

*Welcome from Revd Jan Moore*

*An Opening sentence from the Book of Common Prayer*

To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against him: neither have we obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in his laws which he set before us

**Dearlly beloved**, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloke them before the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent, and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, by his infinite goodness and mercy. And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we most chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy Word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul. Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are gathered, to accompany me with a pure heart and humble voice unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying after me:

*Confession*

Almighty and most merciful Father, We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, We have offended against thy holy laws, We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, And we have done those things which we ought not to have done, And there is no health in us: But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us miserable offenders; Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults, Restore thou them that are penitent, According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord: And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy Name. **Amen.**

*Absolution*

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

*Responses*

Priest. O Lord, open thou our lips.  
Answer **And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise**

Priest O God, make speed to save us.  
Answer. **O Lord, make haste to help us**

Priest: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
Answer. **As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen**

Priest. Praise ye the Lord.  
Answer. **The Lord's Name be praised.**

### *Venite, Exultemus Domino (Psalm 95)*

O come, let us sing unto the Lord :  
let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.  
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving :  
and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.  
For the Lord is a great God :  
and a great King above all gods.  
In his hand are all the corners of the earth :  
and the strength of the hills is his also.  
The sea is his, and he made it :  
and his hands prepared the dry land.  
O come, let us worship and fall down :  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
For he is the Lord our God :  
and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:  
world without end. **Amen.**

### *First reading (Old Testament) - Genesis 45: 1-15*

#### Joseph Makes Himself Known to his brothers

**45** Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, "Have everyone leave my presence!" So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers.

<sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.

<sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me. I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! <sup>5</sup> And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. <sup>6</sup> For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no ploughing and reaping. <sup>7</sup> But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

<sup>8</sup> "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Now hurry back to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay.' <sup>10</sup> You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and

grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.'

<sup>12</sup> "You can see for yourselves that it is really I who am speaking to you. <sup>13</sup> Tell my father about all the honour accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly."

<sup>14</sup> Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him

*Psalm of the day (Psalm 133)*

1 How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

2 It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard,  
on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.

3 It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion,  
For there the Lord ordained his blessing,  
life for evermore.

*Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen.*

*Second reading (New Testament) - Matthew 15: 21-28*

The Faith of a Canaanite Woman

<sup>21</sup> Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup> A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly."

<sup>23</sup> Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us."

<sup>24</sup> He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel."

<sup>25</sup> The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said.

<sup>26</sup> He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs."

<sup>27</sup> "Yes it is, Lord," she said. "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table."

<sup>28</sup> Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed at that moment.

### *Jubilate Deo - Psalm 100*

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands : serve the Lord with gladness, and come before his presence with a song.

Be ye sure that the Lord he is God : it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise : be thankful unto him, and speak good of his Name.

For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting : and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end. **Amen.**

### **The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholick Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. **Amen.**

Minister.       The Lord be with you.  
Answer.       **And with thy spirit.**  
Minister.       Let us pray. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Answer.       **Christ, have mercy upon us**

Minister       Lord, have mercy upon us.

### *The Lord's Prayer*

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. **Amen.**

## *Responses*

Minister. O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

Answer. And grant us thy salvation.

Minister. O Lord, save the Queen.

Answer. And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Minister. Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

Answer. And make thy chosen people joyful.

Minister. O Lord, save thy people.

Answer. And bless thine inheritance.

Minister. Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Answer. Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

Minister. O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Answer. And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

## *Collect for the 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity*

Let your merciful ears, O Lord,  
Be open to the prayers of your humble servants;  
And that they may obtain their petitions  
Make them to ask such things as shall please you;  
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. Amen

## *Collect, for Peace*

O God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom: Defend us thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## *Collect, for Grace*

O Lord, our heavenly Father, Almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day: Defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance, to do always that is righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen.

*Reflection - for the 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity*

***Intercessions***

*Response to Lord hear us  
is Lord Graciously Hear Us*

***The Blessing***

The love of the Lord Jesus  
Draw you to Himself,  
The power of the Lord Jesus  
Strengthen you in His service,

And the blessing of God Almighty,  
The Father the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
Be among us and remain with us always,  
**Amen.**

**Attachments for future reflection...**

**Sermon 10<sup>th</sup> after Trinity Stratton and BCP Matins Audio**

Emotions are running high in our Old Testament and Gospel readings today.

The narrative for Joseph revealing himself to his brothers renders both himself and Benjamin abandoning all control. There is much hugging and kissing and weeping, following many years of detachment, pain and grief. When Joseph's father arrives later it will happen all over again. I guess Joseph might have never expected to see his family again and had perhaps tried to forget them, the pain of loss being too great. But the sight of his brothers in his presence was overwhelming. "Come close to me" he says "He fell on Benjamin's neck and wept" it says.

This scene put me in mind of many re-unions of families divided during lockdown that we have watched on TV, and of my own frustrated first 2 meetings with my son, kept at a 2m distance and the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting when he decided to abandon caution and give me one of the most meaningful hugs of our shared 46 years, which prompted tears in our eyes. You may have your own story on coming out of Lockdown – or perhaps you are still waiting, still distanced.

All over the world, close relationships or the lack of them or the loss of them have been tested. Each one of us in the same storm, but not in the same boat, our emotions have been stretched. The ministry of touch has perhaps been the biggest loss of all to humanity: especially for those who could not sit beside the hospital beds of their loved ones, or not hug grieving family at a funeral. That's a pain I have heard about from many people and one I was part of, last week at Cheltenham Crematorium. Words are often inadequate when it comes to expressing really deep love and empathy, and touch becomes the only the way human being can convey the unspeakable.

Society has been socially distanced all over the world whether in Australia or America, Sweden or Spain, Venezuela or Vietnam, Brazil or Lebanon. All over the world people have longed for the touch of compassion and cohesion.

So now I want to jump you into the gospel about the Canaanite woman. Her emotions are definitely heightened. She shouts for the disciples attention. She pleads for healing for her tormented mentally sick daughter. The disciples can't cope with her. She's not even an Israelite – one of their own. The Disciples ask Jesus to send her away. She's an embarrassment. I found myself wondering about people I might have tried to avoid or ignore in my life whose attitudes, values, words, behaviours were uncomfortable: people I have tried to distance. So I am highly exercised by the dialogue between the Canaanite woman and Jesus who appears to be stating his get out clause. "I was sent only to find and bring back the lost sheep of Israel" God's chosen but lapsed Race. But in only reading or hearing this text, we are not watching a real life incident or even a theatre performance of it. We have no intonation, no visual expression to help. It's bare words, easy to misinterpret. So might Jesus be almost questioning himself "I was (I thought) only to find and bring back the lost sheep of Israel (but is this woman equally lost?)" He even refers to her as a Dog, the Israelites term for a Canaanite, but Matthew was writing for the Jews of his day and that would have made them sit up and listen! Yes they'd be happy with that. But then we see the Canaanite woman's bright intellect and humility. "Even the Dogs are entitled to crumbs from the Master's table"

And Jesus at that moment is called into relationship with her. Has he seen her faith all along, has he been testing her to see what would transpire? Is he still working out his own role in God's diverse world? We will never know. But what we do know is that flat words on a page, written for the right effect on Matthew's audience are not fully adequate.

In the same way that emails do not replace phone calls and phone calls do not replace face to face engagements and Zoom or Face Time interactive meetings with family, friends or colleagues do not replace meetings in the flesh. And being at a 2m distance (or closer with a mask) does not replace a handshake or hug.

What is God teaching us through this unwelcome restraint we are going through? Perhaps to value what we have taken for granted so that we can re-instate it with more respect, more authenticity, more recognition of its specialness. Perhaps we have learned who the important ones in our lives really are. Denied of gathering in our church buildings, perhaps we have learned the limitations of watching on-line worship without engaging in its corporate nature. Perhaps we learned that on-line worship only worked if we put ourselves into an entirely different attitude than when we watch TV. For Pete and me it was to sit at our breakfast table with a candle, a cross, a praying figure, flowers, perhaps a fruit bowl, bread to break and wine to share and an iPad with David or Arthur, Graham Morris or Rachel Treweek and others at their kitchen tables putting us into an equal relationship with them. And in recording BCP Audio Matins over this period, I have set myself up to imagine a listening congregation, intent on not reading a script into thin air but to be in relationship with people who perhaps I do not know.

But all this is still no substitute for the corporate nature of worship where we are all in a physically present relationship with each other, under God, through Jesus Christ.

The picture of Joseph re-united with his family and the picture of the Canaanite woman face to face with Jesus healing power are good images for our time.

Since human beings first engaged, they grouped. Let us look forward eagerly to when we can properly group again, but let the grouping be deeply real and profound, not superficial and easily feigned. Let us engage with each other on a truly touching level.. touching souls, not like ships passing in the night.

Because Jesus body was broken for us – and that's a very physical thing. Thomas wanted to put his fingers into the place of Jesus nails – and that's a very physical thing. And recorded moments which can be played

again and again are not the same as this moment we are now sharing which cannot be retrieved. Thanks be to God.

**Intercessions for BCP audio 10<sup>th</sup> after Trinity 16 August.**

Jesus Christ you travelled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness” At your command the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, as we still try to halt the spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal us from fears which may prevent nations from working together.

Give leaders of nations the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve, Give them the wisdom to invest in long term solutions to prevent future outbreaks, and the desire to work together for peace and wholeness through all the earth.

Heal us from pride which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Protect doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professional who put themselves at risk in the healing processes.

We look around the world Lord and we see so much suffering... we pray for the people of Beirut as we weep with them: what can we do Lord, how can we donate? We pray for countries in the grip of conflict, greed, poverty, starvation, drought, fire or flood. We ask your hand of relief today especially upon Beirut, Ethiopia, Sudan, Mali and Yemen. We pray for those all around the world who are homeless, jobless, and scared.

Be with the aching or grieving families of those who are sick or have died through any causes, natural or the result of human self-interest or laziness or lack of care. May they know your peace.

Be with those known by us through the news or our personal lives who have died recently that they may be at rest eternally with you

Keep us good Lord under the shadow of your mercy

In this time of uncertainty and distress sustain and support the anxious and fearful and lift up all who are brought low

That we may rejoice in your comfort

Knowing that nothing can separate us from your love

In Jesus Christ our Lord