

Welcome to our service on this Sixth Sunday in Trinity

1st Hymn Dear Lord & Father of mankind - using it as our **Confession**

1. Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways!

Re-clothe us in our rightful minds, in purer lives thy service find,
In deeper rev'rence praise, in deeper rev'rence praise.

2. Drop thy still dews of quietness, 'til all our strivings cease;

Take from our souls the strain and stress, and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace; the beauty of thy peace.

3. Breathe through the heats of our desire thy coolness and thy balm

Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire, speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,

O still small voice of calm, O still small voice of calm

by John Greenleaf Whittier

God's Pardon May God our Father forgive you by the death of his Son and strengthen you by his risen life
to live in the power of his Spirit all your days **Amen.**

Collect Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our
understanding; pour into our hearts such love towards you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may
obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord **Amen**

Reading

Romans 8: 1-11

1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh,
but according to the Spirit.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness
of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,

4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but
according to the Spirit.

5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to
the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have
the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also
give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

1 On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea.

2 And great multitudes were gathered together to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat; and the whole multitude
stood on the shore.

3 Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow.

4 "And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them.

5 "Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they
had no depth of earth.

6 "But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away.

7 "And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them.

8 "But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

9 "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

18 "Therefore hear the parable of the sower:

19 "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and
snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.

20 "But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with
joy;

21 "yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of
the word, immediately he stumbles.

22 "Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the
deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

23 "But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears
fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hymn Open our eyes Lord *by Robert Cull*

Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus, to reach out and touch him, and say that we love him.

Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen. Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus!

Reflection

When you look in the mirror what do you see? Do you see the world's most wonderful person or its worst?

When telling our story, how do we describe ourselves?

What would we put in an autobiography, if we were to write one?

When writing our CV: what do we include and what would we exclude?

Last week, in Romans 7, S.Paul described how he felt about himself and his circumstances

1st he wrote all about his struggles

Do you struggle with your feelings? Are you hard on yourself when you make a mistake, or when you fail?

Do you ever say: "I'm stupid; I'm a failure; it's all my fault" (often when it's not!!) Let's be honest - we all have struggles

This week Paul (with relief) tells us: 2nd about his certainties

He explains how wonderful it is to be free; to be declared 'not guilty'; to be released from all that troubled his and our consciences.

Last week in Rom 7:24 S Paul ended with these words; *O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?* Sin is debilitating & destructive But Paul didn't give up; he didn't give in

After asking this important question: *Who can deliver me?* in v25 he answers his own question saying: *I thank God, through Jesus Christ our Lord* Life may appear to be hard & hopeless, but Jesus changes it all

In Christ (& through Christ) we can find liberty & life. In Jesus we can enjoy restoration and reinstatement.

What a word of hope comes to worried minds in Rom8. What relief for burdened hearts; what joy for guilt ridden consciences come in these assuring words: *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus*

This good news of the gospel has two sides to it. God's side is grace. and Our side is faith.

Jesus told a story to illustrate the response of our hearts to God's Word, and of God's generous grace. He spoke about a farmer sowing (literally 'throwing') seed here, there, and everywhere in different sorts of soils.

Then, maybe holding up a stalk of corn that he'd picked on the way, he pointed to its head and said with a grin: *he that has ears to hear let him hear.*

The question is: Do we hear? and how do we respond?

Do we respond in faith - receiving God Word, or do we reject what he says?

Irrespective of our response God, in grace, continues to scatter his Word of truth and love to us all

And the good news is this: When we turn to God (& rely on Jesus) we find that we are not only loved but liberated *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.* Jesus covers it all

God doesn't condemn us, society can't judge us, and we mustn't be hard on ourselves. I Roms8v3 he says *God by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, He dealt with sin*

Jesus became sin for us (he took all our faults & failing on his shoulders), & he died for us (in our place) taking sin away into death and burying it there.

But that's not all. v11 says: *The Spirit who raised Christ from the dead will also give new life to you*

that's why when we turn to Jesus and trust in him we are set free from sin, from guilt and from death.

v2 says *Christ Jesus has made me free from sin and death*

Because of Jesus I'm forgiven and I'm free

Praise the Lord as Christians (Christ-Ones) we can say: *There is no condemnation to those who are in Christ*

Prayers

Almighty God we thank you that you are true and righteous and show us our shortcomings; but also that you are merciful and generous to those who cry to you for help. We thank you for the Gospel of Grace; and we thank you that in Jesus we can find forgiveness and freedom

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

We pray for the World, naturally, socially and politically - a world abused, broken and divided. We pray for those who lead the nations, and those who seek to restore its ecology, equilibrium, and relationships

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

We pray for our nation, for Charles our king, Rishi our Prime minister, and his cabinet; and for all those in positions of power in our Health Services, trade unions, education, law enforcement, business and leisure. Give all leaders selfless servant hearts to seek the welfare of the least and lowest in the fight of good against evil.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

We pray for your Church, in many ways having lost its way, uncertain about the truth - what it is and how to tell it. Give to every leader a Biblical and Christ centred clarity of focus. Especially guide our archbishops Justyn and Stephen, and our bishops Stephen, Karen and Andrew. Help our congregations to be welcoming and generous. And give to those who are persecuted for following Jesus the courage to stand and fight the good fight of faith

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

We pray for our Community in the Bride Valley, our schools, our farmers and fishermen, publicans, postmen and dustmen, especially those struggling with financial fears, and with age and loneliness

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

We pray for all those who suffer, physically, mentally, and emotionally, through fear, pain or loss. We pray for families that face strained relationships. Make your presence a haven of peace and love in every home

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

We pray for ourselves that we might find new life, forgiveness, peace and purpose under the shadow of the wing of Jesus Christ our Lord

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that 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

Hymn And can it be *by Charles Wesley*

1 And can it be that I should gain an int'rest in the Saviour's blood?

Died he for me who caused his pain? For me, who him to death pursued?

Amazing love! How can it be that thou my God should'st die for me?

Amazing love! How can it be that thou my God should'st die for me?

2. He left his Father's throne above so free, so infinite his grace;

Emptied himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless race;

'Tis mercy all, immense and free; for, O my God it found out me.

'Tis mercy all, immense and free; for, O my God it found out me

3. Long my imprisoned spirit lay, fast bound in sin and nature's night;

Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray, I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;

My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose went forth and followed thee.

My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose went forth and followed thee.

4. No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in him, is mine!

Alive in him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,

Bold I approach the eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ my own.

Bold I approach the eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ my own.

Blessing The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you his peace; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be on you and those for whom you pray this day and for evermore **Amen**

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England.

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