



A Service of Common Worship **For the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of Trinity**



Welcome to worship!

This week I have offered you the familiar words of an ordinary Common Worship Service. Please use this service this Sunday and next Sunday – the Collects and Readings are included for both Sundays as I will be away next Sunday. If you are able to access the internet, you could look at another church's service – there is so much variety out there!

I have done 2 conferences and 2 meetings on Zoom this week – It's strange but still lovely to see people! I said last week that I might let you know what I learned about 'singing the Lord's song in a strange land' – well one thing that has stuck with me is: 'You need to put your resources into understanding what you are up against.' Also, we mustn't assume things will go back to being exactly the same as they were before. God may be calling us to do some deep thinking to enable us to understand the new landscape and how we negotiate it for the Lord. I say a little bit more in the 'Reflection.' Also, please see my note on the re-opening of church.

We, of course, can let our thinking and understanding inform our prayers. In the time I am taking out this week I will be listening hard to the Lord, and asking – 'what now Lord – what next Lord?'

Bless you all – peace and joy be with you – may our gracious God speak into your heart.

Carol x

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

Greeting

The Lord be with us.
And, also with all of creation.
Amen.

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Confession

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ
to save us from our sins to be our advocate in heaven,
and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments
and to live in love and peace with all.



Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.

Absolution

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep us in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Hymn: The Old Rugged Cross

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CltrLsjsQl0>

The Collect for the 2nd Sunday after Trinity (21st June)

Faithful Creator, whose mercy never fails:
Deepen our faithfulness to you and to your living word,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Collect for the 3rd Sunday after Trinity (28th June)

God our Saviour, look on this wounded world
in pity and in power;
Hold us fast to your promises of peace
won for us by your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Bible Readings

21st June

Romans 6:1-11 and Matthew 10:24-39

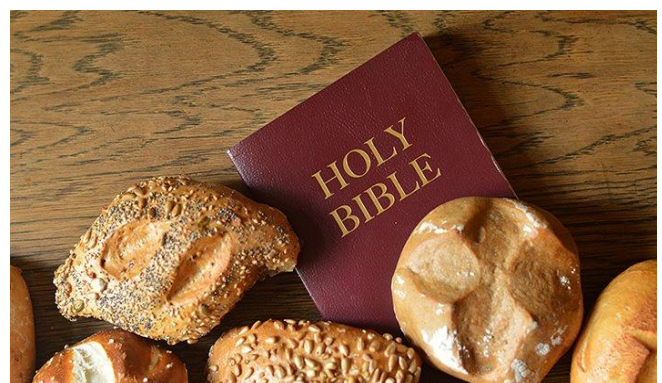
28th June

Psalms 13 and Romans 6:12-23
and Matthew 10: 40-42

Reflection

This week I am giving you lots of 'food for thought' – this reflection covers the next two weeks. Please re-read the Bible passages – maybe use 'Lectio Divina' (prayerful, meditative reading of Scripture)

Author Melissa Hill wrote: "Bread – like real love – took time, cultivation, strong loving hands and patience. It lived, rising and growing to fruition only under the most perfect circumstances." We need the 'Bread of Life' that Jesus gives – spend time on it so it lives in you and bears fruit.



Our faith in God will sustain us – ‘Lord, deepen our faith.’ We place our trust in God for this wounded world – and this world and its peoples are very much wounded right now! And, there is one thing that very much contributes to that woundedness – but we don’t really like to talk about it – it is sin. Let’s say from the beginning that sin is anything that goes against God’s way, the way of love.

Do we love other people – make sure they are clothed, fed and housed? Do we love the environment – make sure rubbish, especially plastics, are disposed of safely? Do we love animals – provide for their needs, keep them in good conditions, kill them humanely? I’m going to suggest (maybe controversially) that if we say ‘no’ to any of these, then we sin.

This is a time for us to challenge ourselves to stay clear of world systems that are sinful. We may not have even thought that our attitudes to consuming, what we consume and what damage to people, communities or the environment our own consuming has, are actually sinful – going against that responsibility God gave us right back in the Garden of Eden, to care for all creation.

This is a time to speak out, an opportunity to campaign for fairer, better, compassionate, loving systems. Jesus says: “What I whisper in your ear, shout from the housetops for all to hear!” What might Jesus be whispering in your ear that you can shout about – and bring about change in.

During the conference (I attended on Zoom) this week on ‘Covid19 – the impact on our mission and ministry’ we were made aware of the work of Tearfund. They campaign for a fairer world and have ways for us all to contribute to speaking out for change by signing various petitions. They encourage people to alter their own lifestyles as a way of showing love our neighbours. Please visit their website:

https://www.tearfund.org/about_us#whatwecareabout

Tearfund also have an amazing campaign called – Reboot Campaign They suggest 5 steps to a better world. The opportunity to email Boris Johnson ahead of Britain hosting the G7 and COP26 in 2021 – which I have done!

Tearfund website says:

The coronavirus crisis has changed the way we see the world. It’s reminded us of the fragility of life and exposed deep inequalities in society. As churches and communities adapt to find new ways to be a light in the darkness, many are reimagining what life could be like.

We don’t have to go back to the old system that keeps people living in poverty and damages the environment. Together, we can protect those most vulnerable in this crisis, and reboot the economy in a fair, sustainable way. We’re calling for a world that allows every person to flourish – along with all of creation.

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to build a better reality together. You have a vital role to play in shaping this future. Will you join us in calling for change?

I hope you have enough food for thought for the next couple of weeks – maybe you could tell me how you think we, as a church, we can contribute to making this world better, fairer and brighter for all, going forward.....

The Creed

We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Hymn: Praise My Soul The King of Heaven

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sx1eMwIDFb8>

The Peace

Blessed be Christ, the Prince of Peace.
He breaks down the walls that divide us
and binds us together in love.
The peace of our Lord Jesus be with us all.

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

Prayers of Intercession: please pray for....

The Church of Christ throughout the world.
Creation, human society, the Sovereign and those in authority.
(Especially for our Government during the pandemic)
The local community – including the local school, businesses and homes.
Those who suffer in body, mind or spirit.
The communion of saints and all those who grieve.

Hymn: Be Still My Soul

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kqKVFYD8Obc>

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

May God keep us in all your days.

May Christ shield us in all your ways.

May the Spirit bring us healing and peace.

And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be with us and those we love now and always.

Amen.

Hymn: What A Beautiful Name

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tiIMtID54K8>

Dismissal

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord,

In the name of Christ.

Amen.



Virtual Tour of Rochester Cathedral

<https://www.rochestercathedral.org/virtual-tour>