

Morning Service 14th June

Thank you for joining us for this morning service for the 1st Sunday after Trinity. Thanks to Rev Richard Priest for his online service last week. I'm Rev John Musson, vicar of Cudham and Downe and I'm joined by Helen Musson, Ordinand at St Augustines college.

Today we look at Jesus commissioning us to serve him and each other.

You'll find the words of the service on the church website pcd.org.uk

The Greeting

Worship God with gladness.

Come into his presence and sing his praises.

Amen.

Our Opening Hymn is All people that on earth do dwell – based on Psalm 100

All people that on earth do dwell,

Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.

Him serve with fear, His praise forth tell;

Come ye before Him and rejoice.

The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;

Without our aid He did us make;

We are His folk, He doth us feed,

And for His sheep He doth us take.

O enter then His gates with praise;

Approach with joy His courts unto;

Praise, laud, and bless His name always,

For it is seemly so to do.

For why? the Lord our God is good;

His mercy is for ever sure;

His truth at all times firmly stood,

And shall from age to age endure.

To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,

The God whom Heaven and earth adore,

From men and from the angel host

Be praise and glory evermore.

Opening Prayer *we pray together*

Loving Lord, your grace draws us to your presence;

your peace unites us in your love;

your hope inspires us to praise your glory.

May our worship be worthy of you.

Amen.

We now spend time reflecting on our need to say sorry and to hear God forgive us.

Let us pray

Lord, you have called us to the privilege of service,
but we have failed to serve.

You have given us the blessing of peace,
but we have chosen discord.

You have loved as a shepherd tends his sheep,
but we have strayed from your way.

Forgive us, and show us the path of obedience and faithfulness

In Jesus name we pray.

Amen.

May the Father of all mercies
Cleanse you from your sins,
and restore you in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for Today – 1st Sunday after Trinity

O God, the strength of all those who 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 the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

Bible Reading *Matthew 9:35-10:23*

³⁵ Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and illness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'

10:1 Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and illness.

² These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. ⁶ Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. ⁷ As you go, proclaim this message: "The kingdom of heaven has come near." ⁸ Heal those who are ill, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

⁹ 'Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts – ¹⁰ no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep. ¹¹ Whatever town or village you enter, search there for some worthy person and stay at their house until you leave. ¹² As you enter the home, give it your greeting. ¹³ If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴ If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your

feet. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

¹⁶ I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. ¹⁷ Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues. ¹⁸ On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹ But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, ²⁰ for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

Talk

I don't know about you, but one of the strange things about the last few months, and there have been so many, is that I've not had to visit a petrol station to fill up the car – apart from getting fuel for the lawnmowers now the grass is getting long again.

Over the recent years cars also seem to have become more reliable. I remember not too many years ago it was standard practice on a long journey to take a spare fan belt, water for the radiator, oil, bulbs.... The list seemed endless, and now most of us don't even know what's under the bonnet at all.

In our bible reading Jesus invites us to travel light. Verses 9 and 10 of chapter 10 focus on this – get rid of everything that gets in the way. There's so much baggage we carry around with us, so much that weighs us down from being the Christians Jesus calls us to be, and this bible reading, if we look carefully, challenges several of them.

Firstly – *I'm not good enough*. Matthew lists the 12 apostles that were with Jesus on this journey. A list of names, names that include – Peter, James and John, Matthew, Simon.... Judas. Now, anyone who knows the Gospels even a little bit will realise that these 12 includes some interesting characters behind the names. Peter who denies Jesus and always seems to be putting his foot in it, James and John whose mother pleads their case to be the greatest. Simon the Zealot – a first century terrorist against state control, Matthew who was a Roman collaborator - imagine how well those two got on. And Judas – a thief who ultimately betrays Jesus. Was Jesus wrong to choose this group of people? Of course not, just as he was not wrong to choose you or to choose me. In one sense none of us is good enough – except Jesus who paid the price for our sin – and yet, he can transform us by his Holy Spirit – why?

Secondly – *Because of the task*. Have a look at chapter verses 35-38. Jesus sees need, and like his story of the lost sheep, know that they need rescuing. And in the second picture he gives, he can see a harvest field ready to be collected in. And for this he is willing to trust the job to us – to his people then and now. He asks us to pray, but not to be surprised if we are the answer to our own prayer. When was the last time you prayed that Jesus would show you how to serve him? You might be surprised how he answers your prayer. Have a look at the Rochester Diocese Vocations page -

<https://www.rochester.anglican.org/ministry/vocations/its-your-calling/>

And see what God might be saying to you. Have a talk with John if you need to as well.

Thirdly - *We are not on our own*. At the moment we are not together worshipping in church, though we're working on plans to resume worship as soon as it's safe to do so. We have each other as brothers and sisters in Christ, and our engagement with society around us continues through prayer – for healing and wholeness, and as Richard reminded us last week, to make disciples of all who come to follow Jesus. We are not on our own in another, more crucial way. God is with us through his Spirit – that's what Jesus reminds us throughout this reading – the Kingdom of heaven has come near – the power and the presence of the Holy Spirit, as we thought about two weeks ago, is a reality today as it was then.

There's been a lot of talk about the 'R' number and the spread of the virus. For Christians, our spreading the Good News of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit is our calling today. Have a read again at this passage – rejoice that God has called you, ask him to help you see where you can serve him, and pray for the presence of the Holy Spirit to carry out this task.

Please join us for homegroup on Wednesday at 8pm via zoom as we look again at this passage - Meeting ID: 827 7285 0691 Password: 016606. John will be sending out notes soon, please ask if you'd like a copy.

Song of Response

**1. God forgave my sin in Jesus' name,
I've been born again in Jesus' name,
and in Jesus' name I come to you
to share his love as he told me to.**

He said:

**'Freely, freely you have received;
freely, freely give.
Go in my name and because you believe,
others will know that I live.'**

**2. All power is given in Jesus' name,
in earth and heaven in Jesus' name,
and in Jesus' name I come to you
to share his power as he told me to.**

He said:

**'Freely, freely you have received;
freely, freely give.
Go in my name and because you believe,
others will know that I live.'**

J: The Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?
We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?
We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?
We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

We believe and trust in one God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The prayers

We have been thinking today of our calling to follow Jesus and to share his good news:-

Loving heavenly Father, at this time of great uncertainty in our country and around the world, we pray that people would turn to you for stability and comfort. We pray particularly for those who don't yet know Jesus, that through some means in the midst of all that is happening they would hear the good news of him. Grant them repentance and a knowledge of the truth, that they may know you and the secure joy of eternal life in him. For we ask in Jesus's name, **Amen.**

Today is the 3rd Anniversary of the Grenfell Tower Fire. We continue to pray for all those affected,

Those who mourn, for improvements to safety, for the London Fire Brigade and for those who offer help.

Heavenly Father, sustain your beloved children in times of distress; Lord Jesus, as you became one with us, help us to work together to reveal your kingdom; Holy Spirit, fill our hearts and minds, and guide us into the ways of truth and justice.

Holy Trinity, Three Persons in One God, may we learn to listen; help us to love; bless and uphold the people of North Kensington and all who have been traumatized by the Grenfell Tower fire, and grant them your healing and peace. **Amen.**

Following the Queen's official birthday, and the 99th Birthday of Prince Philip, a prayer for the Royal Family

Dear God our Father, we thank you for the blessings of our country and for the freedom which we enjoy.

We pray for our Queen and her family, and for those who govern in her name.

Give them health and strength, wisdom and courage, so that they may carry out their many duties in the best interests of all our people.

Let all who have power remember that they are your servants, and that your Son came to serve rather than to be served, in his name we pray. **Amen.**

We pray for the sick and the recently bereaved, and for all who work in our hospitals, care homes, for Parliament, the police and other emergency workers:-

Heavenly Father, our ever-present help in trouble, our fortress and our God: calm the anxious fears of all who turn to you; give strength and healing to those who are sick, and courage and skill to those who care for them; grant wisdom and clarity to those in authority; and humble us all to call upon you that we may be saved not only in this life, but also for that which is to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

As we reflect on racial justice, a prayer for peace:-

Lead me from death to life,

from falsehood to truth;

lead me from despair to hope,

from fear to trust;

lead me from hate to love,

from war to peace.

Let peace fill our heart,

our world, our universe. **Amen.**

After a moment to bring our own prayers to God, we join together as Jesus taught us to pray:

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**

We've been challenged today that as followers of Jesus we are called to serve God, to proclaim the good news, to help and to care for those in need.

As an act of response, as the music to our final song Brother, Sister let me serve you is played, think about a situation where following Jesus might be difficult for you. Ask God to fill you with his Holy Spirit to be able to say or do the right thing in that situation.

Closing Song:

**1. Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.**

**2. We are pilgrims on a journey,
we're together on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.**

**3. I will hold the Christlight for you
in the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.**

**4. I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.**

**5. When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.**

**6. Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.**

Thank you for joining us in worship today. Details of our next services are found on our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/PCDChurches/> where you can watch the service live or catch up later, and you'll find this week's notice sheet and other useful information on the church website pcd.org.uk

*Please also contact the Vicar, Rev John Musson if you need any help or just for a chat! vicar@pcd.org.uk
01959540012*

Blessing

Go to serve; go to love;
go to bring healing; go to bring peace;
go in the strength of the Father;
go in the power of Jesus;
go united by the Spirit.
And so may the blessing of God
Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and always.
Amen.