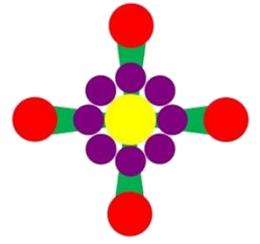


**The Benefice of  
Harden, Wilsden, Cullingworth, Denholme  
19 June 2022  
TRINITY 1**



*Our Service today was put together by Alison*

**The Gathering**

**Call to Worship**

When forces in the world threaten us,  
when our bodies or spirits turn against us,  
there is One who seeks us,  
One who meets us,  
One who heals us,  
whose love washes over us  
and sets us free for joy.  
This One is the Lord.  
Come, let us worship God.

**Penitence**

The geography of sin is a waterless waste.  
But God gives springs of living water,  
streams of justice and mercy splashing  
into the wilderness from the mountain of God.  
Let us drink deeply of Christ.  
Let us confess our sins.

**Prayer of confession**

**Holy One, God Most High,  
grant us faith to confess our sins  
and seek your mercy.  
There are barren places in our lives  
where we have wandered far from you.  
We have listened to voices  
who distracted us from your call.  
We have submitted to powers  
competing for our loyalty to you.**

**We have not taken the hand you offer  
to lead us out of godforsakenness,  
and into your holy ways.  
God our Savior, forgive us.  
Quench our thirst for you  
from the Rock of our salvation,  
and let your love well up in us  
unto eternal life.  
Speak tenderly to us of your presence.  
Feed us with your word.  
Deliver us from evil.  
Let us enter into your kingdom;  
then send us out to serve you  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### Absolution

Christ Jesus is the bread of life,  
manna come down from heaven.  
Christ covers us with baptismal waters,  
so that our lives are hidden in him.  
This Jesus, the Son of the Most High God,  
is sovereign even over the powers of evil,  
so that his reign brings freedom and joy.  
Therefore, I declare to you  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
in Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

### Collect

O God, the strength of all them that put their trust in you,  
mercifully accept our prayers;  
and because through the weakness of our mortal nature  
we can do no good thing without you,  
grant us the help of your grace,  
that in keeping your commandments  
we may please you,  
both in will and deed;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **First Reading: Galatians 3:23 – end**

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring,<sup>[a]</sup> heirs according to the promise.

### **Thanks be to God for the gift of his word**

### **Gospel Reading: Luke 8: 26-39**

Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, 'What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me'— for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then asked him, 'What is your name?' He said, 'Legion'; for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of

the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, 'Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.' So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

## **Thanks be to God for the gift of his Holy Word**

### **Reflection from Richard**

When I was at theological college we had an opportunity to experience some different settings of ministry, like hospital or hospice chaplaincy. On one of my placements I spent a week in a local Maximum Security Prison. I found the setting really alien and uncomfortable, which I guess is how it was planned!

The chaplaincy was at the very heart of the prison complex and to get there we had to walk down endless corridors and through twenty-six locked doors. The passages were all hard surfaces and the noise of the keys jangling echoed around the restricted space. It reminded me of the opening sequence in "Porridge" but much louder and much longer. Every door was a further step into the secure and enclosed grip of the prison.

It was a great privilege and I have great respect for those who carry out an invaluable ministry to the prison community. They work in a unique setting and make a great difference to people whose lives have been changed completely because of something that has happened in their lives.

In our readings today we hear about people who are imprisoned. In his letter to the Galatians, Paul speaks about the way the law imprisons those under it. And in the Gospel reading Jesus meets a man imprisoned amid the tombs in a Gerasene Graveyard.

Whether or not we experience being inside an actual prison, we can all feel imprisoned by things that happen in our lives. Fear or need, broken relationships, stress, guilt, worry are among the situations which can take away our freedom.

We feel enclosed, our world closes in and we are robbed of our opportunities and hope. We fail to see anything around us anymore which is uplifting and we find it impossible to see the way ahead. It is a terrible and crippling place to be. The story of Jesus meeting the man in the graveyard speaks so powerfully to me. He comes to the man and sets him free. The people come and find the man who they are used to see raving madly between the memorials instead sitting quietly talking with Jesus. He is freed and at peace.

I find great hope in the detail of the story that he is still sitting in the same space.

The freedom which Jesus can bring is so powerful that it comes deep into the setting which imprisons us, it does not take us out of it. Because life is just not like that. We cannot be magically transported out of our problems. Rather Jesus comes and brings his light, love and peace into the heart of our trouble.

Those words from John's gospel are so true. Jesus is the light of the world and the darkness cannot overcome that light.

I pray that in whatever difficult situations you find yourself, when you feel hemmed in and crushed by the weight of troubles, that in that darkness you can see the light of Christ. I pray too that you can follow that light to find peace and hope, even in the midst of all that seems hopeless.

And if you know others in those dark places, pray that they will know God's light. You may even be part of the answer to that prayer in the way God may call you to sit with people or walk with them on their journey.

May you know God's blessing and be a blessing to others.

## The Creed

We believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life. The one for whom we exist.  
We believe and trust in God the Son,  
Who took our human nature, died for us and rose again.  
We believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
Who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

### Prayers of Intercession with Michael Richardson

Lord of light and truth,  
who in Jesus gives peace to our hearts and minds and renews and refreshes our whole being, may we know that you are an ever-present help in trouble. Lord, heal us and we shall be healed, strengthen us and we shall be strong: strong enough to work for you through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

God of love and compassion,  
you are always more ready to hear and help than we are to pray. Help us to know that you are with us now and always, and that you are a very present help in trouble. We pray for all who come to your church with hopes and fears, and all who come with special needs. We pray that all who come to the churches in our United Benefice may receive a warm welcome; a friendly greeting or an arm round the shoulder – and that in you Lord they may find new hope.

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

We pray for church leaders throughout the world and particularly for our own clergy in the benefice and for the leaders of the other denominations in our villages.

We pray especially for Anna on her big day next Saturday. Thank you Lord, for bringing her to our Benefice: please bless her as she begins a new phase of her service to you and your people.

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

We pray for our troubled world where reports of war, killings, violence, discord, arguments and hate seem to infest every news report. We pray especially for an end to the war in Ukraine and its worldwide ramifications – the loss of lives, properties and freedoms; food shortages; refugee crises, and oil and gas shortages leading to cost of living worries.

Yet we must also give thanks for the many acts of kindness and generosity that never reach the news channels, or if they do, they are under reported – the taking in of Ukrainian refugees in many parts of the world; the generous response to appeals for money and food for those people less able to provide for themselves, and not least, the weight of prayer for all those who are suffering in some way.

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

On this day we pray for fathers everywhere, especially those for whom the day holds no joy. We pray also for our families, our homes, our loved ones and our communities. We give thanks for the many galas and festivals that are held at this time of the year. May they be fun filled occasions and an opportunity for communities to come together.

We pray for children and their teachers as the busy run up to the end of the school year begins. And we pray especially for our young people who are sitting exams or who may already be nervously awaiting results.

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

Lord, we remember before you those who are troubled in body, mind or spirit. We pray for members of our families and for friends who are ill, and in a moment of silence we think of those known to each of us.

We remember too, before you, our friends and loved ones who are no longer with us, and pray that they may share with your saints in glory.

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

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven  
Hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
On earth as it is 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.**

### Closing Prayer

Worship God alone—  
God of the prophets,  
Jesus Christ, the Son of God,  
and the Spirit of the Holy One.  
Do not be overcome by evil powers.  
Trust God,  
who even the powers must obey.  
Rejoice in your salvation,  
by loving others,  
to the glory of God,  
who is Three, who is One.  
**Amen.**

### Blessing

God feed you;  
Christ protect you;  
Spirit live in you  
and wash over you  
with the love of God.  
And the blessing of God Almighty  
Father, Son and Holy.  
**Amen.**

### Sending Out

Go in the light and Peace of Christ!  
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**