

## **REFLECTIVE SERVICE: FOR WORSHIP IN ISOLATION SUNDAY 31st July 2022 SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

### **WORSHIP REVIEW (5)**

Following a recent Review, certain changes have been made regarding Guidance for Worship in all our Churches.

- An Offertory plate will be brought forward – please leave offerings in the plate as you enter church.
- Communion will be shared at the altar rail in both kinds from this Sunday 19 June.

We kindly ask you not to dip the wafers if you prefer not to drink from the chalice as the gluten free wafers disintegrate very easily. If you prefer to take communion in one kind only, the bread, please simply return to your seat after being offered the wafer or lower your hands so that the officiant knows. It is entirely what you feel comfortable with as we move forward.

- The wearing of masks and hand sanitising are still encouraged
- The sharing of the Peace has been reviewed and at this time we will continue to do this at a distance. This will be reviewed again shortly.

Thank you all for your continued patient understanding and support of one another.

### **Mark July 2022**

#### Other notices

All Saints' Morning Praise will be held in the Millennium Garden in June, July and August weather permitting. Please do bring chairs though some will be provided for those who cannot carry them.

*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 Seventh Sunday after Trinity*

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.

### *Read a passage from the Bible*

The Gospel of Luke 12.13-21

<sup>13</sup>Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." <sup>14</sup>But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" <sup>15</sup>And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's

life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.”<sup>16</sup> Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly.<sup>17</sup> And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’<sup>18</sup> Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.’<sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’<sup>20</sup> But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’<sup>21</sup> So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

### *Reflection*

Luke 12:13-21

‘But God said to him ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’

A couple of weeks ago we had Jesus dealing with Martha’s concerns for many things and how it prevented her from hearing the God’s calling in the present moment. This week we have the rich fool’s concern for many things preventing him from hearing God’s call into the future, shockingly near though that was going to be.

God tells him his ‘life’ will be demanded of him. To be more exact, his breath, that which is breathed into his nostrils in the beginning, is returning to its source, God. The rich fool has forgotten an essential truth, his mortality. We are not our own, we all belong to God. And that essence, who we *are*, rather than what we *have*, must answer our maker face to face as naked as the day we were born. The rich man was going to learn that all our possessions cannot make us *more* than we are.

It wasn’t the relaxing, eating and merriment that Jesus was condemning, he got told off for that himself by the Pharisees often enough, it was the rich man’s conviction that he was *his own* not God’s and in doing so he denied the truth about God, his holiness and his sovereignty. In forgetting his mortality the rich fool had forgotten to be humble, grateful, trusting and generous, those very qualities we see Jesus living out among us.

So how then should he have lived? Was there need at his gate that he could have relieved out of his ample goods? Was there training and advice he could have enabled someone with to help them benefit as he had done? Was there acknowledgement that all of his well being was founded on a gift of life that he had absolutely no control over?

And how should *we* live, as individuals and as Christ’s Church? If position or possessions cannot defend us from this truth what should our response be? We could be radical and ask for humility, gratitude, trust and generosity!

May we all be blessed,  
Amen

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.*