



The Third Sunday after Trinity: 20th June

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

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:

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father: give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty to the children of God; 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: Job 38: 1 – 11

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind: 'Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

‘Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

‘Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb? — when I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band, and prescribed bounds for it, and set bars and doors, and said, “Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stopped”?

New Testament Reading: 2 Corinthians 6: 1 - 13

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, ‘At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.’ See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. ¹³In return—I speak as to children—open wide your hearts also.

Hymn 144: Dear Lord and Father

Gospel Reading: Mark 4: 35 - 41

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

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, ‘Let us go across to the other side.’ And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great gale arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, ‘Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?’ He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, ‘Peace! Be still!’ Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, ‘Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?’ And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, ‘Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon: Revd John Pinder

I have a great feeling for the experience of the disciples, an empathy even

Fifty years ago I was teaching on a small island in Solomon Islands in the South Pacific. One day I was due to travel by canoe across to one of the main islands about 15 miles away. The skipper of the canoe was very keen to get going and I soon realized why. Rounding the point we ran into a fierce squall with high winds and driving rain. There was a tidal rip around the point and I suddenly remembered that a previous head master had been drowned in this very spot a few years earlier. At that point the outboard motor started spluttering and I really thought my end had come. I have never been so frightened in my life. I have also never prayed so hard in my life. I was making all sorts of bargains with the Almighty. After what seemed an age we came out of the squall and the outboard sprang back into life. The rain cleared and I let out a cry of joy at the sight of the island of Makira still some 10 miles distant. I am sure if I could have remembered them I would have been reciting the words of the first reading from the book of Job.

'The Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind – where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth...who laid its corner stone when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy.

Or who shut in the sea with doors
When it burst out from the womb?'

What sublime poetry, summing up the power and majesty of God's creation.

I have been thinking a lot about creation because on Thursday I had to give a talk to about 80 people at St,Martin in the Fields (online) about the theology of care of creation. I think for me what comes out most clearly in the creation stories and poetry in the Old Testament, is that God has created us human beings to be stewards of his created world, 'to till it and keep it' as it says in Genesis chapter 2. The Hebrew word for till also means 'to serve'. We were not created to lord it over God's created world but to serve it with love and careful stewardship.

When we think about the gospel reading – the disciples with Jesus on the lake, the strangest part of the story for me is that Jesus was asleep in the midst of the storm.

I believe the story is a sort of a parable.

It talks about the fragility of human life. The disciples are full of fear and panic and all the while, salvation is right there in the boat with them. Jesus has no fear. He is entirely at one with his Father who has complete power over the natural order. That conviction very much reflects Paul's sentiments to the Corinthians. 'We commend ourselves through great endurance', he says. He spoke as one who had been born again. His former life had been one of superiority, of arrogance, a conviction that he had a monopoly of the truth. But after his conversion, his credentials were very different.

'We are treated as imposters and yet are true, as unknown and yet are well known, as dying and see, we are alive, as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich.' I love those words of Paul because they sum up the paradoxes of the Christian faith.

As I get older I feel increasingly we need to have a much better idea of our identity as Christian disciples. Some have suggested there is a collective loss of nerve among church members, rather like the disciples in the boat. The events of the past 18 months have certainly demonstrated that. Just as the disciples felt overwhelmed by the storm on the lake, the virus has proved a huge challenge to many in terms of faith. Many will have been asking the question 'where does the virus fit into God's created order?' The virus has certainly rocked the ecclesiastical boat. Our church seems very fragile, tossed about by the wind and the waves of a pretty hostile world. But Jesus is still with us. He doesn't promise us an easy ride as Paul testifies. But he does ask us to trust him, to have faith that he won't leave us and that ultimately he is in control. Amen

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 636: The Church's one foundation

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 437: Make me a channel

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 552: O worship the Lord

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