



The Tenth Sunday after Trinity: 16th August

Take some time to be still, perhaps light a candle and offer your own prayer to God. You may find the following words helpful.

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 716: We Have a Gospel to Proclaim

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:

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please you; 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

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 56: 1, 6 – 8

Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.

And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my

covenant— these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt-offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

New Testament Reading: Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel? for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Hymn 262: Happy Are They

Gospel Reading: Matthew 15: 21 - 28

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon: Rosey Feuell



A House of Prayer for ALL Nations?? After the recent protests about race issues etc., I bet you understand what being excluded means, if you hadn't in other ways tasted its sharpness already:

wrong trainers, unusual parents, being unwelcome in someone's space. The Israel Jesus knew was full of different groups, most with status and exclusion issues. I think, however, God began to tell the prophets that exclusion was not His plan centuries ago. People from other backgrounds seeking acceptance and help from God are to be welcomed, they signalled, no matter how good/bad these people's efforts are. Certain joy in God's House of Prayer is to be extended to all, the worship and prayer being crucial, not correct ritual and sacrifice as the Jews expected. :

"these [aliens] I will bring to my holy mountain and make ...joyful in my house of prayer; their ... sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house shall be a house of prayer for all peoples." Isaiah 56: 7

In Jerusalem today stands the Church of All Nations, with the Lord's Prayer posted in many languages – But I run ahead of the messengers that Matthew sends us.

There were many who saw signs of this gathering in, saw it many times over when Jesus ministered. Now we re-enter one such scene. A lad I call Kothar – the skilled - worked for a Canaanite woman in Israel's far north – and he began to witness how things could change. Canaanites were excluded from Jewish ways, with all their blessings; they usually kept to their own territory, for they were supposed to worship all wrong: places, altars, trees, a council of gods. And these people, even the more sophisticated, were not tolerated around any place where the Lord Almighty's blessings were named. This is Kothar's story:

"One day I went with my mistress Shakila into the Jewish coastal territory, somewhere between Tyre and Sidon. Shakila was deeply troubled because her daughter's mind had gone – or came and went – leaving her crushed and groaning in bed when she should have been up, learning her duties from her mother. Mostly she shrieked. Shakila was desperate, but also canny. She had heard Israel had a new teacher. Today, she said, we visit their territory, get His attention. We'd bring water melons to sell, and beat it to Tyre, find the Teacher. So we set off. I was sceptical; they might just throw us out of their preserve. Anyone could recognise Canaanites.

"Shakila was determined. As soon as we hit the old coastal market, she started shouting, clearly knowing how to secure help: "Son of David, Lord, help" – it went on, on. She kept it up despite stony stares and silence. We did find the Teacher man that way, but He too was silent at first. Then His companions seemed to whisper strategies: "Dispatch her with what she wants, hush her noise." I was amazed. We'd barged into their territory and now she continued shouting, groaning. The Teacher seemed aroused, but told us first He was not really there for us, only for the "lost sheep of Israel" - were these sheep in fields or lost, crazy people? Shakila was not daunted – she knelt before Him and wouldn't move: "Lord, ...help me!" spiralled her cries. He argued this might not be fair, giving outsiders *and dogs* what belonged to family tables – she swept that out of the way, contending dogs were allowed to grab what families chucked off the table. This was a turning point. He praised her faith, accepted her words, waving His hands towards her daughter – now stashed in someone's house on our route. "Go," He promised, very lovingly, very convincingly. " All done – you too get the blessings going."

"I was stunned. I thought His followers might shove her off, or come to blows. Not at all. She was welcomed in the territory, dog or outcast no longer; she hadn't made sacrifices, payments or pledges. It was a no-strings gift from Him, and she was speechless. I never caught her comment as we took the melons to the stall. His words about throwing bread to dogs were a platitude, watered down, a gentle first move – He saw she could meet it with far-seeing, genuine trust. She

answered bravely, as we might when confronting officials who are not helping. It revealed her mindset; His power was gladly, admiringly, given to heal and change her situation. It brought acceptance of all nations nearer, prophesying of more to come.

“I, Kothar, think this did not happen for our sole sake, but so that many might see that this Jesus, who worked incognito alongside fishermen and helpful women - was a new activist – one fulfilling that prophecy about all people being welcomed to prayer with the One True God, and all kinds of oppressed groups invited far nearer in, - so that they might connect with God, be healed, like Shakila’s girl –restored to what they should be.

“I know now this Jesus fulfilled other ancient words and was a true reflection of that Loving Face Who as time began welcomed some, not to exclude others, but that through them and with them all might have a potential welcome. More and similar things happened around this Jesus – we heard it later in our territory too – and after He died, He was seen again, reassuring folk of endless life crowned by His friendship, whether with fishermen, centurions, or *dogs* of Canaan – a category now and forever exploded. Not dogs, eating the children’s bread, but children eating like the other invited children, enjoying each other’s nearness.”



Church of All Nations, Mount of Olives, Jerusalem

Prayer: This kind of reflection on the Gospel goes back to St. Francis and St. Ignatius, putting yourself somewhere in the scene so as to appreciate more fully what Jesus was doing and how it can change us. Ask yourself: Where am I here, as the unlucky Canaanite woman tells her story and receives answers to all her longings?

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:

Lord, Creator of All, Healer, Spirit, we come to you.

You are our God, you are in us and with us, and you know and feel the pain of our world. But we need to cry before you about it and ask for comfort and healing. Just as the Canaanite woman prayed to Jesus for her daughter, so we pray for our world.

We bring to you the pain in our world: the things we have heard about and the things we haven't heard about. Our hearts have broken with news of powerful forces, both natural and manmade, hurting your beloved children this week. We pray for grace and your glory to shine through the darkness.

We pray for all those adrift between countries, afraid, hungry and cold, far from home, seeking security. We pray for them to find your love in tangible forms.

Lord, heal us. **Lord, save us and heal us.**

We bring to you the pain of our country, reeling under attack from those who should be protecting us. Even in this country, where we least expect it, there is injustice, negligence and corruption. We pray for wisdom and enlightenment for those in positions of authority, strength for those fighting for justice, grace and peace and healing for the wounded.

We pray for all the children this week trying to work out what they are going to do next, trying to rearrange their lives after unexpected exam results.

We pray for the future of our country, that we may overcome these challenges and grow into a gracious nation.

Lord, heal us. **Lord, save us and heal us.**

We bring to you the pain of those we know and love, close to home and far away. We mention by name those particularly on our hearts today...

Lord, heal us. **Lord, save us and heal us.**

We bring to you our own pain, some of us have physical pain and illness, some of us are suffering in spirit, some in mind. Thank you that you are with us. Help us to know your presence leading us out of the darkness. As we know that you can heal us, so we can have hope for our friends, our country and our world.

Lord, heal us. **Lord, save us and heal us.**

We bring these prayers in sorrow, but always in hope, trusting in your love and eternal wisdom Amen.

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 332: I The Lord of Sea and Sky

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 16: All Hail the Power

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

If you have any prayer or pastoral needs, please don't hesitate to contact
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