



WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Over the past weeks I have begun each service with the words: I as Chaplain welcome you to the *whatever the number* St George's Barcelona and Andorra Virtual Church Service. It was thirteen last week! From now I will leave the calculation to you. This is the first week after Trinity, so it is $13 + 1 = 14$. As I said last week, we have 19 Sundays after Trinity.

I record this on Thursdays, so things may even change by Sunday, particularly as our Council will be meeting virtually on Friday to make some decisions. However, as of today I think Barcelona is likely to enter Phase 3 on Monday 22nd June. We therefore hope to begin services again in the week following. At present I am planning on two Holy Communion services, one on Saturday evening at 6pm (still daylight and time to return home for dinner) and one on Sunday morning at 11am. Over the next few weeks we are going to have to have some flexibility and we will monitor what works best. When we get to the new normality of Phase 4 we will be having services inside. I will be sending out a letter with all the details. Do pray for us in all these decisions.

During this service, after each hymn being announced, we will allow time for you to change the YouTube link if you choose. Also, after each passage of our Bible reading is announced we will allow time for you to look it up in your Bibles, or on your Bible Apps or Bible Gateway and follow the reading. We use the New International Version (UK).

As on other weeks when we would have had a 9.45am Holy Communion, I attach the music chosen by Mark Hinchliffe as a very helpful way to prepare our hearts for today's service.

Holy, holy, holy <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JwuDSw-9cUQ>

All my hope on God is founded <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3LCGh02Vew>

Lord, for the years <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkTrFQLy6js>

So let us quieten our hearts as we pray the St George's Prayer:

Our Father, as individuals and as a community may we come to know and love you more and more, may we feel your love and care through each other, may we be witnesses to Christ wherever we are, and by the power of your Holy Spirit, may we be attentive to you, to our neighbour and to your world.

A SONG OF PRAISE TO CALL US TO WORSHIP Ah Lord God, thou hast made the heavens ...
nothing is too difficult for thee <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rwf97UgAma4>

THE PSALM FOR THE DAY is PSALM 116:1,10-17

¹ I love the LORD, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy.

¹⁰ I trusted in the LORD when I said, 'I am greatly afflicted'; **¹¹ in my alarm I said, 'Everyone is a liar.'**

¹² What shall I return to the LORD for all his goodness to me? **¹³ I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.** **¹⁴ I will fulfil my vows to the LORD** in the presence of all his people. **¹⁵ Precious in the sight of the LORD** is the death of his faithful servants. **¹⁶ Truly I am your servant, LORD;** I serve you just **as my mother did;** you have freed me from my chains. **¹⁷ I will sacrifice a thank-offering to you and call on the name of the LORD.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen

THE GREETING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Faithful one, whose word is life: come with saving power to free our praise, inspire our prayer and shape our lives for the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SONG OF CELEBRATION - *Sunday School ... He's got the whole world in his hands*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oEkXzi19Crk>

CONFESSION

✠ God the Father forgives us in Christ and heals us by the Holy Spirit.
Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and malice,
and confess our sins to God our redeemer. *cf Ephesians 4.30,32*

We say together

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

ABSOLUTION *is pronounced and all respond:*

✠ May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw *you* to himself,
and cleanse *you* from all *you* sins
that *you* may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

In response we join in the words of the GLORIA:

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God,
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

And we sing a SONG OF RESPONSE **My soul finds rest in God alone**, based on Psalm 62

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CSp-3kvKQZs>

THE COLLECT **Let us pray: this morning I will be using the two Collects; the older and alternative:**

✠ 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, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

and

God of truth, help us to keep your law of love and to walk in ways of wisdom, that we may find true life in Jesus Christ your Son.

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST READING GENESIS 18:1-15

The LORD appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. **Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby.** When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground. **He said,** ‘If I have found favour in your eyes, my lord,^[a] do not pass your servant by. **Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree.** **Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way – now that you have come to your servant.’** ‘Very well,’ **they answered,** ‘do as you say.’ **So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah.** ‘Quick,’ he said, ‘get three seahs^[b] of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread.’ **Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it.** **He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.** **‘Where is your wife Sarah?’ they asked him.** ‘There, in the tent,’ he said. **Then one of them said,** ‘I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son.’ **Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him.** **Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing.** **So Sarah laughed to herself** as she thought, ‘After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?’ **Then the LORD said to Abraham,** ‘Why did Sarah laugh and say, “Will I really have a child, now that I am old?” **Is anything too hard for the LORD?** I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son.’ **Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said,** ‘I did not laugh.’ But he said, ‘Yes, you did laugh.’

This is the Word of the Lord, Thanks be to God

THE SECOND READING ROMANS 5:1-8

Therefore, since we have been **justified through faith,** we have **peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,** **through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace** in which we now stand. **And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.** **Not only so, but we also glory** in our **sufferings,** because we know that suffering produces **perseverance;** **perseverance, character;** and character, **hope.** **And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit,** who has been given to us. **You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.** **Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die.** **But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

This is the Word of the Lord, Thanks be to God

GOSPEL HYMN to prepare us to listen to the story of our Lord we will sing a prayer of openness to God **Be still and know that I am God** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zNOXfOTC8U>

THE GOSPEL MATTHEW 9:35-10.8

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew , *Glory to you O Lord*

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 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.**

This is the Gospel of the Lord, Praise to you O Christ

SERMON FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

*May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight,
O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.*

INTRODUCTION

The first week after Trinity, ordinary time, a new normality is coming. What is to be the nature of the Christian normality in the midst of the challenging realities of our world?

✘ PSALM FOR THE DAY PSALM 116:1,10-17

This Psalm tells us in v12 that God is good ... so, how will I respond? The Psalm tells me to love him v1, trust him v10, obey him by fulfilling my vows to him v14 and to serve him v16 ... I love the little phrase *just as my mother did*. This is a very Jewish phrase ... never underestimate the power of a good woman even in a male-dominated culture ,, and praise him. Our response to God's goodness is summarised in v17 *I will sacrifice a thank-offering to you and call on the name of the LORD*. It is in this note of humility before God that we come to our reading from Genesis. It is the story of the three angels coming to Abraham. The passage tells us that the *Lord appeared* .. and then there are three. This is why for many generations it has stimulated the imagination of Christians as a picture of the Trinity. Perhaps the most famous is in a Russian icon.

✘ FIRST READING GENESIS 18:1-15

The Christian doctrine of the Trinity is often pictured in the icon by the Russian monk Andrei Rublev painted some time between 1408 and 1425, is based on the story in Genesis 18 that we read today. There are three symbols in the icon, a tree by the Father, a house by the Son and a mountain by the Spirit. It was a sign of God's interest in Abraham and Sarah and the child to come, Isaac.

It is such a human story: Sarah overhears the angels saying she is to have a child... God cannot do that .. why should he bother ... were these things in her mind? All we know is she laughed! Then she denied it ... her fear led to her lying ... an all too common human reaction. But God still fulfils his promise despite her laughing and her lying.

The LORD (who) appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre is the God of the whole Bible and is our God. This is the one who gave himself for us, who welcomes us and who we remember in the celebration of Holy Communion. This picture of a table in the icon tells us that in Holy Communion there is space to come and there is space at the table for us. We all come in the same way. As we come and kneel or stand together it declares that in Christ all have equal value and he welcomes us.

The icon is sometimes called **The Hospitality of Abraham or the Philoxenia - love of the stranger;** it gives us a number of important values for our life together: hospitality, generosity, thanksgiving, considerateness, the importance of meals, the beauty of colour, stillness and silence.

We are living at a time when the cry *Black Lives Matter* is being heard in many places. This is absolutely true – but it is also true that all lives matter. In the Scripture we are called to love our neighbour as ourselves – but yet, Scripture highlights the widow, orphan and stranger. There are times to highlight what we tend to ignore, and this may be one of these times. It does not matter what George Floyd was like – it does matter how he was treated. It is never right to treat a fellow human being as less than a person made in the image of God, and as someone who has a welcome to the table of the Lord exactly as we have.

The challenge to us as Christians individually and together as a church is as to how we treat people and whether there are those we ignore. There is a lot of fear around, fear of the virus and therefore of people who might have it, fear of those who are different tending often to racism, fear for the environment. This is the opposite of the peace of the Bible. The peace with God through Jesus Christ is a peace that should affect every part of our lives, it is not naive, it is not careless, it is wise but it is real.

✠ **SECOND READING ROMANS 5:1-8**

The reading from St Paul's letter to the Romans tells us that our place at the table of peace, of shalom, of total and overwhelming well-being is because *we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,* ... this passage goes onto talk about access, we have access, we are invited in, we are not left outside v2 **by faith into this grace in which we now stand.**

If it is true that we have access to God's presence because of Jesus, and if it is true that all of us come by the same route irrespective of, according to Galatians, wealth, gender, ethnicity or social standing, then anything which separates is a travesty because it denies the nature of our God. Together **we boast in the hope of the glory of God.** Together we **glory** in our **sufferings, perseverance, character and hope.**

Why is this? v5 because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Human attitudes are of division, I believe that it is only in Christ that we can truly celebrate our unique different because God calls us to himself just as we are: ⁶ *You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.* ... ⁸ *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

The Bible does not do away with differences and indeed our Christian hope is that in heaven we will be together of all tribes and nations and languages .. praising God together. We are not an amorphous mass ... but we are a glorious mosaic demonstrating the love of God to our world.

✠ **GOSPEL MATTHEW 9:35-10.8**

Our Gospel reading then brings the model and attitude of Jesus before us; he (v35) taught in the synagogues, proclaimed the good news of God's rule and healed. This passage comes us a challenge to me:

Christ had Compassion: Are we models of the love of Christ – the one our Gospel reading says: *When he saw the crowds, **he had compassion on them**, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.* Compassion sometimes includes anger: anger at injustice, at structural evil, at bullying, at wrong. But compassion means that with passion we seek for change so that the way things are not necessarily the way they will be. I believe that whilst we must seek a societal, structural and legal response to ills such as abuse, racism, bullying, mishandling of the environment ... and anything else you can think of ... the only final answer is in the Kingdom of God.

Here is what our Lord Jesus does:

✠ He gives a **Call to Prayer:** v9.38 Pray that God would send out his servants to make a difference.

✠ And a **Call to Action:** 10.1 He calls his core group to him and says ... do something ... in my name, with my authority ... Matthew names this core group of 12 – and they are sent out. Later he was to tell them to go into the whole world, but at this stage, they had to go where they were.

My friends, my sisters and brothers, this is our calling .. to go out this week for Jesus .. with Jesus and carrying his name live out the standards of the kingdom, to be people of prayer and action in our homes, communities and work places.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen

✠ *In response to God's Word we join together in the **THE APOSTLES' CREED** –*

This is what we believe.

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (adapted from the prayers of the Chaplaincy of Costa Blanca)

***O Lord, hear my prayer** may be sung*

*To the words: Lord, in your mercy the response is: **hear our prayer***

Creator God, we are part of the tensions and injustices of the world: heal the resentment between people, and intervene in the world's conflicts. Help us to walk humbly with you at our side and

when we come to the crossroads and have to choose which way to go lead us down the path of justice and righteousness whilst steering us away from the road that leads to selfishness and sin.
(Short Silence) Lord in your Mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Father God, help us to be gentle, with others and with ourselves. Give us, we pray, the calm that makes for consideration and the respect for others that makes us courteous. Take from us hard words and the cynical look. Let us be to others as we would wish them to be to us and, when we fail, forgive us and when they fail, heal us.
(Short Silence) Lord in your Mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Caring God, we pray for all those who are afflicted by physical, emotional or mental illness. By your grace enable them to keep their eyes fixed on you, and give them the courage to face the trials and temptations that may come. Especially we pray for.....
(add names of those requesting prayer) *(Short Silence)* Lord in your Mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Holy God, your love reaches beyond the grave. At the end of our days on earth be with us and with those we love, and with those whom we love who have gone before us. We pray now for those who have recently died and for those bereaved by their passing.
(Short Silence) Lord in your Mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Gracious God, we thank you for hearing our prayers and as we move into the coming week help us to remember our Saviour's words as he sent his disciples out into the world "As you go, proclaim the good news, the Kingdom of Heaven has come near".

Merciful Father: **Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

Minister Almighty and everlasting God,
the comfort of the sad, the strength of those who suffer:
hear the prayers of your children who cry out of any trouble,
and to every distressed soul grant mercy, relief and refreshment,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

✠ Christ is our peace.
He has reconciled us to God
in one body by the cross.
We meet in his name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace. *All may exchange a sign of peace*

- Normally the gifts of the people are gathered at this time. DonorBox is now live on our church website and you can give your tithes and offerings by Credit Card. If you are regular envelope giver, DonorBox records your name and amount and will be added to your envelope information. St George's needs your ongoing support as our costs continue even when we cannot have services here.

OFFERTORY HYMN **Amazing Grace how sweet the sound** by John Newton
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pA749s-nESg>

OFFERTORY PRAYER

✠ We bless you, High King of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this bread and wine to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made;
they will become our spiritual food and drink. **Blessed be God for ever.**

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

THE COMMUNION

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

GIVING OF COMMUNION

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed
on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world,
blessed are those who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

The body of Christ broken for you

The blood of Christ shed for you

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

✠ Eternal Father,
we thank you for nourishing us
with these heavenly gifts:
may our communion strengthen us in faith,
build us up in hope,
and make us grow in love;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Together we say:

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you
our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

The Dismissal – The Lord sends us out

FINAL HYMN Let us take the words of this hymns as an encouragement and strength for the week to come **I'll go in the strength of the Lord ... all in beautiful pastel colours!**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MOknG-JGeHw>

BLESSING

May the Father from whom every family
in earth and heaven receives its name
strengthen you with his Spirit in your inner being,
so that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith
May God, who in Christ gives us a spring of water welling up to eternal life,
perfect in you the image of his glory;
*and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always.*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord Alleluia! Alleluia!
In the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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