

Sunday 28th June – Morning Worship for Trinity 4

Led by Sue Nelms, LLM

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

LORDSBRIDGE TEAM
OF CHURCHES



Opening Words

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you
and also with you.

Gathering Prayer

The Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.
**Let us rejoice and shout for joy,
giving God the glory.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
**as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

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.

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Saying Sorry

The gospel calls us to turn away from sin
and be faithful to Christ.

As we offer ourselves to him in penitence and faith,
we renew our confidence and trust in his mercy.

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought,
in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.**

**We have wounded your love,
and marred your image in us.**

**We are sorry and ashamed,
and repent of all our sins.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,**

**forgive us all that is past;
and lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light.**

Amen.

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse us from our sins,

and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Readings by Dona McCullagh

Jeremiah 28:5-9

⁵ Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the Lord; ⁶ and the prophet Jeremiah said, 'Amen! May the Lord do so; may the Lord fulfil the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the Lord, and all the exiles. ⁷ But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. ⁸ The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. ⁹ As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the Lord has truly sent the prophet.'

For the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Matthew 10:40-end

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴⁰ 'Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹ Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; ⁴² and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple - truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection by Rev Clare Coates

Prayer: Lord God, help us to be welcoming and kind and to support and care for each other. Let our church communities be places where we can be ourselves before you and where others can catch a glimpse of you at work in us. Amen.

Last weekend I went up to Ely Cathedral to welcome our new Bishop, Bishop Sarah, as she was installed as our first female Bishop! It was a very special occasion and many people from across the Diocese came to welcome her on what was a very hot day! Bishop Sarah invited the Diocese to listen to the whisper of God's Holy Spirit. To draw deeply on the spiritual heritage of our communities. And to recognise the living water of God's presence bringing new life where we live. She spoke of Jesus's compelling invitation: 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me.' (John 7:37) This abundant life, she said, is 'not ours to possess or control, but is a gift freely offered to all.' She called us to have courage; to 'repent where we have been life breaking rather than like giving.' To dare; to dream; to take risks; to imagine; to try new and different things as we work out together what shape of church and ministry God is calling us to in this new chapter in Ely Diocese's history.

I felt hugely encouraged by her message, which was one of welcome and openness to all in our communities. This really strikes a chord because Jesus's message in today's Gospel passage, is all about us welcoming him into our lives and about being open and welcoming to others. Today's Gospel message of welcome is a good reminder to us that Jesus sees us as his co-workers. It teaches us that we are Jesus's hands and feet, eyes and ears, where we live now. So how we speak and act as Christians really matters. Because what we say and what we do impacts others' lives. Over the last few weeks, we have been reflecting on discipleship and how it looks today. Jesus is clear - he encourages us and calls us to work together. He sends us out together so that we can work together, building God's Kingdom where we live.

At our Team service a few weeks ago, I reflected on Paul's use of an image of a field to illustrate how we are all called to work together for God (in 1 Corinthians 3), acknowledging and trusting that it is God who gives the growth (1 Cor 3:6). God calls all kinds of people from all walks of life and of all ages and places us together. We all have a part to play in helping God's Kingdom take root and grow. But we don't all have the same task or role to play. But we are needed to build God's field - or Kingdom- together. In today's Gospel passage, Jesus is asking us to consider what kind of people do we want to be as we represent him in our daily lives? In my time at the Lordsbridge Team, I've met so many great people across our parishes, and I see the light of Jesus shining out from them in all they do. There are many unsung heroes quietly and diligently serving God in their communities, families and workplaces through little acts of kindness and love. I'm really uplifted by seeing people living in such a kind, caring and considerate way. When we are friendly, caring, open, kind and welcoming in all our daily interactions, whether it's at work, in school, in our families or friendship circles, or in our leisure activities, this has a bigger impact than we may know. Sometimes a word of encouragement can go a long way in someone's life, and we may never know how much of an impact it has made. Our world especially needs more kindness and love and less judgement, violence and hatred.

Jesus's message to us today is simple and clear. It's one of welcome. When we welcome others into our lives, we have an incredible opportunity to show how much our faith means to us and how big a difference it is making in our lives. When others welcome us, it is also an opportunity for us to be Jesus's living lights to them so that they can come to know Jesus through our experiences and attitudes. Nothing we do in serving Jesus is wasted. It's in the smallest acts of love and service for others that together make a huge difference. Jesus is teaching us today that he wants us to be open to others. That we should be outward looking and linked into our communities. We are very much doing that here across the Lordsbridge Team in so many ways. We are linked into our villages through outreach to the elderly;

our schools ministry; through creation care and our concerns for environmental matters; and through our community service.

Last weekend in Hardwick, young people from Sunday Club organised a dawn to dusk fundraiser for Emmaus, the homelessness charity. It was inspiring to see so many people of all ages, both from the Church and the wider community, coming to Saint Mary's to support this incredible initiative. Completing as many or as few laps of 500 metres as they could, the young people showed boundless energy all day and completed the challenge easily – some carrying on for much longer! One person walked a whole marathon all day and another Mum completed an amazing 100 laps or 50km! It was really uplifting day and it was truly inspiring to see how much these young people care about those who are in very bad situations. This is, in a way, a very good example of the kind of thing Bishop Sarah was talking about last Sunday and when you think about it, models Jesus's teaching perfectly. I feel that within the Lordsbridge Team we succeed in combining a good solid spiritual foundation which then empowers us to reach out and help the wider community and beyond. To conclude in Jesus's words: we strive to be places and people of welcome. Together we are an open and welcoming church family that shares God's love in our villages and communities.

Apostles' Creed

Let us now declare our faith in God as we say together.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

On the third day he rose again;

**he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession prepared by Rick Nelms

Thank you Lord Jesus:

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Loving God, **Hear our thanks.**

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith, we pray for the Church of Christ everywhere. We pray for Christian unity. Give us all patience and understanding as we work towards becoming one Church. As you held out your arms in welcome to all, so we pray that all Churches, including our own zoom Church, will hold out their arms to welcome everyone. We pray for Archbishops, and Bishops, especially Bishop Sarah as she begins her ministry in our Diocese. We pray for all who lead in our team, that they understand the responsibilities to which they are called, and the gifts that you have given them. We pray for your will to be done in the interview for the minister for Toft and Comberton on Tuesday. We pray that all Churches reach out in love and welcome everyone in your glorious name.
Loving God, **Hear our prayer.**

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm, we pray for the unpredictable world and the many frightened people. We pray that world leaders

make decisions for the benefit of everyone. We pray for lies and fake news to be replaced by truth and honesty. We pray for the carers who came from all over the world because we asked for their help and who, unsettled by racism, long hours for little money, accusations of fraud and extended time to settlement, are going home or to more friendly countries like Canada and Australia. We pray for peace in the wars everyone knows about, and for forgotten conflicts and people who feel that nobody cares about them. We pray for all those affected by environmental and natural disasters, drought and floods; earthquakes, landslides, volcanos, wildfires and storms. We pray for generosity and resources that get communities functioning again without creating dependence on aid.

Loving God, **Hear our prayer.**

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy, we pray for this beautiful, fragile planet you have made for us. Everywhere we see the traces of your abundant love, in the beauty of flowers, forests, mountains, clouds, sunsets, stars and galaxies. We see your ongoing creative love afresh in enthusiastic pleasure of small children seeing tadpoles turn into frogs for the first time, or a butterfly miraculously unpacking its gorgeous wings from inside a tiny pupa, and in music, art and words. Help us all to work together with the earth, sustainably, minimising disruption and damage, especially in areas still pristine, unharmed by human greed and sin. Help us to use wisely places where food can be safely and sustainably grown, and to build houses in places that don't flood. Where land is contaminated, by chemicals or nuclear waste, or the side effects of forestry, exploitation of the sea, farming or mining, we pray for protection, repair and conservation.

Loving God, **Hear our prayer.**

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm, we pray for our communities, wherever they are. We pray for those who serve so that communities can flourish, as employees, formal volunteers or family and friends acting as informal volunteers. For everyone involved in education, health and social care, building and maintain things, growing food,

selling the things we need to live, disposing of our waste and providing clean safe water and all the other things that we need to thrive. We pray for our families, friends and neighbours. Help us with the challenges in loving our neighbours as ourselves, and when we struggle to love ourselves, remind us that you love us without condition and we should follow where you lead. Help us to forgive and love our enemies, both near and far, even when we find it very difficult.

Loving God, **Hear our prayer.**

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace, we pray for those who struggle, in body, mind or spirit. Ease fatigue, pain, anxiety whether obvious to all, or known only by them, and You.

We pray for those trapped in poverty or loveless relationships, those who are lonely, hungry or homeless, and all who are bullied or persecuted or otherwise struggle, in whatever form that takes.

In silence we pray...

Loving God, **Hear our prayer.**

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith, we pray for people who are dying, for those who mourn, especially for Michael Reiss following the death of Jenny ... for the faithful whom we entrust to the Lord in certainty, as we look forward to the day when we share the fullness of the resurrection,

Loving God, **Hear our prayer.**

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy, rejoicing in the communion of all the saints both living and departed, let us, filled with your Holy Spirit, in peace and love, commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to God.

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

Collect

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:

increase and multiply upon us your mercy;
that with you as our ruler and guide
we may so pass through things temporal
that we lose not our hold on things eternal;
grant this, heavenly Father,
for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen**

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.**

Hymn – Thanks to God whose word was spoken

- 1 Thanks to God whose word was spoken
in the deed that made the earth.
His the voice that called a nation,
his the fires that tried her worth.
God has spoken: God has spoken:
praise him for his open word.
- 2 Thanks to God whose word incarnate
glorified the flesh of man.
Deeds and words and death and rising

tell the grace in heaven's plan.
God has spoken: God has spoken:
praise him for his open word.

3 Thanks to God whose word was written
in the Bible's sacred page,
Record of the revelation
showing God to every age.
God has spoken: God has spoken:
praise him for his open word.

4 Thanks to God whose word is answered
by the Spirit's voice within.
Here we drink of joy unmeasured,
life redeemed from death and sin.
God is speaking: God is speaking:
praise him for his open word.

R T Brooks (1918-1985) © 1954 Hope Publishing Company (CCLI 2990581)

Notices

Blessing

The Lord bless us and keep us:
Amen.

The Lord make his face to shine upon us
and be gracious to us:
Amen.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon us
and give us peace:
Amen.

Numbers 6.24-26

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