



**The Benefice of
Harden, Wilsden, Cullingworth, Denholme
Sunday 18 July 2021
Seventh Sunday after Trinity**

Richard leads us in our worship

Preparation

God in Christ has revealed his glory.

Come let us worship.

From the rising of the sun to its setting

The Lord's name is greatly to be praised

Give him praise, you servants of the Lord.

O praise the name of the Lord!

Call to Worship

Be with us, Spirit of God;

Nothing can separate us from your love.

Opening Prayer

Breathe on us, breath of God;

Fill us with your saving power.

Speak in us, wisdom of God;

Bring strength, healing and peace.

Silence is kept

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Prayers of Penitence

Since we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses,

Let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely,

Looking to Jesus in penitence and faith.

**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.**

Absolution

**Almighty God,
Who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,
Bring us his pardon and his peace, now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
Almighty God and Father;
We worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world.
Have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
Receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

The Collect

Lord of all power and might,
The author and giver of all good things;
Graft in our hearts the love of your name,
Increase in us true religion,
Nourish us with all goodness
And of your great mercy keep us in the same;
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 for ever. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading: Ephesians 2:11-end

So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called ‘the uncircumcision’ by those who are called ‘the circumcision’—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So, he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So, then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with

Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

Thanks be to God for the gift of his word.

Gospel reading: Mark 6:30-34, 53-end.

The apostles gathered around Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

Thanks be to God for the gift of his Holy Word.

Reflection from Janice

When I realised that, this week, we would be exploring the importance of balance in how we use our time I must admit to a wry smile. I'm not the best example of effective time management. For one thing, I had made the assumption (despite my number one rule when working that one should never make assumptions) that this

week's Gospel reading was the feeding of the 5,000. On closer inspection that particular story was conspicuous by its absence!

Following the harrowing events surrounding the death of John the Baptist and with all the coming and going it's little wonder that Jesus wanted to go with his friends for a rest and to gather his thoughts. Yet, despite this, the crowds were ahead of him and he was recognised. How was he recognised? Something I hadn't really considered before is the lack of detail in any of the gospels surrounding the physical appearance of Jesus. However, we are told that the crowd did recognise him and that Jesus immediately had compassion upon the people, seeing them as "sheep without a shepherd".

We don't know what the disciples were doing at this time. Were they assisting Jesus or were they having the rest they came across the water for? They will certainly have been in need of a break having just returned from meeting people and teaching them about Jesus. We do know they became impatient as time went on and wanted the crowds to go home but Jesus was having none of it.

It's not unreasonable to have time out for ourselves. In the busyness of life, and for the sake of our own mental and physical health, it is in fact essential. Taking sanctuary at a retreat centre, away from the hustle and bustle of life, is a good way of doing this but it isn't something which everyone is able to do. However, taking time to be alone can be achieved even, dare I say it, if it's having a few quiet moments in the bathroom. I did once hear someone say that the only time they could pray in peace was whilst they were on the loo!

We will never have a physical image of Jesus, rather we will always have to recognise him for who he is and what he does. So in the busyness of our lives this next week let's make sure we have time out to recharge our batteries, whether it's a quick top up or a more leisurely break and, in some words from a song I came across

recently, *Healer of our Every Ill* by Marty Haugen ... “You who know each thought and feeling, teach us all your way of healing; Spirit of compassion, fill each heart.”

Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,
He did not cling to equality with God,
But made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
He was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
And was obedient to death,
Even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
And given him the name above every name:
That at the name of Jesus
Every knee should bow,
And every tongue proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
To the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession led by Margaret Harrison

Heavenly Father as we approach the end of the school term and year, we give thanks for all the teachers, and the parents, who have struggled through these difficult months to educate and stimulate our children. We pray that all may enjoy and be refreshed by the summer break. We think also of all the young people anxiously awaiting the results of exams and assessments. In all things may they know your love for them, which is not dependant on performance or grades, and that you have good plans for their lives.
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Spirit of God who moved across the waters, bringing life from the elements of that first dust, lead us to respect your world, inspire our stewardship, forgive our wanton destruction, turn our foolish exploitation and give us wisdom to live in harmony with the earth's rhythms and natural balance; to the glory of the one who is our beginning and our end, now and always.

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

Lord, whose majesty is above the heavens, guide with your Holy Spirit those who hold the highest offices of state. Give them wisdom as they struggle with the concerns and difficult decisions of the day. Strengthen them to do what is right and save them from everything that would corrupt the will, seeking first and foremost the good of the community.

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

Lord God, we bring to you our worries for the world today. We pray for places where there have been earthquakes, fires, storms and flooding. We pray for places where people are sick, hungry and thirsty. We pray for places where people distrust each other because they belong to a different religion or race. Help us to trust you and find in you a new stillness and peace.

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

Lord God, we bring to you our worries for all who are in need of your healing today. We pray for all in our Benefice who are sick, or in pain, in hospital or at home. We pray for those who are frightened and feel that everything is going wrong. We pray for those who are sad and lonely, thinking particularly of those recently bereaved – for all those known to us personally, and for those known only by you. In darkness and in light, in trouble and in joy, help us Heavenly Father to trust in your love, to serve your purpose and to praise your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

CONCLUSION

Closing Prayer

Lord God,
Whose Son is the true vine and the source of life,
Ever giving himself that the world may live:
May we so receive within ourselves
the power of his death and passion
That, in his saving cup, we may share his glory
and be made perfect in his love;
For he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Blessing

The Peace of God
Which passes all understanding,
Keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
And of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
And the blessing of God almighty,
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
Be upon you now and remain with us always. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the Name of Christ! Amen!