



## Trinity 7: 26<sup>th</sup> July

### Welcome

We say together:

**In my head**

**In my heart**

**and all around me**

**Jesus is here.**

### Song: All I Once Held Dear

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oxpPla-BskY>

All I once held dear, built my life upon  
All this world reveres, and wars to own  
All I once thought gain I have counted loss  
Spent and worthless now, compared to this

Knowing you, Jesus  
Knowing you, there is no greater thing  
You're my all, you're the best  
You're my joy, my righteousness  
And I love you, Lord

Now my heart's desire is to know you more  
To be found in you and known as yours  
To possess by faith what I could not earn  
All-surpassing gift of righteousness

Oh, to know the power of your risen life  
And to know You in Your sufferings  
To become like you in your death, my Lord  
So with you to live and never die

### 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 times we have spoken unkind words,  
**Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

For the times we have not listened to the pain or joy of another,  
**Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

For the times we have ignored the suffering of others,  
**Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

For the times we have not welcomed another  
**Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

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**

### **Children's Talk: Revd. Petra Shakeshaft**

The Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast: Matthew 13:31-33

### **Song: He's Got the Whole World in His Hands**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-T1CLIMjiTw>

### **Collect**

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; 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**

### **New Testament Reading: *Romans 8: 26 - end***

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who

shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written:

'For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **Hymn: Locus Iste**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUGBoR\\_nnA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUGBoR_nnA)

Locus iste a Deo factus est,  
Inaestimabile sacramentum,  
irreprehensibilis est.

This place was made by God,  
a priceless sacrament;  
it is without reproach.

### **Gospel Reading: Matthew 13: 31 – 33, 44 - 52**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

**Glory to you, O Lord**

#### **Praise to you, O Christ**

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.'

He told them still another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about thirty kilograms of flour until it worked all through the dough.'

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.'

'Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets but threw the bad away. This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

'Have you understood all these things?' Jesus asked. 'Yes,' they replied. He said to them, 'Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ**

## Sermon: Revd. Petra Shakeshaft

I wonder, what is the kingdom of heaven like?

These parables are the imaginative stories Jesus uses to encourage us to think about something way beyond our imagination. *The kingdom of heaven*, says Jesus, *is like a mustard seed* with potential for amazing growth. That seed of faith planted in each one of us; that image of God in which we are made which grows and flourishes in prayer and scripture making and moulding us more like that image. We become more God-like, more kingdom-like. We offer our branches to all the birds of the air and they come to build their nests – ALL the birds of the air are welcome. And we might be reminded of something in the prophets ... (Ezekiel 17. 23, Ezekiel 31. 6, Daniel 4. 12) another tree where all the birds of the air are welcomed – the tree as a symbol of a kingdom, Israel, into whose branches all the nations are drawn together. The kingdom of heaven is hospitable. There is no room for prejudice or exclusion in the kingdom of heaven. The kingdom of heaven welcomes all.

*The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.* Again, it's not hard to follow the imagery – yeast, even a small amount, makes dough grow. But you may remember the story of Abraham's visitors a few weeks back and the same three measures of flour Sarah took to make bread for them. Enough for a banquet; a heavenly banquet maybe. Again, Jesus refers back to the scriptures in his imagery – something familiar. The kingdom of heaven is generous beyond measure.

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, like a pearl of great price. It is more precious than all else you have. Sister Pia Buxton, was a Roman Catholic nun who ran a School of Prayer for this parish back in 1987. At the penultimate meeting she suggested a party for the following week, '*Only,*' she said, '*you'll have to bring everything because I have nothing.*' It was a humbling moment for all of us. She was and remains the most serene, prayerful, joyful person I have ever met. It is not everyone's calling to give up everything and join a Christian community, but there is a lesson here in sitting light with our worldly goods and chattels and perhaps never more so than at a time like this, when we are reminded daily of the fragility of life itself and the potential for all our human-built castles to come tumbling down in a moment. The kingdom of heaven is precious.

The treasure and the pearl remind us that real treasure is sometimes stumbled across, hidden in the field of everyday life and the people we come across, or something we search and search for and when we find it we are drawn to make those sacrifices necessary to hold on to it. In the Old Testament reading set for this morning, we are reminded by Solomon that the greatest treasure is the Wisdom of God. Again, Jesus refers his audience back to the wisdom held in the Scriptures.

Last week we heard the parable of the wheat and tares and *its* partner is the parable of the great fishing net. Both address the problem of living alongside the evils of the world and the mixed

reception of the gospel – those who get it and those who don't and, most importantly, that *judgement is not ours, but God's*. We must wait patiently for the wheat and tares to grow to maturity and for the fullness of time; that is, when the net is full and God will make all things right.

Now this is not an excuse to sit back and let it all happen or to accept all that is wrong with the world. We are still called to bring in the kingdom; to make the world welcoming and hospitable and generous like the mustard tree and the yeast, to call for justice and equity, peace and love, an end to war, oppression, prejudice, corruption and lies to make the world as like the kingdom of heaven as we can.

This message of patient waiting is important today when so much suffering is the result of perceived difference and fear of religion, colour, ethnicity and identity, or human craving for power, greed and corruption. Lies are peddled as truth and appalling behaviour accepted, even normalised. We see pain all around us. We are quick to make judgements about people and want to settle scores; and it's satisfying to think those we deem to be corrupt and evil or Godless will end up in the fiery furnace; But the message is, it's not for us to judge – thankfully, because we are much harsher judges than God. Remember - God knows the secrets of *all* our hearts, and that's what we should be taking care of.

Like the wheat and tares and the fish of every kind, we live in the presence of the evils of this world and must resist them. That resistance is what makes us grow to maturity, makes us resilient and strong in faith, draws our roots deep down into the good soil God has prepared for us; the good soil that is the Scripture that Jesus points to, over and over again, the good soil that is prayer and relationship with God and community. And, as we grow the kingdom around us, it's just possible that those strange fish in the net and the weeds in the field may also be drawn into the kingdom. In the end, God's judgement will make all things good. These are, as St Paul puts it, the birth-pangs, the groanings of creation as God brings forth something new.

*For - Who will separate us from the love of Christ?  
Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine,  
or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

*No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.  
For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,  
nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

### **Hymn: Beauty for Brokenness**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3kVHKuldZyw>

Beauty for brokenness  
Hope for despair  
Lord, in the suffering  
This is our prayer

Bread for the children  
Justice, joy, peace  
Sunrise to sunset  
Your kingdom increase!

Shelter for fragile lives  
Cures for their ills  
Work for the craftsman  
Trade for their skills  
Land for the dispossessed  
Rights for the weak  
Voices to plead the cause  
Of those who can't speak

God of the poor  
Friend of the weak  
Give us compassion we pray  
Melt our cold hearts  
Let tears fall like rain  
Come, change our love  
From a spark to a flame

Refuge from cruel wars  
Havens from fear  
Cities for sanctuary  
Freedoms to share  
Peace to the killing-fields  
Scorched earth to green  
Christ for the bitterness  
His cross for the pain

Rest for the ravaged earth  
Oceans and streams  
Plundered and poisoned  
Our future, our dreams  
Lord, end our madness  
Carelessness, greed  
Make us content with  
The things that we need

Lighten our darkness  
Breathe on this flame  
Until your justice  
Burns brightly again  
Until the nations  
Learn of your ways

Seek your salvation  
And bring you their praise

## 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

Almighty God, thank you for the Holy Spirit who intercedes for us according to your will, when we do not even know what we should pray for.

Thank you, because nothing in the present, or in the future can separate us from the great, transforming love you have for us.

Thank you for our risen Lord Jesus.

God, our heavenly Father, we pray for our community, thanking you for a respite from the Covid 19 infection in the area at the moment. Bring healing to the sick. Bring comfort to the dying and hope to those who have been bereaved.

As life is opening up for us all please help people to find the right balance between confidence and vigilance, for the sake of others.

We commit to your keeping all the churches in Sawston and Babraham. We pray that we and all our brothers and sisters in Christ, may rest in the knowledge of your past faithfulness. Equip us for new ways of working, so that the gospel may continue to be made known and the kingdom of heaven may spread and grow in this place.

Thank you for our national leaders. Guide them in their great responsibilities. Give them wisdom in decision-making over Brexit arrangements, the future of the economy, and the health of the people of this nation. May the voices of our leaders be voices for justice and freedom in the world.

Thank you for clearly showing us that people right across the world are all inter-dependent. Thank you for teaching us too how fragile the eco-systems are, on which we depend.

Lord, change our hearts, so that we may change the way we live and the way we relate to one another. Help us, as your people, to set our hearts on the treasure of infinite value. Your kingdom come, your will be done *on earth* as it is in heaven.

**Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

## 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: How Great Though Art

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0BRMym26yqE>

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder  
consider all the works thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
thy power throughout the universe displayed;

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,  
how great thou art, how great thou art!*

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,  
how great thou art, how great thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander  
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:

*Then sings my soul...*

When Christ shall come with shouts of acclamation  
and take me home – what joy shall fill my heart!

Then shall I bow in humble adoration  
and there proclaim, 'my God, how great thou art!'

*Then sings my soul...*

## 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.

**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 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**

Revd Alan Partridge (01223 832248, [a.partridge7@gmail.com](mailto:a.partridge7@gmail.com))

Revd Petra Shakeshaft (07847 307416, [petra\\_paul.shakeshaft@ntlworld.com](mailto:petra_paul.shakeshaft@ntlworld.com))

Sally Bard (01223 501165, [sally.bard2@gmail.com](mailto:sally.bard2@gmail.com))