

**COLLECT, READINGS AND REFLECTION**  
**SUNDAY 26 June 2022- 2<sup>nd</sup> after Trinity**

**COLLECT**

Lord, you have taught us  
that all our doings without love are nothing worth:  
send your Holy Spirit  
and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,  
the true bond of peace and of all virtues,  
without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.  
Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Psalm 16**

- 1 Preserve me, O God, for in you have I taken refuge; ♦  
I have said to the Lord, 'You are my lord,  
all my good depends on you.'
- 2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, ♦  
upon those who are noble in heart.
- 3 Though the idols are legion that many run after, ♦  
their drink offerings of blood I will not offer,  
neither make mention of their names upon my lips.
- 4 The Lord himself is my portion and my cup; ♦  
in your hands alone is my fortune.
- 5 My share has fallen in a fair land; ♦  
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.
- 6 I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel, ♦  
and in the night watches he instructs my heart.
- 7 I have set the Lord always before me; ♦  
he is at my right hand; I shall not fall.
- 8 Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices; ♦  
my flesh also shall rest secure.
- 9 For you will not abandon my soul to Death, ♦  
nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.
- 10 You will show me the path of life;  
in your presence is the fullness of joy ♦  
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

## **A reading from St Paul's letter to the Galatians 5.1, 13-25**

**5** <sup>1</sup> For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

<sup>13</sup> For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; <sup>14</sup> only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. <sup>14</sup> For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' <sup>15</sup> If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

### **The Works of the Flesh**

<sup>16</sup> Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. <sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

### **The Fruit of the Spirit**

<sup>22</sup> By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

*Alleluia, **Alleluia.***

*Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home in you; through him give thanks to God the Father.*

**Alleluia.**

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to **Luke, Chapter 9, verses 51-62.***

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **A Samaritan Village Refuses to Receive Jesus**

<sup>51</sup> When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. <sup>52</sup> And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; <sup>53</sup> but they did not receive him, because his face was set towards Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup> When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, 'Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?' <sup>55</sup> But he turned and rebuked them. <sup>56</sup> Then they went on to another village.

## **Would-Be Followers of Jesus**

<sup>57</sup> As they were going along the road, someone said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' <sup>58</sup> And Jesus said to him, 'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.' <sup>59</sup> To another he said, 'Follow me.' But he said, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.' <sup>60</sup> But Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.' <sup>61</sup> Another said, 'I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.' <sup>62</sup> Jesus said to him, 'No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## ***A Reflection from Hannah....***

As part of my ordination training I did a placement with the multi-faith chaplaincy at Wolverhampton University. One of the tasks I was given was to man the stall at the Freshers' Fair. Where do you think a stall about religion was positioned? Well, it was between safe relationships (where they were giving out free contraception) and mental health (where people were encouraged to do an anxiety test). The chaplaincy was filling that sandwich! That was a fascinating observation- suggesting that faith is one option amongst a raft of options to turn to when life gets a bit tricky. It's a profound category error, but it speaks volumes about the world around us. It shows that many may understand religious belief as an aspect of life, rather than an underpinning characteristic. They may consider it a hobby, or a once-a-week interest, or a crutch for when life is a struggle. It may be thought of as just one facet of identity- much like an interest in cookery or gardening or line-dancing or model railways...

Our Christian faith, as we know, is none of these things. It is fundamental to who we are- it is the lens through which our humanity is understood... and lived. This is the point Jesus makes when talking to those who wanted to follow him. When people give that 'yes, but' answer, saying that they just need to do one thing before setting off with Jesus, his response feels harsh. Christ is having none of it, even though the reasons given are heavy ones- one person wants to bury their father; another to say goodbye to his family. Difficult as it is to hear, in dismissing their excuses Jesus makes the point that our decision to follow him is more fundamental than any other. It is not some option in the marketplace of ideas (as suggested by the Freshers' Fair), which is the way almost everything is presented in today's world; it is the very source of all that we are and do. That's why, in the first reading from Paul's letter to the Galatians, he encourages readers to 'live by the Spirit', and sets out what that looks like in the lives of disciples, in practical terms.

So to be a Christian is to have the cross at the heart of our being- in living lives that are Christ-shaped we make the radical proclamation, in a world beset by 'options', that there is a way of life that is life itself, which finds its source in God who is love and underpins our very being.