

The Cotteridge Church

Proper 13

Sunday 31st July 2022

1.

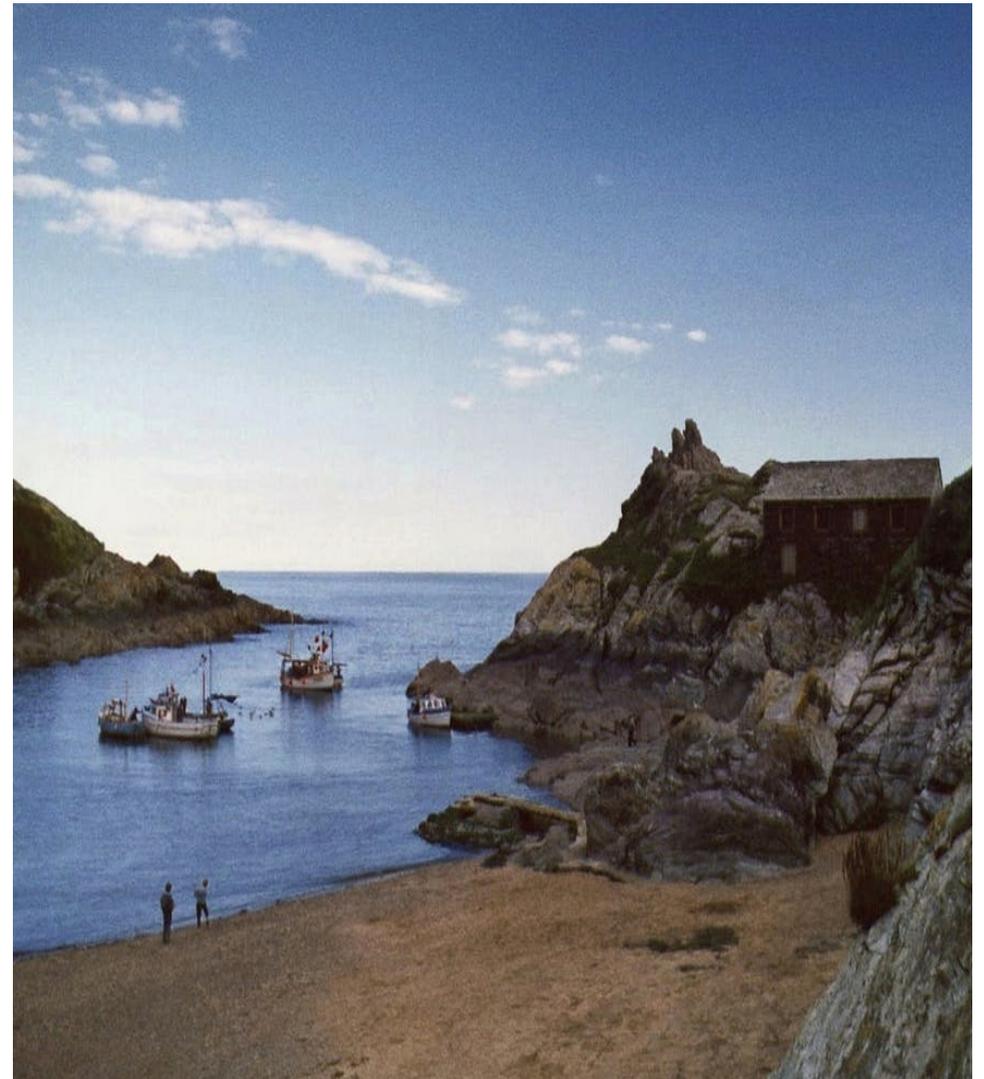
Take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter,
Gave me life and set me free.
Now, because your love has touched me,
I have love to give away;
Now the bread of love is rising,
Loaves of love to multiply!

2.

Take the fruit that I have gathered
From the tree your Spirit sowed,
Harvest of your own compassion,
Juice that makes the wine of God;
Spiced with humour, laced with laughter-
Flavour of the Jesus life,
Tang of risk and new adventure,
Taste and zest beyond belief.

3.

Take whatever I can offer-
Gifts that I have yet to find,
Skills that I am slow to sharpen,
Talents of the hand and mind,
Things made beautiful for others
In the place where I must be:
Take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved me.



Bible Readings

Hosea 11:1-11

Psalm 107:1-9, 43

Colossians 3:1-11

Luke 12:13-21

Collect for Proper 13

Generous God,
you give us gifts and make them grow:
though our faith is small as mustard seed,
make it grow to your glory
and the flourishing of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Proper 13

Henry Ford once asked an associate about his life goals.

The man replied that his goal was to make a million dollars. A few days later Ford gave the man a pair of glasses made out of two silver dollars. He told the man to put them on and asked what he could see. "Nothing," the man said. "The dollars are in the way."

Ford told him that he wanted to teach him a lesson: If his only goal was dollars, he would miss a host of greater opportunities. He should invest himself in serving others, not simply in making money.

That's a great secret of life that far too few people discover. Money is important, no question about that, but money is only a means by which we reach higher goals. Service to others, obedience to God.

God comes to the rich man and says, "You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?" The answer was clear. The rich man had put his trust in things. Now he was leaving these things behind.