



Trinity 5: 12th July

Welcome

We say together:

In my head

In my heart

and all around me

Jesus is here.

Song: Thrive

https://youtu.be/qQ71RWJhS_M

Here in this worn and weary land
Where many a dream has died

Like a tree planted by the water
We never will run dry

*So living water flowing through
God we thirst for more of You
Fill our hearts and flood our souls
With one desire*

*Just to know You and to make You known
We lift Your name on High
Shine like the sun made darkness run and hide
We know we were made for so much more
Than ordinary lives
It's time for us to more than just survive
We were made to thrive*

Into Your word we're digging deep
To know our Father's heart

Into the world we're reaching out
To show them who You are

*Joy unspeakable, faith unsinkable,
Love unstoppable, anything is possible
Joy unspeakable, faith unsinkable,
Love unstoppable, anything is possible*

Prayer of Confession:

In a moment of quiet we bring before God those thoughts and words and deeds which have hurt others and ourselves, knowing that, as we turn back to God, we are healed and forgiven.

**For the things we have thought
that we wish we'd not thought,
we're sorry, we're sorry,
we need a new start**

**For the things we have said
that we wish we'd not said
we're sorry, we're sorry
we need a new start**

**For the things we have done
that we wish we'd not done
we're sorry, we're sorry
we need a new start**

The good news is that God always wants to give us a new start. As Alan prays the absolution over us, we mark our hands with the sign of the cross or a smile, to remember that we are forgiven children of God.

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**

Song: How Deep the Father's Love for Us.

<https://youtu.be/dLDGVI8D5UU>

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure

How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers

It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection

Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

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Children's Talk: Sara Merritt

Parable of the Sower Matthew 13 24-30 & 36-43,

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever.

Amen

New Testament Reading: *Romans 8: 1 - 11*

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life^o because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

Hymn: Speak, O Lord

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=my90e3a_nlM

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
To receive the food of Your Holy Word

Take Your truth, plant it deep in us
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness

That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
All Your purposes for Your glory

Teach us Lord, full obedience
Holy reverence, true humility
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of Your purity

Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority
Words of pow'r that can never fail
Let their truth prevail over unbelief

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
That will echo down through eternity

And by grace we'll stand on Your promises
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built
And the earth is filled with Your glory

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 13: 1 – 9, 18 - 23*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: 'A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop – a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear.'

'Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: when anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon: Rebecca Herrick

“And you know you can’t go back again to the world that you were living in, ‘cause you’re dreaming with your eyes wide open, so come alive!” Lyrics from the film “The Greatest Showman”. I confess they sound better sung, but I wonder if they make you stop and think. Can you recall a time when something has happened in your life, something that changed you? Something that made you reflect on what it is to be alive? For Jesus’ disciples, I wonder if they often reflected on their lives, as they lived alongside Jesus, daily experiencing his transforming power in themselves and others. Shouldn’t that be our experience as followers of Christ too?

In today’s gospel reading we see the disciples as part of a crowd gathered in front Jesus, who is telling one of his many parables. Stories. Have you ever noticed how much of our conversation is stories? How we relate to one another’s experiences by telling stories about our own? Stories help us understand, help us to illustrate what we are trying to say, which is why it is interesting that Jesus says that the reason he speaks in parables is that some will understand, yet others won’t. The parable of the sower helps demonstrate this. As Jesus explains to the disciples, some will hear God’s word, the good news of Jesus and will ignore it, or accept it for a while and quickly move on, or become overwhelmed by the worries of life, so that other things become more important. They hear the story, but just don’t get it. Others will hear God’s word, the good news of the kingdom, and they understand and accept it. They quite literally come alive, and the consequence of that is evident in their lives. This is a reminder that we should expect that some people will not listen or not get it when we try to share Jesus with them, but also an encouragement that we should not give up sharing God’s word with others, because we never know when it might grow in someone’s life. We may plant a seed that others may get to nurture, so no opportunity is wasted. Let’s keep praying that our family, friends and neighbours would know the transforming power of Jesus in their own lives.

The parable of the sower also would have spoken about life to the crowd gathered around Jesus. A failed crop, a failed harvest, would have meant no food to eat that winter. Seed that did not grow would have meant hunger and starvation, as families were reliant on their own produce to survive. Something too many people in our world today still have to worry about. This is hard for many of us to identify with when we are largely not responsible for growing our own food, but an abundant crop really is the difference between life and death. The seed falling on good soil brings life.

The good news about the kingdom, about Jesus’ saving work on the cross, Jesus the word become flesh, has the power to produce abundant crop or fruit in our lives. We see throughout the Bible, that God’s word brings life, right from the very beginning, where God speaks and the world begins. As God says in Isaiah 55, “my word... will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it...” Every time God’s word is read or spoken, something happens. What power there is in the word of God! That power is producing a crop in us, transforming us, not just when we first profess Jesus as Lord, but every time we read God’s word or hear it. God’s word helps us to grow more like Jesus, to love God more wholeheartedly, to love

our neighbour more authentically, to desire to share Jesus with others, to cry out for justice for the many injustices in the world, to care for God's creation. That is what it is to be fully alive in Christ. But as in the parable of the sower, sometimes we don't really listen, sometimes life just gets too tricky or sometimes we get overwhelmed by worries or busyness to let God's word have that affect on our lives.

That doesn't mean we shouldn't try. I love reading the bible. I'm not saying that just to gain brownie points from the vicar(!) - I genuinely do. But I also know that sometimes I struggle with it, sometimes it's dry, sometimes I don't make the time. Don't give up on God's word. If you don't like reading, listen to it. Read it with a friend or a group. If you are short of time, just read one verse at a time. If you find reading the bible boring, why not try re-reading bits you think you know well. See what hits you afresh. When we really read or hear God's word, we notice new things. It sparks thoughts and ideas in our minds and hearts. We see things in a different light, as we see it through the filter of how we are feeling and what is happening in our lives here and now. Through His Holy Spirit, God's word becomes alive in us, helping us to understand God, ourselves and our world better. We need to let that understanding transform us, not just let it be knowledge, but something that we live.

However, before you feel guilty for not reading your bible enough, Romans also reminds us that "there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus". As followers of Jesus we may not always feel like we are being transformed, but little by little as we trust in Him, his Holy Spirit is at work in us setting our minds on what God desires. "They are making me be unkind" was uttered in our house recently. Clearly no-one can make a person be unkind, it is our choice to respond that way. God won't make us do things, but God's word will always be at work in us, when we are receptive to it being so. And we can trust in Him that His word will achieve the purposes that He sent it for, in our lives and in the lives of those around us.

As the Holy Spirit opens our eyes to God's word, we are transformed. We can't "go back again to the world that we were living in", as the song lyrics say, because we are changed, we are coming alive. We don't want to be the people we were, we want to be more like Christ. We also long for our world to change too. This time of lockdown has opened our eyes to injustice in the world in a new way, as well as shifted our perspectives about what is important in life. It's also forced us to be church in a different way, which has perhaps challenged our preconceived ideas too. Let's keep "dreaming with our eyes wide open" as we seek to prayerfully bring before God the things that have challenged our hearts individually and collectively during this time, so that as we face the challenges ahead of us, we might choose as followers of Jesus to come alive in Christ.

Song: Come Alive

https://youtu.be/ywMeInRS8_w

You stumble through your days
Got your head hung low
Your skies' a shade of grey
Like a zombie in a maze
You're asleep inside
But you can shake away

'Cause you're just a dead man walking
Thinking that's your only option
But you can flip the switch and brighten up your darkest day
Sun is up and the colour's blinding
Take the world and redefine it
Leave behind your narrow mind
You'll never be the same

Come alive, come alive
Go and ride your light
Let it burn so bright
Reaching up
To the sky
And it's open wide
You're electrified

When the world becomes a fantasy
And you're more than you could ever be
'Cause you're dreaming with your eyes wide open
And you know you can't go back again
To the world that you were living in
'Cause you're dreaming with your eyes wide open
So, come alive!

I see it in your eyes
You believe that lie
That you need to hide your face
Afraid to step outside
So you lock the door
But don't you stay that way

No more living in those shadows
You and me we know how that goes

'Cause once you see it, oh you'll never, never be the same

We'll be the light that's turning
Bottle up and keep on shining

You can prove there's more to you

You cannot be afraid

Come one!
Come all!
You hear
The call

To anyone who's searching for a way to break free

Break free!
Break free!

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in the God who welcomes each and every one of us and holds us in his abundant love.

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

**We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Prayers:

Spirit in our weakness be our strength. We do not know how to pray as we ought. As we love you, work in us that which is good; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord, as you have called us to fulfil your purpose, work in us and through us to do your will. Make us the people you want us to be. Guide us to do what you would have us do. We pray for all who are seeking to grow in the faith, for all seekers and enquirers.

Lord your will be done,

your kingdom come in us.

We pray for all who are suffering hardships or persecution, for all who are in peril or danger. Strengthen all who seek to bring in your kingdom by striving for peace, for justice and for liberty. May we be conquerors of darkness and evil through him who loves us.

Lord your will be done,

your kingdom come in us.

We give thanks for those who have shared with us the riches of the kingdom, for those who have been examples to us, for those who taught us the faith. We pray for those who seek to pass on those riches in their homes and in the community.

Lord your will be done,

your kingdom come in us.

Lord, have mercy on all who are suffering persecution, peril or the sword. May they know your love and your saving power. We remember people who are suffering through tyranny and violence and for all who have fallen to sickness or disability. We pray for all suffering from or because of Covid 19 across the world, for all healers and comforters.

Lord your will be done

your kingdom come in us.

We give thanks that in Christ we are more than conquerors. In him you have brought us to the great riches of the kingdom. We pray for the saints and the faithful departed, that we may all be one with you in your eternal kingdom.

Lord your will be done

your kingdom come in us.

The Peace:

Peace to you from God who is our Father.
Peace from Jesus Christ who is our peace.

Peace from the Holy Spirit who gives us life.
The peace of the triune God be always with you.
And also with you.

Song: And Can It Be

<https://youtu.be/Tu2uA6U4Fyg>

And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Savior'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 die for me?

*Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me!*

'Tis mystery all! Th'Immortal dies!
Who can explore His strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries
To sound the depths of love divine!
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more. *[Refrain]*

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. *[Refrain]*

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. *[Refrain]*

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 th'eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own. *[Refrain]*

Blessing

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

Breakout Rooms:

There will now be time to meet with each other and talk in breakout rooms. Bring your own cup of coffee!

Eucharistic Service

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, you made the world and love your creation. You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour. His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death. And so we gladly thank you, with saints and angels praising you, and *saying*:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith
Christ has died
Christ has risen
Christ will come again.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen**

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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover Lamb is sacrificed for us.
Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia

We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen

Prayer after Communion

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

Blessing

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**

Go in the peace of Christ, Alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God, Alleluia, alleluia.

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

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