

REFLECTIVE SERVICE: FOR WORSHIP IN ISOLATION

SUNDAY 12 SEPTEMBER- FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Message from Mark

Following a meeting with Wardens it has been agreed that congregational singing (with masks) may now take place in all our churches with immediate effect.

Consequently, all hymns will now take place *within* church.

(Morning Praise will no longer be outside)

Currently, The Peace is still only to be 'acknowledged' and not shared physically. Administration of Bread only will continue at the Chancel steps.

Zoom and online services of reflection will continue.

Further Review next month will consider serving Refreshments.

Other notices

All Saints' Holy Communion, first, third and fourth Sundays at 10.30am.

St Mary's 2.30pm, second Sunday of the month.

St Nicholas', 2.30pm, first Sunday of each month

St Aidan's, third Sunday Holy Communion BCP at 8.45 am

St Michael's Morning Praise at 11.00am on the first Sunday of the month and Holy Communion (Common Worship) at 11.00am on the third Sunday of the month.

For more details, please check Surprise View or the web site. We will endeavour to make sure that any changes to the regular pattern are notified

Hand sanitisers are still available, and we invite you to use them.

We invite you still to record your presence if you wish.

All churches are open during daylight hours for private prayer.

As we meet together in spirit through these words of praise, may we think of and pray for each other sharing this reflection and also pray for those meeting to worship together.

We come from scattered lives to meet with God. Let us recognise God's presence with us now.

Keep a short silence, still your heart. You may like to light a candle

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples, 'I am with you always'. Be with us today, as we offer ourselves to you. Hear our prayers for others and for ourselves and keep us in your care.

Amen.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people, and kindle in us the fire of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

In the light of Jesus, let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Keep a short silence. Confession:

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.

Absolution:

May God have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and strengthen us to live in the power of the Spirit all our days. Amen.

Collect for the Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit
upon your Church in the burning fire of your love:
grant that your people may be fervent
in the fellowship of the gospel
that, always abiding in you,
they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service;
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.

Read a passage from the Bible

The Gospel of Mark 8.27-end

²⁷ Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸ And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹ He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” ³⁰ And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Spend a few moments in silence thinking about the passage and ask God to speak to you through his scriptures

Reflection

‘Who do you say that I am?’

Labels. I remember being in Tesco and a diminutive elderly lady asking me to get something off a high shelf for her. I couldn’t reach either but asked a 6 foot plus man nearby saying, ‘I’m sure this gentleman will be able to help.’ He replied, ‘Nobody’s ever called me a gentleman before!’ When I asked why he said ‘Well, I work the dustcarts.’

Labels tend to diminish people so that we only view that one aspect of their lives and assume a whole load of things that they are and aren’t. I don’t think Jesus wanted that for himself or others.

How we treat people tells them who they are. Before a baby understands words, let alone labels, its parents’ treatment of its vulnerability will tell it who it is; by the love or neglect it experiences it will know if it is valued or a nuisance. Jesus showed by his actions of spending time with the neglected in society that he loved people and that they were precious in God’s sight. ‘Leper’ still meant embracing a child of God, ‘poor’ meant valuable, ‘cripple’ meant someone as full of potential as the next.

We know we are made in the image of God who *is* love because when we are not loved it hurts. It hurts because it doesn’t fit.

In the same way that treating someone with love and respect tells them who they are it also tells others who we think Jesus is. We are to love because he first loved us. If in the Church we are not loving to those in it, let alone those beyond it, we tell them God is not who we say He is.

Who do we say Jesus is? By *how* we say who Jesus is, by how we spend time with him, and by how we treat our neighbour.

‘Who do *you* say that I am?’

Bridget

We affirm our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

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.

We intercede for others in the quiet of our hearts.

Lord, meet us in the silence

And hear our prayer.

Silence for prayer is kept: Pray for yourself in your isolation, that you would know God is with you. Pray for others in their loneliness. Pray for our country. Pray for the world.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Silence is kept

O gracious and holy Father, give us wisdom to perceive you, diligence to seek you, patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you, a heart to meditate upon you, and a life to proclaim you, through the power of the spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let us bless the Lord

Thanks be to God.

“For God has said, ‘I will not leave you or forsake you’ so we can confidently say, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not fear’.” (*Hebrews 13:5-6*)

“It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not be dismayed.” (*Deuteronomy 31:8*)

*Please God, we can **all** meet together in church again, soon*