

Traditional Home service Sunday 18th October Trinity 19

OPENING PRAYER

O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

PRAYER OF PENITENCE

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.

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.

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 1 (*see page 2*)

READINGS - Col 3:12-17

TALK

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 2 (*see page 2*)

CONCLUSION

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; 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

234 Jan Struther.
Walter Chalmers Smith.

IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessèd, most glorious, the Ancient of
Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we
praise.

Unresting, unfasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in
might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring
above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness
and love.

To all life Thou givest, to both great and
small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the
tree,
And wither and perish; but naught changeth
Thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their
sight;
All laud we would render: O help us to see
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth Thee.

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessèd, most glorious, the Ancient of
Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we
praise.

Joachim Neander.
470 Tr. Catherine Winkworth 1863,
and P. Dearmer 1906.

PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY,
the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health
and salvation!
All ye who hear,
Brothers and sisters, draw near,
Praise Him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy
work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily
attend thee:
Ponder anew
What the Almighty can do,
Who with His love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, who doth nourish thy life
and restore thee,
Fitting thee well for the tasks that are ever
before thee,
Then to thy need
He like a mother doth speed,
Spreading the wings of grace o'er thee.

Praise to the Lord, who when tempests their
warfare are waging,
Who, when the elements madly around thee
are raging,
Biddeth them cease,
Turneth their fury to peace,
Whirlwinds and waters assuaging.

Praise to the Lord, who, when darkness of
sin is abounding,
Who, when the godless do triumph, all virtue
confounding,
Sheddeth His light,
Chaseth the horrors of night,
Saints with His mercy surrounding.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me
adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with
praises before Him!
Let the Amen
Sound from His people again:
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

Sunday 18th Oct - Matthew Beeby
Colossians 3:12-17

Good Morning everyone welcome to this Sunday morning service.

I have spoken a couple of times this year, both of them since the March lockdown. Firstly, when speaking in April, I referred to a talk I'd done late last year which majored on the subject of worry. I had explained that worry was, in affect, a lack of trust in God, and that indeed worry was a sin. Jesus spends approximately a seventh of his sermon on the Mount talking about this very subject, that's how important this message is to us.

Then back in July I talked about judgement, which incidentally is Jesus next subject, after His words on worry. Again a sin, explaining that we if we judge, we can expect nothing but judgement on ourselves.

During this pandemic these have very valuable messages for me. Not normally a worrier, I found it difficult not to worry during lockdown, with both Jules and my businesses closed, amongst all the other challenges.

Then as lockdown finished and the restrictions started to relax, it was apparent that people had all sorts of opinions on what was allowed and what was not, and this in turn led to all sorts of judgemental conclusions, which is a trap that is not difficult to fall into, myself included.

So this year with my talks I have been working my way through the sermon on the Mount, not only because I have to study to prepare a talk, but that if I'm not careful I can be a worrier or someone who judges others.

So in preparing for this message the obvious thing for me to do was see what comes after judgement in the sermon. Well, it's really here that sermon is finishing, Jesus talks about doing to others as they would do unto you and another bit about false prophets, and with that he finishes. v

So what to talk about, well I don't know about you, but I'm in need of a major dose of

positivity. The current news is all doom and gloom, it often is, but this year it's gone to a whole new level. If we're not careful it can get deep into our psyche and throw us off kilter, when we still have far more to be thankful for.

You maybe aware, I got married about a month ago here in this church. I got married to Jules, a lot of you know her, and therefore you will know I'm a very lucky man. Both of us have been married before, but for me this ceremony and indeed this marriage feels a lot different.

Someone famously once said, during an interview that, there were 3 in their marriage, and that is too, how I feel, however for a completely different reason. When I was married before, back in 1996, I had no knowledge at all of God, of course I'd heard of Jesus, but again I had no knowledge of any possibility of a relationship with Him.

I found my faith back in 2007, and this relationship I have had with Jules since 2017, which has blossomed into marriage, is a union, a bond, which exists with both parties having a knowledge and relationship with Jesus. A different meaning to 3 in a marriage I guess!

As soon as Jules joined me right here, after having walked down the aisle looking stunning in her dress, I was aware of the Lord with us. A feeling that I was full to the brim, not only knowing that there was nowhere on earth I would rather be at that second but that this union was receiving a blessing from our Father. As I stood there worshipping and making our vow's I felt that not only was I making them to Jules, but I was making my promises to God, and I was receiving His positive responses.

The reading for the marriage was taken from Colossians, the reading you have heard this morning. It is a reading that it not only a great lesson for a marriage, it is a great lesson for any relationship, indeed further, it's a great lesson for life.

The passage starts with our identity, and that is one where we are loved by God. Now we hear that a lot as Christians, so much so that

it may be possible for us to take this for granted. However when we read our Bible's we can find that even a familiar verse can somehow find a new life, a new context, and that is exactly what has happened here, when I was studying for this talk.

This verse applies to everyone, it matters not whether you have faith or not, whether you share the Christian faith or not, whatever good or bad you have done in your life, whatever colour or creed you are. Anyone can pick up this book, and there it is,

'You are always and dearly loved by God'

Now you may say, 'No! This is a letter from Paul to his Church in Colossus.'

But really Paul's letters are open letters for all to read, and the truth that is contained within them is a truth for everyone who cares to read them.

We are then commanded to be merciful as we endeavour to understand others. What a fantastic recipe for us, it reminds me of the saying about trying to put yourself in the shoes of the other person. It's a superb recipe for married life, and it then goes further and commands us to show compassion and kindness to all, together with forgiveness as our Lord has forgiven us.

Jules was very special to me before we got married, but the foundation that feeling has been built upon has been increased with a deep sense of responsibility towards her that comes from these words. In addition to the words we used during our vows, where we choose to love, honour and cherish.

As followers of Jesus we have our identity first in Him, but it is really only complete if the light reflects off us in our words and actions, then it is truly in our hearts.

'For love is supreme and must flow through each of these virtues. Love becomes the mark of true maturity.

Jules and myself have now been married for about a month. The feeling I received from the Lord as I stood in the ceremony is still with me. What does that tell me? It tells me that our union has not only been completed

in the eyes of God, but I'm being guided and helped in making this bond stronger and stronger.

My personal opinion is that a marriage with 3 involved, when the 3rd is the Holy Spirit, is a marriage that can move forward cloaked in His power. But let's not confine this message to marriage, let's broaden it to include all our relationships. Whether we are talking about relatives, friends or work colleagues, all with whom we come across, let them see our joy, let them see the Lord's light reflecting from us, let them see our grateful hearts.

These are trying, challenging times for everyone. But here is opportunity for us, everyone at this time needs hope, and that is our responsibility as followers of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ, by His work on the Cross, has given us hope, he has given us everything we could ever need.

Even if you find it difficult to spread the Good News that is waiting for all, the least we can do at this time is be a beacon of Light, so that others will want to know, 'what has got into you'

And that would be the most abundant Love of Christ in your heart.

In Jesus Precious Name

Amen.