



Worship for Sunday 26th July 2020 and Onward **Preparing to Come Back to Church!**

This week I am including the service we will be using when we come back into church, so this liturgy will remain the same until we have considered how we can safely do Holy Communion in church. I will be on holiday for the next two Sundays so please use this service, or if you prefer, participate in a different service online.

This week's Reflection comes from The Rt Rev James Langstaff, Bishop of Rochester, it is at the beginning of this document, so the service is on separate sheets to use going forward.

You will also receive this week, instructions for coming back into church from the 16th August onwards, and I will be making email contact with all those who have requested to come back, during the week beginning the 10th, to confirm your booking.

When we are worshipping in church the service will be recorded and then uploaded onto our website in the afternoon for those who can't be there in the morning.

I am very much looking forward to being able to worship in church, please let me know of your intent to join us, and to book your place, if you haven't already done so.

Stay safe and blessed - Rev Carol x

This week our Reflection comes from:
The Rt Rev James Langstaff, Bishop of Rochester



Watch here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wPO_2SvKL4&feature=youtu.be

Transcript here:

The parables of Jesus, not least in the Gospel of Matthew, are just wonderful. You can imagine Jesus, picking up the images as he looks around him or as he reflects on things that people were familiar with from their everyday lives, and using those images then to teach, to teach about the Kingdom of God and what the Kingdom of God is like. Here we have the parable of the mustard seed and the parable of the yeast. A little thing, an unseen thing in the yeast, that's mixed in with the with the dough, but the effects are seen.

The tiny seed grows into a great bush in which the birds of the air may find their shelter. The yeast does what it has to do and the dough rises and is different because the yeast is there. The parables of searching, of looking for pearls and treasure; and these are familiar with us aren't they now. I mean treasure hunting is the thing, it's all over the telly isn't it - The Detectorists, if you've been watching that.

And here is a person who finds the treasure. Now in our instance you then have to share the proceeds of the treasure because there are laws about that, but in this instance, the guy goes off and he buys the whole field in order to have the treasure, because the treasure is so precious. Precious things - the Kingdom is precious. It's worth having. It's worth giving, in order to get the Kingdom.

And then of course there's this slightly less comfortable imagery of the net, and the way that some of the fish that are caught in the net will be thrown away. The parables are not always comfortable, they have challenge in them. They have challenge as we read them and as we are encounter what Jesus is saying. Yes, there are the positive messages. There are encouragements here, not least those ones about growth particularly for things that are small. Remember that things began small, the Church began as the eleven, and it's grown. A tiny seed, a little bit of yeast leavens the whole lump.

Images there of how we are to be as we seek to bring about the things of the Kingdom in our world, as we seek to bring transformation in our world. Important things here. And then the imagery there of this precious thing and we need to be reminded don't we not at least in these times, of how precious are the things of the Kingdom. These are things, these things of God, which are of incalculable value. They're not everyday things and so we need to treat them in the proper way, to remember that we are dealing with as it were, holy things and precious things when we're dealing with the things of God.

And that of course includes people, because it is not least in people that the things of the Kingdom work themselves out in people's daily lives, in the transformations that happen within people's lives and that is precious, that's precious. That's worth having, that's worth the effort that is expended in order to see the Kingdom treasure grow as people's lives are transformed by the grace and the love of God.

Hold on to these wonderful parables, enjoy them, allow them to speak to you, allow them to challenge you. Allow them to renew your faith in the God who works, even when we don't see what God is doing.

Let's pray....

Gracious God,
we thank you for the ways in which Jesus taught his disciples.
We thank you for these parables,
which still speak to us today,
through the imagery that they use,
through the meaning that they carry.
May we indeed be encouraged by them,
may we realise the wonder of the harvest that is brought in.
May we realise the richness of the treasure which is ours to find.
May we be reminded about how a tiny little bit of yeast
can lead to the whole lump of dough being changed.
Grant that also our lives may be transformed
as we hear your Word and respond to it.
Amen.

Welcome, Notices & Banns

*Music is played as we gather. The congregation join in with the words in **bold type**.*

Greeting

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.**



Call to Confession *Music is gently played*

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 you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Gloria *is said*

**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.**

A moment's silence is kept before the Collect is prayed

The Collect

Bible Reading

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N*
Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel is read...

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon / Reflection

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.

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

At the end

Merciful Father,

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

Hymn *A hymn is played for further silent prayer*

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

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love,
defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit be with you,
and remain with you, and those you love, now and always.
Amen.

Dismissal

We go into the world to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Music is played – please wait to be ushered from your seat

