



COMMUNITY WORSHIP HOLY COMMUNION

10th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY, 16th August 2020

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).

HYMN OR SONG TO CALL US TO WORSHIP

Here is love vast as the ocean <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8YOPj5TnUM>

✠ **THE PSALM FOR THE DAY IS PSALM 133** A song of ascents. Of David.

¹ **How good and pleasant** it is when God's people live together **in unity!** ² **It is like** precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe.

³ **It is as if** the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. **For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life for evermore.**

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

THE GREETING

We come together in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

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.

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.*

SONGS OF CELEBRATION - Particularly for the Sunday School

God's not dead https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hRsqgCL_9Bw

CONFESSION

✠ Human sin disfigures the whole creation, which groans with eager longing for God's redemption. We confess our sin in penitence and faith.

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.

AN ABSOLUTION

✠ The Lord enrich *you* with his grace, and nourish *you* with his blessing; the Lord defend *you* in trouble and keep *you* from all evil; the Lord accept *your* prayers, and absolve *you* from *your* offences, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. **Amen.**

THE GLORIA sung Gloria, gloria (Taize) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8TbiHrDQoWM>

THE COLLECT

Lord of heaven and earth, as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer, give us patience and courage never to lose hope, but always to bring our prayers before you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE WORD OF GOD

✘ OLD TESTAMENT READING Genesis 45.1-15

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, 'Make everyone leave my presence!' So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. ² And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's household heard about it. ³ **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.** ⁴ **Then Joseph said to his brothers**, 'Come close to me.' When they had done so, he said, 'I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! ⁵ 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.** ⁶ For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no ploughing and reaping. ⁷ **But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant** on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.^[a]⁸ **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. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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." ¹² 'You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. ¹³ Tell my father about all the honour accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly.' ¹⁴ Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterwards his brothers talked with him.

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

✘ NEW TESTAMENT READING Romans 11.29-32

²⁹ for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, ³¹ so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now^[a] receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you. ³² For God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.

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

HYMN, SONG or MUSIC to prepare to listen to the story of our Lord

Oh the mercy of God <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZXI2lw502A>

✘ The Son of man came not to be served, but to serve: to give up his life as a ransom for many.

✘ THE GOSPEL Matthew 15.21-28

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

²¹ **Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew** to the region of Tyre and Sidon. ²² **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.' ²³ 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.' ²⁴ **He answered**, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.' ²⁵ **The woman came and knelt before him.** 'Lord, help me!' she said. ²⁶ **He replied, 'It is not right** to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs.' ²⁷ **'Yes it is, Lord,' she said.** 'Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table.' ²⁸ **Then Jesus said to her**, 'Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.' And her daughter was healed at that moment.

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

✘ SERMON *Unity Celebrated*

I remember my Church History lecturer saying that unity was one of the things lost at the Reformation. From the beginning of the church until 1054 there was only one church, then there was the Orthodox and the Roman Catholic. At the Reformation national churches developed and today there is a plethora

of churches ... often without accountability. It is like the book of Judges which says that everyone does *what is right in their own eyes*. God loves unity.

✦ We see this in our Psalm for today, **PSALM 133 (A song of ascents. Of David)** which was one of the Psalms sung as the people moved towards worship in Jerusalem.

✦ Unity is described as ¹**good and pleasant**. True unity is both wholesome and feels good. The *precious oil* was what was used for ordination... spiritual unity was based on the one God and his appointed representatives.

✦ There are some churches where the unity is based on a statement of doctrinal belief. Churches of historical traditions are based upon, as Israel, the person of the senior presbyter or priest, the Bishop. True unity accepts differences and recognises the right to interpret differently but it does not easily separate. This is not to say that division is always wrong but I would say that to have division thrust upon you because of a refusal of spiritual authorities to recognise what God is doing is different from choosing separation and division.

✦ The other picture is the dew of Hermon which is a mountain in northern Israel and is often snow covered. Unity is like blessing poured out that enriches, nourishes and brings blessing or happiness. For us *The Peace* is an enacted example of this.

✦ OLD TESTAMENT READING Genesis 45.1-15

✦ This reading is about unity being restored. Joseph had not always seemed to be wise in his words to his brothers but here his dreams are being fulfilled and as he opens up to his brothers, the ones who had betrayed and sold him, he is about restoring unity.

✦ Notice first of all his attitudes to those who had sinned against him ... we are told in v1: **Then Joseph could no longer control himself. Then in v 2:** ²*And he wept so loudly* This restoration process was not making a political truce, it was a matter of a heart who believes that relationship could be restored and renewed. I believe this is true of any type of relationship.

✦ In v3 when he tells his brothers who he really is they are naturally terrified. The one they sold is now a man of immense power. How will he use his power? He says in v4: *'Come close to me.'* *When they had done so, he said, 'I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt!* He doesn't pretend that no wrong had happened, he tells it for what it is ... but he draws them close to him.

✦ He says that God is bigger than their wrongdoing: v5 **because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you;** ⁷**But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant** and ⁸**'So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God.** God uses all things for his own ends ... this was true of his beloved Son who also was sold, who also forgave and who also brought healing and unity.

✦ Romans 8:28 tells that *all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to his purpose*. It is not that the circumstances are necessarily right, good or just, but God will use them. We have a wonderful Lord! This includes what we are going through right now.

✦ NEW TESTAMENT READING Romans 11.29-32

✦ Jews grew up thinking they were God's people, and Paul as Saul had stood for this more than most – but now! – **How** are they to interpret the fact that Paul's claim was that God was including Gentiles – he argued for their inclusion – as much as he opposed it as a fiercely loyal Jew – **he was proclaiming a new unity.**

✦ He argued for the full and equal rights of Gentile Christians

✦ The reference to Elijah is that God always had a remnant, in the people of Israel, however much they wandered, there were always saw those who were faithful – they were called the remnant.

✦ If the Jews had all accepted Jesus as Messiah, there would not have been the motivation to go to the Gentiles.

✦ There is very little in the NT about remnant ... this was a new type of people; there is also very little in the NT after the Gospels about kingdom, it is much more about the king.

✦ The key thing is that it is all about God ... he chooses his methods but his aim is all the same, he wants to bring the outsider in – all without distinction, not all without exception.

And that brings us to the Gospel: Matthew 15.21-28

- ✦ Jesus goes north-west from Galilee into what is now Lebanon and a woman here called a Canaanite (one completely beyond the wall), in Mark she is called a Greek, a Syrophenician woman (the Phoenicians were an ancient Mediterranean people)
- ✦ Jesus withdraws ... something he does regularly and frequently
- ✦ She seems to be aware of Jesus person and role
- ✦ She cries out ... perfect tense, she keeps on crying ... not the only occasion!
- ✦ Jesus seems insensitive ... but, as is often the case, we don't see his face. Jesus did not put her off and she answers quite confidently and even cheekily. She disagrees with Jesus and he accepts it! You can see he was really about relationships rather than rules. And ... he heals her daughter.
- ✦ She believed that Jesus could make a difference ... and he does, even although she was an unexpected person to receive a blessing
- ✦ She is the only one to receive the accolade ... *Great is your faith!* – the next best is the centurion – *I have never found such faith even in Israel* – but both are outsiders and are brought in ... this is what God does. The outsider becomes an insider ... there is unity ... very good and very pleasant!

FINALE

I was praying about what the Lord would say to me as we come into this new normality. I had talked and written about the lockdown as being cloistered as in a monastery – a lace of prayer. Now I was asking God what he wanted my emphasis for my own life to be and I felt his saying that *I was being set free to love!* This is my desire. This is unity.

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.

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

O Lord, hear my prayer may be sung

These responses may be used:

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer** or Lord, hear us **Lord, graciously hear us.**

At the end:

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

THE PEACE

✠ We are all one in Christ Jesus.
We belong to him through faith,
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of 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*

OFFERTORY HYMN - the gifts of the people may be gathered and presented

Be still my soul <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hqgC1tqifV8>

✠ Be present, be present, Lord Jesus Christ,
our risen high priest; make yourself known in the breaking of bread.

God of all goodness and grace, receive the gifts we offer; and grant that our whole life may give you glory and praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER – *The great prayer of praise and thanksgiving.*

The Lord is here. **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should always sing of your glory, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For you are the hope of the nations, the builder of the city that is to come. Your love made visible in Jesus Christ brings home the lost, restores the sinner and gives dignity to the despised.

In his face your light shines out, flooding lives with goodness and truth, gathering into one in your kingdom a divided and broken humanity.

Therefore with all who can give voice in your creation we glorify your name, for ever praising you and saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

We praise you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, 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.**

The Agnus Dei may be said or sung

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 heart 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.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of our pilgrimage,
you have willed that the gate of mercy
should stand open for those who trust in you:
look upon us with your favour
that we who follow the path of your will
may never wander from the way of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

HYMN or SONG to send us out to serve Christ

Do you feel the world is broken? We do!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6FEuAr8f6bo>

✠ PRAYER & BLESSING

✠ We thank you, Lord,
that you have fed us in this sacrament,
united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet
prepared for all peoples. **Amen.**

✠ Christ, who has nourished us with himself the living bread,
make you one in praise and love, and raise you up at the last day;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

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