



## **Trinity 1 Sunday – 14<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

### **'Keep The Law of Love'**

#### **Welcome to worship!**

I hope you are all keeping well, or at the very least, recovering well from illness, as I know some of you are. We are still asked to remain at home as much as we can, and yet there seems to be a sense that people just want to feel normal now. This week we can open the churches again - but only for private prayer. We are, of course, doing this anyway, at home. It is the gathering that we are missing so very much! Please see the extras that came with this service this week with regard to opening the church and feel free to make contact with me with your comments. The PCC will have a 'Zoom' Meeting this Tuesday and will discuss this amongst other business.

This week I'm asking us all to say - maybe aloud - the words of Paul, from the book of Romans. Words that assure us of where we stand with God - and I'm hoping will life and encourage you - and give you more strength to carry on.

We are helpless without God and yet, praise our gracious Lord,  
we have all that we need with God.

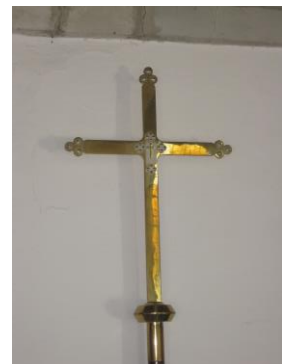
Stay safe, stay in touch with each other, stay strong and confident in the Lord!

Carol x

*Light a candle or simply have a quiet moment to prepare....*

#### **Greeting**

The Father calls us closer, the Son offers us redemption  
the Spirit fills us with love and truth.  
The Lord be with us – and with all God has created.  
Amen.



#### **Say in silence or aloud....**

*5 Therefore, since I have been made right in God's sight by faith, I have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for ME. <sup>2</sup> Because of my faith, Christ has brought ME into this place of undeserved privilege where I now stand, and I confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.*

*<sup>3</sup> I can rejoice, too, when I run into problems and trials, for I know that they help ME develop endurance. <sup>4</sup> And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens my confident hope of salvation. <sup>5</sup> And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For I know how dearly God loves ME, because he has given ME the Holy Spirit to fill my heart with his love.*

*<sup>6</sup> When I was utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for ME, a sinner. <sup>7</sup> Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. <sup>8</sup> But God showed his great love for ME by sending Christ to die for ME while I was still a sinner.*

## A Meditative Introduction to Worship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mF6n49nKrXA>

### Confession

God loved the world so much that he sent Jesus  
to repair our relationship with God,  
to offer us forgiveness for the things we have done,  
either knowingly or unknowingly  
that have gone against the Way of Love.

*In a moments silence we let God remind us of anything we need to confess.*

Lord, for times we have misused your gifts of creation.....*pause*  
For the times we have been unkind in what we have said or done.....*pause*  
For times we have seen others suffering and not tried to help.....*pause*  
For the times we have not trusted you to be there for us:  
Jesus, through your love, forgive us,  
in your mercy free us and by your power heal us.

God, who is Love forgives us and sets us free.  
we are renewed and made whole by the sacrifice of Jesus.  
Amen.

### The Collect for the First Sunday of Trinity

God of truth, help us to keep your law of love,  
and walk in ways of wisdom;  
That we may find true life in Jesus Christ  
your Son, our Lord, who reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.  
Amen.



### Bible Readings

Genesis 18:1-15 / Romans 5:1-8 / Matthew 9:35-38 & 10:1-8

### Reflection

This week I am again struck by the words in the Collect – I know these prayers have been well thought through, and used for years – and so they seem to sum up what the message is for us this week.

‘Help us to keep the law of love.’

Just imagine if it was actually the law that we should love each other, love all people, act in love in everything in our everyday lives. Of course the law does reflect the principles of the Bible and the Ten Commandments of God; and you could say that acting within the law is living the way of love. But, is that the same as having a law that says we **MUST** act, all the time, in the way of love?

Wrapped up in our three readings today is the reminder of the gift of faith that we have, and all that we have been given through Jesus: peace, privilege, confidence, a share in God’s glory, strength of character and hope. We are redeemed sinners – saved and made new! And all these things simply because God loves us.

It's good for us to be reminded of Sarah who scoffed at the thought of God doing the impossible – allowing her to be pregnant when she and Abraham were so old. Our faith means that we do believe the things we cannot yet see, because we know that God loves us so much that wherever possible, when it is the best things for us, God gives us good gifts. God answers prayer!

It is with all this knowledge of God's love alive within us that we receive the words of Jesus: "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord of the harvest – ask for more workers to be send into the fields." Because we know we are loved we are able to love others – to keep the law of love.

I'm reminded of that Boney M song, recorded in 1978 – By The Rivers of Babylon. It was based on Psalm 137, and in it says: "How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?" God's people, exiled, find themselves in a strange land. How can we go out as workers for the Lord, willing to gather in the harvest, in this 'strange land' – of pandemic and lockdown, we currently find ourselves in? How might we gather more workers – make more disciples for the Lord? We can begin by showing love, and I know we are doing that. Making a phone call, sending a note, doing a bit of shopping etc.

I am doing a Zoom Conference on that this week – so I may pass on some ideas next week!

One very simple thing we can do to share the love of God, is let people know we are praying – you could put the poster that came to you this week of the 'Praying Hands' in your window! I have, over the years, found it amazing that people are very appreciative of being prayed for. Sometimes God may gift us with other opportunities to share the peace or reassurance we have gained through our faith – that also, I'm sure, would be much appreciated in these strange times.

Remember you are loved by God, remember God can do the impossible, remember all you have in Christ Jesus – read again through this week those verses from Romans we said earlier; and remember, above all, to keep the 'law of love.' Amen.

#### Share the peace of God with the world

God wants us to set aside all that worries and concerns us and to receive into our hearts the gift of peace.

The peace of the triune God fill our hearts and bring peace to the world.

*Offer the gift of peace to friends, family, community and world...*

#### Hymn: Love Divine All Loves Excelling

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGGcqhKShQ8>

#### Prayers of Intercession: Pray as the Spirit leads.....

#### Cross of Light in Rochester Cathedral

<https://vimeo.com/426289148>



### The Lord's Prayer

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 forever.  
Amen.

### Blessing

Eternal One, go with us into this week.  
May we tread lightly, show gratitude  
and speak words of hope and joy:  
as we receive the blessing of God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
who brings truth and love into our lives  
and makes us a blessing to others.  
**Amen.**

### Hymn: Here is Love Vast as the Ocean

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8YOPj5TnUM>

### Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ, to love all people, to serve with zeal,  
and to make disciples for the Kingdom of God. Amen.



Have a look at our new and  
very much improved website

[www.kestonparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.kestonparishchurch.org.uk)

You might like also to look at a message from Rev  
Canon Jeremy Blunden, Bishop's Adviser for  
Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic – from St  
George's in Beckenham.

We want to stand in love and solidarity with our  
brothers and sisters from the BAME community.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rg5xuf9mKZ0&feature=youtu.be>

He also wrote this prayer....

