

Sunday 18 October
Morning Worship
for the Twentieth Sunday of Trinity
Led by Michaela McNeill, ALM
<https://zoom.us/j/82311473640>



The Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with us all.

This is the day that the Lord has made
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm: 22: 1 – 15

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from helping me,
from the words of my groaning?

**O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;
and by night, but find no rest.**

Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.
**In you our ancestors trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.**

To you they cried, and were saved;
in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.
**But I am a worm, and not human;
scorned by others, and despised by the people.**

All who see me mock at me;
they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;
**‘Commit your cause to the LORD;
let him deliver - let him rescue the one in whom he delights!’**

Yet it was you who took me from the womb;
you kept me safe on my mother's breast.
**On you I was cast from my birth,
and since my mother bore me you have been my God.**

Do not be far from me,
for trouble is near and there is no one to help.
**Many bulls encircle me,
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;**

they open wide their mouths at me,
like a ravening and roaring lion.
**I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like wax;
it is melted within my breast;**

my mouth is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;
you lay me in the dust of death.

We will pause for a few minutes to reflect on what the Psalm has said to us.

Hymn – Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

- 1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!
- 2 Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert and art and evermore shalt be.

- 3 Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy, there is none beside thee
perfect in power, in love, and purity.
- 4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
all thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea;
holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

Reginald Heber (1783-1826) (Public Domain)

Invitation to Confession

What God has prepared for those who love Him,
He has revealed to us through the Spirit:
for He searches everything.

Therefore, let us in penitence open our hearts to the Lord,
who has prepared good things for those who love Him.

Confession

O King, enthroned on high, filling the earth with your glory:
Holy is your name, Lord God almighty.
In our sinfulness we cry to you to take our guilt away,
and to cleanse our lips to speak your word,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Readings by Rick Nelms

Isaiah 35:3-6

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert.
For the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Luke 10:1-9

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection by Rev Clare Robertson

In today's reading, Jesus chooses 70 people and sends them out to prepare communities for his arrival. They are to go ahead of him to find where he can stay, but they are also there to minister to people – to heal the sick and to tell people about God's kingdom. From the very beginning of his ministry, Jesus starts calling people whom he can train

and send out.

Jesus is God, so he could have chosen any way he liked to set up his church but he chose this way – identifying people's gifts, spending time with them as they developed their gifts: then sending them out to use and develop further their gifts in the community.

This model had been used by Moses in the book of Numbers in the Old Testament. However, to begin with Moses tried to lead by doing everything himself. It wasn't until his father-in-law gave Moses some reassurance and told him to delegate responsibility to 70 elders that Moses started to learn how to be a collaborative leader.

In Moses' time the 70 were all men, as women at that time did not take a leadership role outside the home. However, in Jesus' time the 70, we are told, are sent out in pairs. In some editions this is translated "two by two" or "two and two". For those of us who have young grandchildren that phrase "two by two" immediately reminds us of the story of Noah's Ark, where "two by two" refers to a male and female of each kind going into the Ark.

So when Jesus sent out the 70 "two by two" they were most probably both men and women because we know from Luke's Gospel, chapter 8, that a number of women such as Mary Magdala, Joanna and Susannah travelled with Jesus and the 12 apostles.

Whilst in Moses' time people who could exercise leadership were limited to men and to do certain things you had to be born into a certain tribe, when Jesus came he opened up God's kingdom, so that everyone was welcome to spread the Good News.

That means each one of us. You don't need to be an ordained or a licensed minister to spread the good news – each one of us has our own particular gifts that the Holy Spirit has given us to do this. Sometimes it's hard to recognise our own gifts but quite easy to

recognise others' gifts. So, as I play some of Chopin's Nocturne in E flat major, I want to you to think about a friend or a teacher who has encouraged you to train and develop a gift you had that brings you joy. It might be for sport, or writing or cookery or gardening or theatre or art.....

Then I want you to think about someone who has helped you come closer to Jesus and be a better disciple through their words or their actions. You could share that if you want to after the service or perhaps write to that person this week and let them know how the gifts that God has blessed them with have helped you on your faith journey.

In our own church communities, both in Zoom church and across all our villages we will know people who have spent time developing their gifts to serve their church communities and other communities. Some have been officially licensed as ministers, LLM or ALM, others are in the midst of their training, some serve as church wardens, treasurers, safeguarding officers, PCC members, organists, bell ringers, members of the churchyard team, readers, intercessors.... We all have different gifts, but all are important. Amen

The Creed

**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.**

Intercessions prepared by Michaela McNeill

God our Creator,
you have made us in your image and called us to belong to you.
We bring before you the life of your Church and your world.

The Church

Faithful God, keep your Church true to Jesus Christ. Where we are tempted to shape him according to our own opinions, teach us instead to allow him to shape us. Help Christians of different traditions, backgrounds and convictions to recognise your image in one another, and make us faithful witnesses to your kingdom.
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

The World

God of justice and peace, we pray for those entrusted with authority in every nation. Give wisdom to governments, courage to those who challenge injustice, and integrity to all who take part in public life. Guard us from making idols of nations, parties, leaders or causes, and help us seek the common good while remembering that our deepest commitment belongs to you.
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Our Community

God of every person, we pray for the places where we live, work and learn. Teach us to recognise your image in our neighbours: in those like us and those unlike us, in those with whom we agree and those with whom we disagree. Where communities are divided, make us people who listen well, speak with kindness and work patiently for understanding.

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

The Sick

Compassionate God, we pray for all who suffer in body, mind or spirit; for those who are frightened, exhausted or alone, and for those who care for them. We remember before you those known personally to us... (*silence*). May each know the assurance of your faithful love and your presence with them in their need.

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

The Departed and Those Who Mourn

Eternal God, we remember those who have died and entrust them to your unfailing love. Comfort all who mourn, and strengthen us in the hope of resurrection, until with all your people we rejoice in your kingdom.

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

Thematic Prayer

God our Creator, all that we are comes from you. Take our work and our rest, our resources and possessions, our relationships and responsibilities, our lives public and private. Teach us to give to you what all that is yours, the whole of our selves.

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

Collect for the Twentieth Sunday of Trinity

God, the giver of life,
whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church:
by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ
and make us eager to do your will,
that we may share with the whole creation
the joys of eternal life;
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 - Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided

- 1 Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.
- 2 Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.
- 3 Lord, for our land, in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care;
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

4 Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him,
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

5 Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us,
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;
past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926 - 2024)

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Notices

Blessing

The almighty and merciful Lord,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
bless us and keep us.

Amen.

Conclusion

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.