

# **Traditional Home service Sunday 6th September Trinity 13**

HYMN 1 (*SEE PAGE 2*)

## **OPENING PRAYER**

Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.

## **PRAYER OF PENITENCE**

Let us admit to God the sin which always confronts us.

**All Lord God,  
we have sinned against you;  
we have done evil in your sight.  
We are sorry and repent.  
Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.  
Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*cf Psalm 51*

## **PRAISE**

Let everything be said and done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through Jesus Christ. Sing psalms, hymns and sacred songs:

Let us sing to God with thankful hearts.  
Open our lips, Lord:  
**and we shall praise your name.**

HYMN 2 (*see page 2*)

READINGS - 1 Chronicles 16:11  
James 4:8  
Matthew 10:39

TALK (*see page 3*)

## **CREED**

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 OF INTERCESSION**

*Spend some time praying for our nation, our community and our families.*

## **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 for ever. Amen.

HYMN 3 (*see page 2*)

## **CONCLUSION**

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 among you and remain with you always.  
Amen.

## HYMNS TO USE

466 Henry Francis Lyte.

### **PRAISE, MY SOUL, THE KING OF HEAVEN;**

To His feet thy tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
Who like thee His praise should sing?  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Praise the everlasting King!

Praise Him for His grace and favour  
To our fathers in distress;  
Praise Him, still the same forever,  
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Glorious in His faithfulness.

Father-like, He tends and spares us;  
Well our feeble frame He knows;  
In His hands He gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes.  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Widely as His mercy flows.

Angels in the height, adore Him;  
Ye behold Him face to face;  
Sun and moon, bow down before Him,  
Dwellers all in time and space.  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Praise with us the God of grace!

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**OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART**, Lord,  
Open the eyes of my heart.  
I want to see You,  
I want to see You.  
(Repeat)

To see You high and lifted up,  
Shining in the light of Your glory.  
Pour out Your power and love,  
As we sing holy, holy, holy.

Holy, holy, holy,  
Holy, holy, holy,  
Holy holy holy,  
I want to see You.

21 Charles Wesley.

**AND CAN IT BE** that I should gain  
An interest 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, shouldst die for me?

'Tis mystery all! The Immortal dies:  
Who can explore His strange design?  
In vain the first-born seraph tries  
To sound the depths of love divine!  
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore,  
Let angel minds inquire no more.

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.

Long my imprisoned spirit lay  
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;  
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
My chains fell off, my heart was free;  
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

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.

6th Sep 2020 Nigel Clent

1 Chronicles 16:11 look to the lord and his strength and seek his face.

James 4:8 says come near to God and he will come near to you.

Mathew 10:39 whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

To be Christ filled, to be Christ like, to die to self and to die daily.

A wonderful list of instructions, things every Christian would want, or be able to do. We desire them, they are our goal.

To seek his face I hear all the time, where do I seek it, how do I seek it.

You need to lose yourself to find yourself. Well I am well and truly lost.

Where's the method. Where is the set of instructions that tells me how to do these things.

If I tune in to my favourite cookery show in order to learn how to make a Victoria sponge cake, I am not just shown a list of ingredients. Here's one I made earlier, you just need flour eggs and water, thanks for tuning in, see you next week. He isn't going to sell many books at Christmas. No, we are told exactly what to do and how to do it, and a few tips for along the way.

I know what the ingredients are, or at least some of them to becoming a good Christian, love, kindness, humbleness, forgiveness patience. But I get a little confused when it comes to being Christ filled or Christ likeness. How do I do it.

What do I have to do?

I was reading something for our bible study group the other week and I came across the word altruism. To be altruistic. Never heard that word before, I had no idea what it meant. I looked up the word, it means to be selfless, unselfish, to have no regard for yourself, to be serving others. I thought ooh this is interesting.

Further investigations of this led my reading onto Socrates, I don't know if you have read any Socrates before, I hadn't. It lead me straight to the paracetamol. This is what Socrates said. The unexamined life isn't worth living, but neither is the over examined life. Happiness is blocked by selfishness, but it's not obtained trying to be selfless. The key to self-forgetfulness is you

cannot pursue it, you just are. Well thank you Socrates for clearing that up.

After a couple of days of reading this, it started to make sense, a little bit.

When you try desperately to go to sleep early because you have to get up at 4am and you cant. It doesn't matter how much you try or how much you need to go to sleep, you just cant seem to nod off. You try all sorts of things. Counting sheep, reading even praying. Dear lord please help me sleep. But the more you concentrate on sleep, the more awake you are.

Then bizarrely, as you resign yourself to the fact you are not going to get any sleep. Might as well off stayed down stairs and done something useful, I'll be getting up in 4 hours. You then switch off from your efforts, you go out like a light.

So in order to sleep you have to forget about sleep.

Is this what Paul is saying, when he tells us to die to self, and die daily.

If I can switch off from me, and forget about myself I will become more like Christ.

If I stop serving myself and serve Christ and others then I will be more like him. After all that's all Jesus did. Jesus was all about helping and serving others. You don't find any parables, titled Jesus feeds himself 5000 times, Jesus heals himself. Jesus turns water into wine and gets very merry. No, it's always what he can do for everyone else, never himself.

A few days before I started thinking about all this, I was taught a lesson in my taxi. How does that happen, how can you be taught a valuable lesson by the lord and not realise it until a few days later. I just thought I was having a great day.

I took a passenger to the railway station in the morning, and as we approached the front of the station it was just business as usual. A few smokers loitering outside having there last cigarette before they went into work, and some homeless people sitting by the station doors with a bowl or something to collect a few coins in. Beside them away from the others was another homeless person. Laid out on the concrete, no blanket, no bowl for coins. He was only wearing a t shirt and he had no shoes. I felt cold just looking at him.

I said to my customer, look at that poor thing, to which they replied, yes, it is a shame. I was payed the 12-pound fare and they went off about their day.

I then, without any thought find myself giving this man ten pounds. This is not like me, not that I don't like to give, but I would usually work it out first. Can I afford it, what am I not going to have if I give this money. No, I just wanted to help him, without any other thoughts. It was a bit later when I started to think of the economy of it all. I thought, what on earth did i do that for. I waited 30 minutes to earn that 12 pound then I gave 10 away.

Four jobs later I was taking a lady back to her home and she asked me how much to take her to Southend. £120 I said. Would you be able to take me now. After 10 nano seconds of thought I said, Oh alright then. And off we went.

I haven't had a two and a half hour job for quite sometime due to the airports being all but closed. So, in this time I managed to rabbit on at a million miles an hour for two and a half hours, I didn't take a breath. She was a Christian herself, I directed her to the ST Marys Facebook where she watched some poems, and other bits. She then invited me to go to her church when it eventually opens to maybe talk there. It all went very well . Then I sat on Southend beach for 40 minutes with a bag of chips and a cup of tea. All in all, not a bad day.

In fact it was a blessed day. I think the lord blessed me that day, not because I gave away 10 pounds, but because I did it from the heart, selflessly, without any thought for myself. He needed it, I had it, I gave it.

After I had worried about it, I was given a job worth 10 times the one I gave away. I was given the opportunity to evangelise, I had chips and a cup of tea on the beach, and I was given that happy feeling you get when you have done something good. Its not happy as in smug, look at me I'm so great, but that jesus joy thing. It's a personal internal joy that makes you glow, it gives you peace. How wonderful would it be to always feel that way, not just now and again.

So, now I know that altruism, selflessness, has to be added to the list of ingredients.

But I have come full circle. I still don't now how to do it, I just have another ingredient. How do I adopt these attitudes on a more permanent basis and have the heart of Jesus.

I have realised that I actually do know, I have known all along, its just that I wasn't listening as usual.

The big secret is our bibles. Gods word. Not just to read the word, but to study it.

What does Jesus say, what doesn't he say, why did he say it, what was the reason for saying it. What effect did it have on the people he was saying it to.

I think when you ask these questions of all that he is and does, you begin to understand the heart of Jesus. The more you understand his heart, the more you allow him into yours, and the more you do this the more like him you become.

Loose yourself in compassion of his word, find yourself in Christ.

You will be no longer trying to be anything, you will just be.

You will of found his face, you will of died to self

You will only be caring about him, with the heart of Jesus, concentrating on him and serving others, while he will be taking care of you.

One other observation is while I have been at college I have met quite a lot of reverends. If I think of Adrian, dawn, Louise, Gordon and all those at college, they all seem to have that glow, that certain something, a peace.

The common denominator amongst them all is that they have all had to study in depth the word of God. They have come to know him better because they have studied his word more and let him into their hearts.

There can be no other explanation.

So, study of the word is our answer to Christ likeness, to having the heart of Jesus and forgetting about ourselves. To be selflessly serving others, it all comes from the study of his word.

There are 31,102 verses in the niv bible, which equates to 727,969 words. Each one of them God inspired words is a piece of the lord. The more of them we have in our hearts, the more Christlikeness we will have.

If we go back to the cake recipe analogy, now that we have gods word to add into the mix. In this bowl we already have some forgiveness, patience , kindness love and some humbleness. Although we have theses qualities, we don't have

them in abundance. we need to do now is add some of gods word to them. I have here a packet of Jesus. Now dont be shy with Jesus, throw loads of it in. we want to be a great big fluffy soft delicious Christlike, seek his face cake. You have to put it all in. If you only put a sprinkling in you will end being up just a Christian biscuit. To be Christ like you have to be Christ filled, and this cake is going to keep rising in you. Everything you already had, your forgiveness, humbleness, love, kindness, patience and so on are just going to grow along with it. You will be filled and overflowing. You will have the heart of Jesus, you will be the person you are supposed to be, enabling you to do the things the Lord wants you to do with the gifts he has given you.

Don't be a Christian biscuit

do as instructed in john gospel

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you,  
so shall you be my disciples.

Amen.