



Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity 12th September

Father God, help us to come to you this morning with open and thankful hearts. Fill us with the joy and peace that comes with knowing you. Be with us as we walk in your light, rejoice in your love and reflect your glory.

Amen

Hymn 409: Lord for the years

Welcome

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**

Prayer of Confession

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first commandment is this: "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this: "Love your neighbour as yourself". There is no other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

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.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.**

**We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen**

Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

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**

Gloria

**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.**

Collect for today:

Lord God, defend your Church from all false teaching and give to your people knowledge of your truth, that we may enjoy eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

New Testament Reading: Colossians 3: 12 - 17

¹² As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Hymn 161: Father hear the prayer we offer

Gospel Reading: *Luke 6: 27 - 38*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
Glory to you, O Lord

27 'But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.

32 'If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

37 'Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon: by Rosey Feuell on Thursday 9 September

Good morning... I'd like to share some thoughts on applying Jesus' teachings to ourselves.



Today we listened to Tina reading some of Jesus' words on behaviour; the Gospels of course also tell us about Jesus' public life, His miracles, His encounters with people, His parables with all their life wisdom, and the responses people and parties made to Him. But here there is quite a strong emphasis on how we live and how we behave, inwardly and outwardly – some of it, though justly famous, is quite daunting – for example, letting someone strike both of your cheeks, not just one; loving your enemies; not judging and criticising. However, it is clear overall that Jesus is not primarily telling us about correct behaviour; His whole message is about making a free and glad response to His love and the love of His Father. And there is a sense that we might then find His words especially relevant and change our behaviour.

But how do we do that? Most New Year resolutions fail, as do many decisions to be nicer to someone, or to give good measure, overflowing, give of our best; we can find so many reasons for staying the way we are.

Yet the writer of the Letter to the Colossians - read by Pam - writing in time after Jesus' words were spoken, but *before* the Gospel record of them was written down – gives some clues. The passage places our behaviour within a new dynamic: for we are God's chosen people, a particular focus of His love, and are seen as allowing Jesus Christ's word – and words – to stay in us – and so the ground is in this way already ripe for some kind of change and transformation.

Colossians likens the process to putting on clothing, in layers: compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Maybe the first two are easier than the others, in isolated instances... but the idea of deliberately getting inside all these tendencies, as one gets comfortable inside the new cover-up, while summer temperatures plummet around us, makes change seem more likely to happen.

Put on the layers, we are instructed, *what they are* will work to warm us, as Christ's own life will, by its nature, move and change us. So maybe being conscious of such layers will make *the next things* easier: bearing with one another, forgiving others for what makes us grumble. Another layer is slipped on to us here: the power of knowing Christ has already forgiven us, so we are, in the remembrance of that, freer to let others off the hook. Then comes the outer layer, all-important, just as we might think it crucial to buy or repair a coat or waterproof for the coming autumn days. The outer/top layer is to "put on" or "clothe" ourselves *with love*, which goes over all the other layers, and "binds everything together in perfect harmony".

So we are to get properly dressed: compassion, patience, etc. first, then love in pride of place over the top. And where then does the energy come from, to respond so as to really suit the clothes we are now wearing? Well, the writer tells us, "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts".. and "let the word of Christ dwell in you richly". And in his explanation two more adornments of character spring out: "wisdom" and "gratitude". A new set of possibilities emerges: a singing heart; wise and helpful communication about the spiritual, and perhaps also the rest of life. It sounds like the life of a new creature: "the old has gone", "the new has come", which Paul explains for us somewhere else. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

This new environment is likely to grow in us: saying, doing, or not saying or not doing, "all in the name of the Lord Jesus", with great thankfulness to the Father, who of course sent Jesus to us in the first place.

So – putting on the virtues, the guidelines, the awareness – call them what you will – we are in a new place, and this enables to be more like God intended us to be.

We might find we are more likely to attempt the extreme things Jesus suggests: loving the enemies, reaching out to people who don't much like or care about us, and undertaking other unlikely, unselfish actions - for, as Jesus says, we will be behaving as "children of the Most High". The behaviour will largely take care of itself and grow – the being grateful, merciful children will be fundamental – and last life-long.

David long ago saw something of this: "O Lord my God, I cried to you for help" – with all those difficult situations, enemies, lapses – "and you have healed me. ... Your anger is but for a moment, your favour is for a lifetime. (Psalm 30: 2,5).

Let us give thanks as we come to Holy Communion. that in Christ, from Christ, Who gives us Himself, we can experience that "higher gift than grace that flesh and blood refines: God's presence and His very self, and essence all divine". (John Henry Newman).

We are being remade so that we obey God's guide-rules, but it is no longer about *keeping* Jesus's guide-rules and exhortations at all. It is about entering into another nature, another kind of life.



New Life in Christ

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he

ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers

The Peace:

Take a moment and offer a prayer of thanksgiving to God for each other and our church family church community. Maybe call or text someone who would enjoy sharing the peace with you.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy, that you may be kept safe and blameless in spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Hymn 379: Lead us Heavenly Father lead us

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 227: God of mercy, God of Grace

Remembering the Lord's Supper:

Take a moment to remember the final meal that Jesus shared with his disciples. As we think about this meal - with the washing of feet and bread and wine shared with friends - we remember Jesus' offering of himself on the cross. We rejoice in his resurrection from the dead and look forward to the coming of God's Kingdom. While we cannot receive Christ in the sacraments in the usual way, we can be the presence of Christ in our homes and communities and we can be a

praying presence wherever we are.

Hymn 195: The Servant King

Closing Prayer:

Lord God, we thank you for this time of worship; may your love and peace remain with us in the coming days. Be with us in all that we will think, say and do so that our lives may reflect your glory. We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen