



The Sixth Sunday after Trinity: 11th July

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 572: Praise to the Holiest

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:

Merciful God,
you have prepared for those who love you
such good things as pass our understanding:
pour into our hearts such love toward you
that we, loving you in all things and above all things,
may obtain your promises,
which exceed all that we can desire;
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: Genesis 44: 18-21, 23-29, 45: 1-5

18 Then Judah stepped up to him and said, 'O my lord, let your servant please speak a word in my lord's ears, and do not be angry with your servant; for you are like Pharaoh himself. 19 My lord

asked his servants, saying, "Have you a father or a brother?" ²⁰And we said to my lord, "We have a father, an old man, and a young brother, the child of his old age. His brother is dead; he alone is left of his mother's children, and his father loves him." ²¹Then you said to your servants, "Bring him down to me, so that I may set my eyes on him." ²³Then you said to your servants, "Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you shall see my face no more." ²⁴When we went back to your servant my father we told him the words of my lord. ²⁵And when our father said, "Go again, buy us a little food", ²⁶we said, "We cannot go down. Only if our youngest brother goes with us, will we go down; for we cannot see the man's face unless our youngest brother is with us." ²⁷Then your servant my father said to us, "You know that my wife bore me two sons; ²⁸one left me, and I said, Surely he has been torn to pieces; and I have never seen him since. ²⁹If you take this one also from me, and harm comes to him, you will bring down my grey hairs in sorrow to Sheol."

⁴⁵Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, 'Send everyone away from me.' So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. ²And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. ³Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?' But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come closer to me.' And they came closer. He said, 'I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.

Hymn 67: Be still for the presence of the Lord

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 10: 7 - 15*

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

⁷As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near."⁸Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. ⁹Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, ¹⁰no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for labourers deserve their food. ¹¹Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. ¹²As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgement than for that town.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon: Revd Kathryn Waite

Wednesday, England played in the semi-final of the European Cup. Now, I don't know whether you saw it, I'm not a football fan at all but even I saw some of it, knowing that I would not be able to concentrate on anything else with all the shouts that would be coming from the living room, because my husband is a big footie fan. And I was struck by the crowd – 60,000 in one place. We

have seen crowds at Wimbledon too haven't we? And it now seems incredibly strange, although it was completely normal, and we wouldn't have thought twice about it barely 18 months ago. An indication of just how dramatically our lives have changed during the course of that time.

And it seems as though almost all the restrictions are going to be lifted in a couple of weeks time, although of course we await the updated Church of England guidance which usually comes out at 5pm on a Friday afternoon accompanied by much wailing and gnashing of teeth from clergy and churchwardens across the country. From what we can tell from the announcements so far, it sounds as though we are going to be able to go out and see people again without having to worry about the number of people meeting in the group, nor about social distancing. But I am very aware that many people feel extremely anxious about the lifting of restrictions and will remain cautious, especially until they have received their second vaccination. And we do need to be aware that others may not be quite so confident as we are ourselves about going out and about.

In our gospel reading we have heard Matthew's account of Jesus sending out his twelve disciples out into the world, to the lost sheep of Israel, the Jews. As they go on their way, they are to preach and to heal those they meet, not taking any payment. They were to receive food for what they did and were instructed to stay in the place where they were made welcome. Perhaps the most uncomfortable part of the instructions is that the disciples were not to take anything with them, no money, no bag, no second set of clothes, nothing.

Nearly twelve centuries later these instructions were taken almost literally by St Francis of Assisi who lived a life of poverty, not having any possession, nor taking anything on a journey. Indeed, Francis didn't even wear sandals, and chose to travel barefoot even in the coldest part of winter, although Franciscan brothers who could not manage to walk bare foot were allowed to wear very simple sandals. Francis went out into the lanes and town in Umbria and further afield, preaching the good news of the gospel and he did not take anything with him, and he instructed those who joined the order to do the same. Even when Francis was given a cloak to keep out the cold and damp, he gave it to a beggar or someone with leprosy, who he saw as in more need than himself.

These instructions that Jesus gave to his own disciples were probably considered by Matthew as instructions that would be just as applicable to later disciples and that includes us; and I think is particularly applicable as we look forward to going out again without any restrictions, we need to think about how we go out doing God's work with the people we meet. We may not be called to raise the dead to life as the disciples were, but we do need to travel lightly carrying only the bare essentials. Jesus told his disciples to do this, so that rather than making provision for their own needs they are to trust God. I wonder what it is that is stopping us from trusting God completely in all we do? What are the things that we are carrying that we need to let go of? Do we tend to rely on our own resources, abilities and intellect rather than trust in God's provision? I think that is really hard for us in the rich West, because we have so much, and modern culture is about consumption and achievements. Sometimes it really is hard to trust God.

But today's passage also mentions that the disciples may need to shake the dust off their feet. Shaking off dust from the feet was an extremely strong gesture of rejection in Jesus' time, but it would not have been just the disciples that were being rejected in this case but Jesus himself. We also may face rejection as we go out into the world, and I know that may make us fearful and anxious, but we should not be disheartened because Jesus goes on to tell the disciples and us

too, not to fear because we will be guided by the Holy Spirit, the comforter who goes with us out into the world.

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 195: The Servant King

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 375: King of glory, king of peace

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 54: At the name of Jesus

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