

Sunday 31st May – Morning Worship for Trinity Sunday

Led by Sue Nelms, LLM

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

LORDSBRIDGE TEAM
OF CHURCHES



Opening Words

We meet in the name of God:
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Gathering Prayer

Lord, speak to us
that we may hear your word.
Move among us
that we may behold your glory.
Receive our prayers
that we may learn to trust you.
Amen.



TRINITY SUNDAY

Hymn – Alleluia, sing to Jesus

- 1 Alleluia, sing to Jesus!
His the sceptre, his the throne;
alleluia, his the triumph,
his the victory alone:
hark, the songs of peaceful Sion
thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus out of every nation
hath redeemed us by his blood.
- 2 Alleluia, not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
alleluia, he is near us,
faith believes, nor questions how:
though the cloud from sight received him,
when the forty days were o'er,

shall our hearts forget his promised,
'I am with you evermore'?

3 Alleluia, bread of angels,
thou on earth our food, our stay;
alleluia, here the sinful
flee to thee from day to day:
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.

4 Alleluia, King eternal,
thee the Lord of lords we own;
alleluia, born of May,
earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne,
thou within the veil hast entered,
robed in flesh, our great High Priest:
thou on earth both Priest and Victim
in the eucharistic feast.

William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)

Saying Sorry

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.

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,**

**help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

May the Father forgive us by the death of his Son,
and strengthen us to live in the power of the Spirit all our days.
Amen.

Readings by Dorothy Morison

I Corinthians 3: 5-11, 16-23

⁵ What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷ So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸ The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labour of each. ⁹ For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building. ¹⁰ According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. ¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

¹⁶ Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

¹⁸ Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise. ¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, 'He catches the wise in their craftiness',

²⁰ and again,

'The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise,
that they are futile.'

²¹ So let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are yours,
²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or
the present or the future - all belong to you, ²³ and you belong to
Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

For the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Matthew 28:16-end

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

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which
Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshipped him;
but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in
heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make
disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of
the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything
that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to
the end of the age.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection Rev Clare Coates

Prayer: Lord God, fill us fresh today with your Holy Spirit. Equip us for
the path ahead. Guide and strengthen us as we work together for your
honour and glory. Help us to encourage and support each other and to
build each other up. Amen.

I really enjoyed this year's Lordsbridge pilgrimage. What I
particularly liked was that we didn't rush but took our time. Whether
it was on Red Meadow Hill; in the fields between Coton and Hardwick;
in the wonderful coolness of Hardwick wood (in Caldecote parish!); or
on the last leg between Childerley and Dry Drayton: it was good to
stop. Listen. And see so much beauty. We saw some fantastic birds –
red kites; buzzards; yellow hammers and even a cuckoo in flight! Lots
of little butterflies and moths. Fields of glorious buttercups and daisies,

a riot of yellow and white. Stunning wildflowers. And of course many trees, which provided welcome shade for us pilgrims. We live in such a beautiful place!

It's very striking as you look at the fields and hedgerows in the landscape surrounding our villages in this Team that every individual one is a world of its own. There is such a diversity of plants, trees and flowers. Each section of hedgerow has its own burrows running underneath: homes for foxes, badgers, bunnies, hares and, of course, field mice! There are many fields full of growing crops, but on their edges a tremendous array of wildflowers, grasses and weeds, creating a beautiful mosaic of habitats where animals and birds and insects can thrive. Stephen and I love walking our dogs in this area. We sometimes see hares running in and out of the fields, especially here in Great Eversden! And seeing red kites riding on the thermals above always reminds me of where I grew up in West Wales.

In our first reading this morning from 1 Corinthians 3, Paul uses field imagery to illustrate a very important point about God's Kingdom. And which reminded me of the many beautiful fields across our Team. At the heart of this passage is a very strong message: that we are called to work together for God, acknowledging and trusting that it is God who gives the growth (v6). God calls all kinds of people - like you and me - all with different backgrounds, perspectives, experience, views, and understanding. We're not all the same! But God places us together to work for Him, building His Kingdom together.

In writing to the Corinthians, Paul was trying to encourage teamwork and to bring together the many different voices which made up the church community in Corinth. And most of all, to emphasise that everyone has a part to play. This is a very important lesson for us because it teaches us that the church community is stronger when everyone brings their different perspectives, experience and talents to help spread the good news where we live. The Core Team recently had an away day to Histon where we shared ideas about our vision for

the Team and prayed together. We all agree that what makes our Team so special is the existing teamwork with so many people in the parishes and between the parishes working together. We are so blessed to have not only fantastic clergy, lay ministers, self supporting and retired clergy, but also many volunteers and members of our congregations who give so generously of their time and talents. As a Core Team we are incredibly grateful and we couldn't do what we do without your support, commitment, and prayers. For us, prayer and worship are key to everything and at the heart of all we are hoping to do together.

During our Away Day, we looked at ways to build on the excellent foundations of the Team and to see how we can offer more support to our parishes. To continue building a strong community of prayer so that we develop our sense of being one Christian family. I have been working incredibly hard with our new Team Administrator Sue, who has a lot of experience working in a Cambridge college for many years. And she is already making a big difference, helping to strengthen our administrative and operational bases. Why does this matter? Because by being well organised we are free to follow our calling in building God's Kingdom. Planting seeds of faith and nurturing them. And doing what God has called us to do. Together. Playing to our individual strengths for the good of all. And trusting the rest to God.

There is something very spiritual and very inspiring in Paul's choice of a field metaphor to illustrate the way in which we all have a part to play working for God together. Many other great thinkers and artists throughout history have also seen fields as having a deep spiritual quality. Vincent Van Gough, for example, spent his whole life trying to capture in his paintings the spiritual quality of fields and plants because he strongly felt God's presence in nature. A field is a perfect illustration - of how there are many different elements to its existence, all codependent and working together. Its overall effect harmonious with a common purpose. Paul's image of a field is a good reminder to us that we depend entirely on God for everything. That we need to put

ourselves into God's hands. To intentionally make time for God in our lives. Maybe to be like a field? Not rush but just be. When we look at a field, we can see it's growing organically. It's full of vitality, energy and life. Green shoots of growth appearing in their own time. Seeds spreading and pollinating, especially at this time of year. Fields are ever changing and evolving.

I really love living and working in this part of the world and in the Lordsbridge Team! Stephen and I often walk here in the Eversdens. I feel inspired and touched by God's presence in this beautiful landscape. When you reach the top of Mare Way and look back, you can see the spires of Little and Great Eversden churches. You can just about make out where Hardwick, Caldecote, Toft and Comberton lie. And you know that Haslingfield, Harlton, Barton and Coton, and Childerley Chapel, are just beyond the ridges, just out of direct sight. Our churches aren't just important historic features of this landscape but are at the heart of each village community and have had a deeply religious and spiritual presence over many centuries. Just like our ancestors, we are committed to: praying together; serving our communities; and being a place where people of all ages are welcome and can find God's peace and strength.

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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 Sue Nelms

Heavenly Father we thank you that you are with us always. In the strength of your love we are excited to go and make disciples of all people and teaching them to obey everything that you have taught us. On this morning when we celebrate together as a Team, we pray for our Lordsbridge Team, for our Team Rector Clare and all of the ministers, both ordained and lay, who work alongside her to serve the Lordsbridge community. We pray particularly this morning for our Team Curate Barnabas as he prepares to take his final service with us next Sunday before he leaves to take up his new post as Vicar of Trumpington. We thank you for the time we have enjoyed with him and pray that he will serve his new parish with all of the love and encouragement he has given us. We pray also for our Ordinands Alistair and Charlotte as they move on to the next stage in their ministerial journey. Finally we pray for the person you are calling to join us as our new Team Vicar – that they will hear your call loud and clear and respond enthusiastically.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creator Father we thank you for the beautiful world you created for us to live in. We pray that we will care for your creation as it should be cared for and not simply use and abuse it. We pray for the warring nations that cause so much damage both to your creation and the lives of so many innocent people who are simply trying to live the best lives

they can. We pray for world leaders and ask that they will lead with humility, honesty, compassion and a true care and respect for the people they represent. We pray that they will learn to love their neighbours as themselves; that they will learn that our differences enrich our lives and should be something that is welcomed rather than feared. We pray for the ordinary people who have lost everything they had as a result of other people's conflicts or natural disasters caused by our misuse of your creation.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving Father, we thank you for everyone who makes our community the place it is. As our community's children go back to school after half-term, we pray that they will be refreshed and ready for any exams they might have ahead of them this term. We pray for the academic staff who care for them as they provide their education. We pray for older people or people living on their own; that alone does not mean lonely. We pray for anyone struggling to manage financially in these difficult times. Help us to reach out and share your love with anyone in need.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Caring Father we pray for everyone who is ill, whether in body, mind or spirit. We pray that they will know your healing touch on their lives. We pray for carers and anyone who provides support in difficult times. We pray also for people who are coming to the end of their earthly life. We pray that they and their family will know your love at this difficult time. We pray especially for those who grieve, whether that grief is new and raw or older but still sharp.

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

Amen.

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
you have given us your servants grace,
by the confession of a true faith,
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity
and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity:
keep us steadfast in this faith,
that we may evermore be defended from all adversities;
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**

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 – I, the Lord of sea and sky

I I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?

Whom shall I send?
Chorus: Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

2 I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?
Chorus

3 I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?
Chorus

Daniel L. Schutte (born 1947)

© 1981 Daniel L. Schutte & New Dawn Music (OL 80670)

Notices

Blessing

**O God our mystery, you bring us to life,
call us to freedom, and move between us with love.
May we so participate in your dance of trinity
that our lives may resonate with you, now and for ever.
Amen**

The God of all grace,
who called us to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus,
establish, strengthen and settle us in the faith;
and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be
among you and remain with us always. **Amen.**
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen