

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October**  
**– Trinity 16**



**Morning Worship**

Led by Sue Nelms, LLM

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

**Gathering and Greeting**

The Lord be with you,  
**And also with you.**

**Opening Prayer**

Loving God, we have come to worship you.

**Help us to pray to you in faith,  
to sing your praise with gratitude,  
and to listen to your word with eagerness;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

**Hymn – Light of the minds that know him**

- 1 Light of the minds that know him,  
may Christ be light to mine!  
My sun in risen splendour,  
my light of truth divine;  
my guide in doubt and darkness,  
my true and living way,  
my clear light ever shining,  
my dawn of heaven's day.
- 2 Life of the souls that love him,  
may Christ be ours indeed!  
The living bread from heaven  
on whom our spirits feed;  
who died for love of sinners  
to bear our guilty load,  
and make of life's brief journey

a new Emmaus road.

3    Strength of the wills that serve him,  
     may Christ be strength to me,  
     who stilled the storm and tempest,  
     who calmed the tossing sea;  
     his Spirit's power to move me,  
     his will to master mine,  
     his cross to carry daily  
     and conquer in his sign.

4    May it be ours to know him  
     that we may truly love,  
     and loving, fully serve him  
     as serve the saints above;  
     till in that home of glory  
     with fadeless splendour bright,  
     we serve in perfect freedom  
     our strength, our life, our light.

Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926- 2024) from a prayer of Saint Augustine

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## **Saying Sorry to God**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your soul, with all your mind,  
and with all your strength.’

The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

After a period of reflection

**Come, let us return to the Lord and say:  
Lord our God,  
in our sin we have avoided your call.  
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,  
like the dew that goes away early.  
Have mercy on us;  
deliver us from judgement;  
bind up our wounds and revive us;  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

cf Hosea 6

May almighty God,  
who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,  
bring us his pardon and peace, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

## **Readings by Dorothy Morison**

### **2 Timothy 1.1-14**

**1** Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

**2** To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

**3** I am grateful to God - whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did - when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. **4** Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. **5** I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. **6** For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; **7** for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

<sup>8</sup> Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, <sup>9</sup> who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, <sup>10</sup> but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

<sup>11</sup> For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, <sup>12</sup> and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. <sup>13</sup> Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup> Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

For the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Luke 17:5-10**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>5</sup>The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" <sup>6</sup>The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you. <sup>7</sup>"Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from ploughing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? <sup>8</sup>Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? <sup>9</sup>Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? <sup>10</sup>So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!'"

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Reflection by Rev Priscilla Slusar**

When I was a curate, a lady in the parish said to me “I don’t know how I would have coped if I had been born in a place where Christians are persecuted. I would never have the courage to maintain my faith.” I was very surprised by her comments because I felt that she was a formidable personality with a strong faith. But she felt that her faith was not strong enough. I’m sure that there are times when we each feel like that.

How often is our faith tested? Are there times when we feel that our faith is fragile?

Faith may be an easy word to say but difficult to live it. Think of the times when our faith is tested nowadays – not just faith in God, but faith in other people or institutions - faith in politicians or leaders to achieve the goals they set or faithfulness in marriage and friendships. When we face challenging times in our lives, our faith in God may strengthen and blossom because we turn to God for support. But it may also lead us to question our faith and so our faith may weaken and die.

In times of serious illness or bereavement we may feel God’s presence and pray for support. Or, we may feel that God has abandoned us and lose that awareness of God. The same is true for people living in places of war and conflict, or those who have been abused by people they trusted. It is hard to live in faith when life is challenging.

This is the situation that Luke describes in today’s gospel reading. The disciples ask Jesus to increase their faith. I expect that many of us have asked God the same question when life gets tough.

We need to understand the context of the disciples’ request. There was increasing conflict between Jesus and the authorities. Jesus hinted that there would be worse to come, and the disciples picked up on this tension. They appealed to Jesus for help: “Increase our faith!” Their

reasoning is: If they are going to face such conflict they will need all the faith they can get. Jesus's response to them is rather short. He says that they don't need more faith, they just need to use what they have already got. The smallest amount of faith can work wonders. Jesus then encourages the disciples to shift attention away from themselves. What counts is not how much faith they have, but the one in whom they invest it. The focus should be on God.

He refers to faith as small as a mustard seed. He also talks of the slave who serves his master without question because that is his role and duty. The disciples should set their sights on God so that they fulfil the role that God sets out for them, preaching the word of God and serving others.

The reading from the letter to Timothy is also about faith. Once again, the context is important. This appears to be a letter from Paul to Timothy when Paul is in prison, expecting to die soon for his faith. He entrusts his legacy to his "beloved child" Timothy. Timothy must have felt the burden of this legacy. Where would he gain the strength to continue the work that Paul has started?

Paul refers to Timothy's inheritance of faith. His faith has grown through his family, especially his mother Eunice and grandmother Lois. It is one of the few occasions when women of faith are mentioned by name in the gospels – so that indicates their importance in this narrative.

Paul goes on to remind Timothy that his faith and courage come from God; it is through God's grace that he will be able to sustain his ministry. He gives Timothy great words of encouragement, "Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us."

Like Timothy and the disciples, we often need to hear words of encouragement that remind us that even our small faith can be

effective in living as God wishes us to. Jesus says that faith as small as a mustard seed is enough. Having faith does not mean that you never doubt. The theologian Paul Tillich states “Doubt is not the opposite of faith; it is one element of faith.” We need to put our faith, our hope and trust, in God and do what we can to serve God in love throughout our lives. Amen

### **Responsory**

Open my eyes, O Lord,  
that I may see the wonders of your law.

**Open my eyes, O Lord,  
that I may see the wonders of your law.**

Lead me in the path of your commandments  
**That I may see the wonders of your law.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit.

**Open my eyes, O Lord,  
that I may see the wonders of your law.**

Psalm 119

### **Affirmation of Faith**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?  
**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?  
**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?  
**We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith.**

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

### **Prayers of intercession prepared by Rick Nelms**

Heavenly Father, thank you for the many gifts you provide for us.

Thank you that when we are weak, you are strong and give us strength to do what you wish us to do. Thank you that when we fear that you are not there and when we feel most alone, those are the times when you are closest. Thank you that we are yours; we are your disciples, so through the love and passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are restored, forgiven and raised, undeserved, to be your friends. Thank you, that through your Holy Spirit, abiding inside each of us, we become able to be your voice and hands and feet in the world; shining your light; bringing your love; spreading your Word; serving our neighbours; forgiving our enemies.

Oh Lord God of love, **thank you for every gift you give.**

Heavenly Father, we pray for your universal catholic Church in turbulent times. Forgive us for failing to be One Church; for allowing sin to separate us into cliques and denominations. Help us work towards unity and to treat each other as we wish to be treated. We pray for persecuted Christians everywhere; help our siblings in Christ to thrive, a beacon of light in the darkness. We pray for those called to fill empty roles in the Church; Archbishop of Canterbury, Bishop of Ely, Lordsbridge Team Rector, and that those who make appointments hear your voice too. We pray for everyone affected by interregnums; in our team we pray for all ministers, Churchwardens, PCCs and others who take on responsibilities.

Oh Lord God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father we pray for our chaotic world, for people who need help; people afflicted by violence, wrong-doing, trouble, destruction,



strife, and injustice. We pray for the conflicts in the Middle East; in Ukraine and Russia; for the many other conflicts worldwide. Bring peace, love, forgiveness, aid and all that is needed for stable and fair futures. We pray for indigenous peoples, for injustices centuries in the making, for those stateless in their own lands. We pray for countries, including ours, where rich, charismatic populists offer those who struggle and have little, an attractive but false vision of the future. We pray for an end to appeasement of populists, revealing with truth, the lies in their fake news. We pray for real progress to end poverty and inequality and to defend democracy and freedom. We pray for those so blighted by conflict, injustice and deprivation, that migration seems the only option. May they be kept safe, avoid abuse or exploitation, and be greeted, wherever they arrive, with open arms, with love, justice and fairness, with everything they need for a new and better life. Oh Lord God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we pray for the beautiful, complex, fragile planet which is our home. The Earth feels so large to us, yet its resources and its resilience are limited in ways which humans find hard to grasp. With Creationtide still fresh in our minds, we pray for an end to treating resources as limitless; an end to treating the atmosphere, the seas and the land as infinite waste disposal units. You made creation, and it was very good, and through Jesus Christ creation is maintained, so please help people everywhere to love and cherish and care for and treasure the Earth and its environments and to live sustainably and abundantly as you want us to do.

Oh Lord God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we pray for our communities, wherever we are. We pray for everyone who serves so that our communities can flourish. We pray for those whose work is paid and unpaid, in education, health and social care, manufacturing, agriculture, construction of homes, transport and providing services such as clean water, waste removal and recycling. We pray for those who ensure that our communities remain safe and secure, including the police, fire brigade, ambulances

and paramedics, as well as those who serve more broadly to defend our communities and country against potential threats from elsewhere. Oh Lord God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father we pray for all those who suffer. We pray for everyone whose sickness is spiritual, from worshiping false gods or no god at all and those whose illness is mental, from past or present trauma, or changes in brain chemistry. We pray for all people who are physically unwell, who live with pain, fatigue, unpleasant symptoms, side effects of treatment and fear for the future. We pray for all those who care, for the long grief and lost opportunities that come with caring for one we love. We pray for those who live alone and who must care for themselves through illness and suffering. We pray for everyone who is lonely, cold, hungry, homeless or trapped in poverty or loveless relationships. In a time of silence we pray for those on our hearts today...

Oh Lord God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father we pray for everyone who is dying, whether they know it or not. We pray for everyone who is grieving, knowing that we all grieve in our own way and that grief does not simply go away with time. Through your Holy Spirit you unite us all, the saints here on earth and those already with you in heaven. As we live together, help us to feel our fellowship in the Spirit, joined with one another and with you, Lord Jesus Christ, by prayer, love, grace, peace and mercy. Amen

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

### **Collect**

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you;  
and grant that they may both perceive and know  
what things they ought to do,  
and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them;

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 – We have a gospel to proclaim**

- 1 We have a gospel to proclaim,  
good news for all throughout the earth;  
the gospel of a Saviour's name:  
we sing his glory, tell his worth.
- 2 Tell of his birth at Bethlehem  
not in a royal house or hall  
but in a stable dark and dim,  
the Word made flesh, a light for all.
- 3 Tell of his death at Calvary,  
hated by those he came to save,  
in lonely suffering on the Cross;  
for all he loved his life he gave.
- 4 Tell of that glorious Easter morn:

empty the tomb, for he was free.  
He broke the power of death and hell  
that we might share his victory.

5 Tell of his reign at God's right hand,  
by all creation glorified.  
He sends his Spirit on his Church  
to live for him, the Lamb who died.

6 Now we rejoice to name him King:  
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.  
This gospel-message we proclaim:  
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

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## Notices

### Conclusion

God the Father,  
who first loved us and made us accepted in the beloved Son,  
bless us. **Amen.**

God the Son,  
who loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood,  
bless us. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit,  
who sheds abroad the love of God in our hearts,  
bless us. **Amen.**

The blessing of the one true God,  
to whom be all love and all glory for time and for eternity,  
come down upon us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

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