



The Fourth Sunday after Trinity: Sunday 28th June

Welcome

We say together:

**In my head
in my heart
and all around me
Jesus is here.**

Hymn: Seek ye First

<https://youtu.be/9LMQfOp9w8k>

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God
And His righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto you
Allelu Alleluia

Ask and it shall be given unto you
Seek and ye shall find
Knock and it shall be opened unto you
Allelu Alleluia

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.

We sing together:

**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**

Children's Talk: Anna Lovewell

Song: Give all your worries to God

<https://youtu.be/InDs58jlvfQ>

Collect

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal; grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, 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 7:15-25a*

I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Song: Yet not I, but through Christ in me

<https://youtu.be/hwc2d1Xt8gM>

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to His
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side, the Saviour He will stay
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need, His power is displayed
To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley He will lead
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven
The future sure, the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And He was raised to overthrow the grave
To this I hold, my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I am free
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For He has said that He will bring me home
And day by day I know He will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to Him
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 11:16-19, 25-end*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord

“To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling out to others: “We played the pipe for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.’ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ But wisdom is proved right by her deeds.”

At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do. “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon: Revd Alan Partridge

If you are anything like me, I am sure that there are times, perhaps these times, when life seems too much to handle. It is overwhelming at so many levels; global, national, our community, our neighbours and friends and families. The headline of our gospel this morning is that our anguish is of great importance to God. That is good news, isn't it? The other headline, the paradox of the passage, is that they are also irrelevant. These words "Come to me all who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest", they are surely some of the best known of Jesus sayings. We may personally, daily cling to these for encouragement or latch onto them in our times of greatest need. No matter when we hear these words, they tell us something of the character of God and instil in us hope.

When we read this passage, we think of consolation in troubled times. A God who cares, who we can depend on when "the rubber" hits the road. However, I want us to read these words in a different way today. When we read these words, we can hear God talking to us. This is an invitation to me and to you to come to God, to know God. That's how the paradox exists, because in this passage we learn of a God who is interested in all the things that weigh us down in life, but we also learn that nothing in life is so important as the business of knowing that same God. Everything else is irrelevant by comparison.

So this invitation, an open invitation from God to us, prompts us to ask three questions; firstly who can know God; second how can they or we know God; and thirdly exactly what does it mean to know him?

Who can know God? Please look at verses 25 and 26. For some reason Jesus makes a difference between the wise and the learned, who will never understand these things and the children to whom God has given understanding. Is this talking of a prejudice in God against the intelligent? Is it talking about positive discrimination in favour of the under-twelves? Surely not!

Here Jesus categorises people into two classes: those who are self-assured because of their own intelligence and learning, who rely on their own wisdom and understanding, and those who are like children, in that they accept that they have a lot to learn, they accept that they need the help of their elders and the instruction of those wiser than them (well, **some** do!). This category speaks of people who recognise their limitations and their need for dependence, rather than self-reliance and independent isolation from others, whose opinions do not march alongside them! I know my self that I judge the world by my own experiences and the opinions I have formed. We naturally assume that our way of doing things, thinking things is right. It is so hard for us as adults to be told that what we are doing is wrong! Be careful then which category you fall into!

Matthew has made it clear from chapter one that Jesus had come to call his people to repentance, that is to turn away from what pleased them and to turn to what pleases God. Chapter 11:20 shows us that Jesus has been teaching in cities, showing miracles and wonders, but they did not get it, they did not repent. A little earlier v16 to 18 the people have denounced John the Baptist, too weird and demanding and Jesus too accessible! Neither Jesus nor John nor their lifestyles met up with the people's expectations of what they thought God was going to say to them. They did not want to hear God say you are wrong! Change what you are doing, they are of fixed opinions and they will not let them go. They will not accept that what God has to say to them is right. These are the people who will never hear the invitation to come to meet God. So to answer my question, who

can know God, we have to say that it is those who genuinely accept that they don't know all the answers. Those willing to be taught God's ways. Those whose self-esteem is not so great as to leave no room in their lives for God's truth to be at variance with their own. Anyone of us may be or may become like the wise and learned people here, when we say do it my way or I will walk away. That blocks us from coming to God, to listen and to learn from him as his little children.

How can we know God? The answer starts in verse 25. We can only know God through God who reveals or hides himself. This does not mean we have a capricious God who hides himself from his creation, it is simply a reflection of the character of God. God is God. For him to be worth anything at all, He must be the supreme being, the creator, greater than anything else in his creation. What is the point in believing in a God who is anything less than that?

God has the power to show himself to his creation. We cannot build a model of life, the universe and everything and see how God fits our model! The God of the bible is too big for that, only He can show you who he really is. And how has he chosen to show himself? See verse 27 "no one knows the father except the son", so we can only know God by God showing himself to us through Jesus Christ his Son.

Jesus says "come to me all who are weary", a message for all to hear. Jesus calls to himself all those who have acknowledged that they cannot get by without his help, those who have to realise that their own goodness, their own opinions, intellect, success, wealth and anything else the world tells us to put our trust in is not enough. In fact worse than not enough they are completely useless for us to put our eternal trust in. This is a call to those who have recognised their need to know God. As God calls, we respond, it is the way of love is it not? We need his help in our lives.

Finally, **what does it mean to know God?** Verses 28-30. We are to take his yoke upon us. Two oxen yoked together sharing the load of the work to be done. If there is a stronger animal, the yoke allows it to take the load, the burden, from the weaker animal or lead it in the right direction. Jesus offer this to us, he offers to take the weight of our lives upon his shoulders and lead us in God's way. But we have to take that yoke submit to him. We have to ask to be helped by him. He is gentle and humble. When we come to him he is not going to give us a hard time, but we will learn to live lives that please God, no matter what strenuous circumstances we find ourselves in.

"Rest for our souls", the eternal reality of being with our creator as we were created to be. It also means that if we come to Christ now, we need not be spiritually restless. We are not left to fend on our own. Jesus has given us his Holy Spirit and we have His word to learn from and the church, the gathering of believers who daily are concerned, about the practical issues of those who are weary and burdened.

Hymn: Be Thou My Vision

<https://youtu.be/ihJAJA4ibEs>

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art -
Thou my best thought, by day or by night;
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.

Thou my great Father; thine own may I be,
Thou in me dwelling and I one with thee.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and thou only first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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

Let us pray: our prayers today are based on key verses in our Gospel passage

...like children sitting in the market-places calling to one another, "We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn."

Father of all, we, the church of Your Son Jesus Christ, confess that we do not always get things right; teach us here in Your church how to rejoice with those who rejoice and to weep with those who weep. Lord, help us to catch the mood and music of our times and to be Your salt and light as we endeavour to make disciples of those around us; We pray for the church around the world, in all her difficulties and persecutions, and all practical problems of these days; show us the worship and priorities we need to adopt in response to these times and their hazards.

We pray for the PCCs of St. Mary's and St. Peter's, and for their Wardens, Marian and Andy, Mary and Sheena, as they take responsibility for opening the churches and resuming worship.

We pray for Alan and Liz entering their last month with us, that You will keep them well, enable them to make a good end of their time here, and to prepare well for their new rhythm of life.

We commit to You all decisions needing to be weighed as we move forward, for new ways of doing things and being church. We remember also Petra and the wardens as plans are made for services and ministry in the coming months. Lord, help us all to be faithful to Your calling as we praise You for all that is past, and trust You for all that's to come.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners."

Holy God, we place our world into Your hands and ask Your guidance as we face all kinds of unwisdom, and prejudices between people and between world faiths and factions, within and between different countries. We pray You will give to us all a sense of perspective, and determination to end discrimination and judgementalism against different races, groups and minorities. We remember all who have insufficient to eat and all who have plenty, all who try to make peace with difficult people, and all who befriend those in serious need. We pray that all world leaders may seek to understand the plight of the poor and disadvantaged and continue their efforts for a fairer world even in the face of misunderstanding and insult.

We remember the nation of Israel, Your Holy Land, and pray for the serious conflicts of interest between her and Palestine and the minority nations within her borders. We commit to You the ongoing tensions in China and Hong Kong, and between various ethnic and religious groups and systems across Asian lands.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and revealed them to infants..."

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank You for the variety of our communities and for the way you give many beautiful qualities to those who are weaker or younger, giving us the task of caring for them.

We remember all families and streets in Sawston, all who seek to live lives of integrity and goodness – and all for whom this is hard. We especially think of all who are in some sense hidden - in our care homes, Orchard House and Bircham House, other sheltered developments and institutions, and all who work in these places to bring care and humanity.

We think of all who are isolated, maybe missing family, friends and customary activities these past months, and bless all who are able to offer companionship, care and simple assistance like shopping. We remember all children able to attend school and all who will have to wait until the autumn, all schools and colleges where there are problems to solve. We remember especially all cut off from normal company and contact for some months, and households where technology is not available.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest."

Lord Jesus our Saviour, we bring to You all who are in special need at this time, through illness, weariness, depression or ongoing anxieties. We remember those who are sick, including Agnes, Tom, and others known to us... We pray for all who today are discouraged or mentally and emotionally challenged, We come to You with our own needs and those of others for whom You have given us a concern.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

"All things have been handed over to me by my Father.."

Lord Jesus, we know that both life and death are in Your hand and yet we are never separated from You. We pray alongside the family of Renee Philips whose funeral is tomorrow, for Your strength and comfort for them. We give thanks for all in our community who have died, especially those who have died recently, and those whose anniversaries of death fall this week, We bring to You with great sadness all victims of violence, tragedy and injustice.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

“Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

We are all unfit to count as scholars in Your school – but in your wonderful kindness, You, Lord, have named us friends – help us rejoice in Your love and Your direction.

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

The Peace:

Christ is our peace. He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross. We meet in his name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Song: Before the Throne of God Above

<https://youtu.be/-50pFs0hRpg>

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea
A great High Priest whose name is love
Who ever lives and pleads for me
My name is graven on His hands
My name is written on His heart
I know that while in heav'n He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart
No tongue can bid me thence depart

When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end of all my sin
Because the sinless Savior died
My sinful soul is counted free
For God the Just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me
To look on Him and pardon me

Behold Him there, the risen Lamb
My perfect, spotless Righteousness
The great unchangeable I AM
The King of glory and of grace
One with Himself, I cannot die
My soul is purchased by His blood

My life is hid with Christ on high
With Christ my Saviour and my God

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 Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here
His Spirit us with us.

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. For he is your living Word; through him you have created all things from the beginning, and formed us in your own image. Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin, giving him to be born of a woman and to die upon the cross; you raised him from the dead and exalted him to your right hand on high. Through him you have sent upon us your holy and life-giving Spirit, and made us a people for your own possession. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever 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.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

To you be glory and praise for ever.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: 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.

To you be glory and praise for ever.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

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

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

To you be glory and praise for ever.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours 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

Eternal God, comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken, you have fed us at the table of life and hope: teach us the ways of gentleness and peace, that all the world may acknowledge the kingdom of your Son 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.

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

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