

# Our Sunday Service Together

June 20<sup>th</sup> 2021

Trinity 4



## An Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
one God, who was, and who is, and who is to come, the Almighty.

Alleluia

Hymn Thou whose almighty word

## Preparation

All: This is the day that the Lord has made.  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
Through the brokenness of Christ, we become one body  
as one body we now gather in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to receive God's  
holy word, to pray for the needs of the world,  
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit  
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

## Our Confession

*Let us come to the light of Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.*

All: Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to  
you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection.  
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing.  
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven.  
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

*Be still for a moment in confession and in receiving God's Grace in Christ*

All: May Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive us our sins, open our eyes to God's truth, strengthen us to do God's will and give us the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Risen Lord. **Amen.**

## The opening prayer

All: The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept.*

All: As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. Amen.

## The Psalmody 9.9-20

Then will the Lord be a refuge for the oppressed, □  
a refuge in the time of trouble.  
And those who know your name will put their trust in you, □  
for you, Lord, have never failed those who seek you.  
Sing praises to the Lord who dwells in Zion; □  
declare among the peoples the things he has done.  
The avenger of blood has remembered them; □  
he did not forget the cry of the oppressed.  
Have mercy upon me, O Lord; □  
consider the trouble I suffer from those who hate me,  
you that lift me up from the gates of death;  
That I may tell all your praises in the gates of the city of Zion □  
and rejoice in your salvation.  
The nations shall sink into the pit of their making □  
and in the snare which they set will their own foot be taken.  
The Lord makes himself known by his acts of justice; □  
the wicked are snared in the works of their own hands.  
They shall return to the land of darkness, □  
all the nations that forget God.  
For the needy shall not always be forgotten □  
and the hope of the poor shall not perish for ever.  
Arise, O Lord, and let not mortals have the upper hand; □  
let the nations be judged before your face.  
Put them in fear, O Lord, □  
that the nations may know themselves to be but mortal.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

## Scripture Reading 2 Corinthians 6.1-13

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For he says, 'At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.'  
See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! <sup>3</sup>We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots,

labours, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup> by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup> truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup> in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup> as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup> as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything. <sup>11</sup> We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. <sup>12</sup> There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. <sup>13</sup> In return—I speak as to children—open wide your hearts also.

*At the end of the reading we say:*

All: This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

## Gloria

All: 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.

## The Gospel Mark 4.35-41

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side.' <sup>36</sup> And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. <sup>37</sup> A great gale arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. <sup>38</sup> But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, 'Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?' <sup>39</sup> He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. <sup>40</sup> He said to them, 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?' <sup>41</sup> And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?'

*at the end of the reading we say:*

All: This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

## A Reflection for the day

*'Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?', 'God, don't you care about...?'*

If we have not said these words ourselves, we certainly will have heard others voice similar words from within the storms of life they have encountered.

These words are normal, they are natural for any of us to ask as we seek understanding for what is happening, for why our best laid plans in life have gone to pot. There are always questions of why God seems not to care for the sick, the oppressed, for the prisoners, for refugees, for the isolated, the lonely, the confused and anxious. Why God did not stop the plague, the Spanish Flu or the Covid-19 pandemic, why we have wasps and viruses, wars - and just why people get away with bad, evil things?

The question of why life is filled with storms and why people's plans get ruined in life, of why God does nothing, have always been there. If God really cared he would do something, wouldn't he/she.

Imagine for a moment you are one of the disciples in this storm ravaged boat. God's presence is with you, the

messiah, the Son of God, Emmanuel is there. But so is the storm; and what a storm – for the sea was about to engulf you all and drag you to the deep. The disciples' plans are ruined, and more now their lives are at stake. And Jesus, 'Emmanuel - God with us' is asleep on the job it would seem. With all we see of storm in the world today, for what we see in the lives of friends and families, at times it probably feels just the same – that God is asleep on the job. Of course this raises another question for us, 'what do we think God's job is?'

The storm, the threat the disciples face gives Jesus an opportunity to say two things; two quite profound things amidst the wind and the waves and the tossing of the boat: 'peace, be still' and 'why are you afraid?'

Here is another question to ponder, 'would the absence of the storm take away fear that a storm might come and what it would do to our lives?'

Billy Connelly said, 'there is no such thing as bad weather, the problem is not having the right clothes to go out into the weather'. Life brings with it many different forms of weather, sometimes it brings great storms. Might approaching the weather of life need us to be listening for the words of Jesus, inviting us out of fear and into peace. I wonder if sometimes we need to reach out, our salvation is nearer than we think; even if it isn't in the form we expected at first.

Paul talks of the storms that come, even for apostles like him, as he writes to the Corinthians. Elsewhere in his writings he often talks of being clothed in appropriate ways for the conditions of the day and the age. Sometimes he talks of defensive clothing, other times he talks of softer, pastoral apparel. In all of his words he includes the love and peace which Christ offers.

What we wear each day is most often a choice we make, it is our decision how we face the weather of the world; I can hear my mother shouting to me 'don't go out without a coat it is going to rain'. You know I got wet!

False religion will always say to the world; 'fear not, trust in God and he will see that none of the things you fear will happen to you'. Through this story of a storm on a lake we see what true faith in Christ would say to us all; 'fear not, the things you are afraid of are quite likely to happen to you – but they are nothing to be afraid of for I am with you, even until the end of the age!'

The peace of the Lord be always with you!

## The Creed

All: 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

*We make our intercessions*

Jesus Christ, Saviour and Prince of peace, still us, O Lord, as you stilled the storm. In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ let us pray to the Father.

We give you thanks for the endurance of your Church which has sought to live in the light of the resurrection rather than fear of the valley of the shadow of death. We remember this day all being persecuted for their faith, those imprisoned, beaten, scorned as they seek to witness to your love in difficult places of the world.  
*Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

Lord of the earth and sea, protect all who work upon the seas and oceans: all fishermen, seafarers, the Royal Navy and Merchant Fleet, the RNLI and conservationists who work to restore peace to the ecology of the world's waters ravaged by humanity. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

We pray for all threatened by flood and storm, by the actions of humanity on the environment and through the natural mechanisms of the planet's environmental systems. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

We give thanks for all who provide our food, all who protect us, and shield us from harm. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

We pray today for our own homes and loved ones, and remember those who have lost homes or livelihoods. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

Lord, of power, be with those who are being overwhelmed by the storms of life; those facing hardship and danger, those having sleepless nights, the hungry and exhausted, the anxious and despairing. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

We give thanks for all who have passed through life's storms and are now at peace in your presence...

Merciful Father, accept these prayer, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## A Prayer during the Covid-19 Pandemic

All: 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 Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Collect

All: Gracious Father, by the obedience of Jesus you brought salvation to our wayward world: draw us into harmony with your will, that we may find all things restored in him, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us*

All: 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.

## The Conclusion

All: Christ, as a light illumine and guide me this day.  
Christ, as a shield overshadow me.  
Christ under me, Christ over me; Christ beside me on my left and my right.  
This day be within and without me. Amen