security and love, as well as for education to maximise their life chances. We pray especially for those who struggle, in spiritual seeking, in mental distress and in acute and chronic physical illness or recovering from injury or surgery. We pray for those who struggle in society, for those who are discriminated against, bullied, trapped in poverty or loveless relationships, held in captivity or trying to escape to a better future. We pray for all who struggle to have a sense of your closeness, your arms around them, your love for them, no matter how inadequate or undeserving they may feel.

Lord of Light and Love, **Hear our Prayer**

Heavenly Father, we pray for those for whom it is their last day on Earth, whether they know it or not, for all those who are grieving today, whatever the reason for their sense of loss. We give thanks for the lives of those who have come before us, especially those who have brought your light into our lives, and those who we know are today with You in paradise.

Lord of Eternity, **Hear our Prayer**

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

Collect

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 forever. **Amen**

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.**

Hymn – Go forth and tell!

I Go forth and tell! O church of God, awake!
God's saving news to all the nations take;
proclaim Christ Jesus, saviour, Lord, and king,
that all the world his glorious praise may sing.

- 2 Go forth and tell! God's love embraces all;
he will in grace respond to all who call:
how shall they call if they have never heard
the gracious invitation of his word?
- 3 Go forth and tell! The doors are open wide:
share God's good gifts-let no one be denied;
live out your life as Christ your Lord shall choose,
your ransomed powers for his sole glory use.
- 4 Go forth and tell! O church of God, arise!
go in the strength which Christ your Lord supplies;
go till all nations his great name adore
and serve him, Lord and king for evermore.

James E Seddon (1915-1983)

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Notices

Conclusion

Blessing and honour and thanksgiving and praise,
more than we can utter, more than we can conceive,
be to you, most holy and glorious Trinity,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
by all angels, all people, all creatures, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Spirit of truth lead us into all truth,
give us grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
and strengthen us to proclaim the word and works of God;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always. **Amen**

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