

Berrow with Pendock, Eldersfield, Birtsmorton and Hollybush



A Service for the 2nd. Sunday after Trinity

WELCOME

do have a candle, glass of juice/wine and cracker/piece of bread ready

The Lord be with you
and also with you

OPENING PRAYER

**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 Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE AND ABSOLUTION

Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.

Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

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**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.**

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.

THE COLLECT

Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth:
 send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of
 love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues,
 without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.
 Grant this for your only Son 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

READING : Matthew 10.24-39

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

(At home, please read Romans 6.1b-11)

REFLECTION Matthew 10:34-39

In “The Great Commission”, Jesus sent out his disciples on their mission to proclaim the Gospel throughout the world. Jesus didn’t make it sound easy or even very attractive. The tough nature of their job was spelt out in honest detail. In today’s reading from the same chapter of Matthew, Jesus warned them that they were not to expect any better treatment by the world than their master.

In Matthew 10, the disciples were to give their total commitment to Jesus Christ in the world.

But what does that mean in our day and age?

What does it mean for us to love Jesus Christ and be committed to him and his mission more than our love and commitment for our family?

Jesus takes his disciples up *away from the crowds*, and delivers his teachings to those people whom he thinks have the potential to be totally committed to his mission.

To be a disciple of Christ is to be committed not only to Christ and not only to the church but also committed to the mission of the church as well. The mission of the church is to be the love of Christ in all situations of life. The mission of the church is to evangelize other people so that other people would come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

The mission of the church is to work for social justice and social compassion for all people on the globe.

Do these words apply to our lives?

Our greatest temptation is in our lives, is that other things become more important than the call of Jesus Christ. Our families, partners, work, and friends and holidays become more important to us than Christ and his mission. The result can be a complacent Christianity; a comfortable Christianity.

Do you remember that story of the Gospel of John, Chapter 21, The resurrected Christ appeared to the disciples on the Sea of Galilee and the Risen Christ looked Simon Peter directly in the eyes of Peter and asked;

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“Do you love me more than your fishing boat, your fishing nets, your fish, your friends, your family, and all that other stuff there on the seashore? Three times Jesus persistently asked that question of Peter, “Do you love me more than all of this?”

What Jesus wanted more than anything else was not to have a 120 half committed disciples but Jesus wanted 12 fully committed disciples. Those 12 fully committed disciples would change the world.

This quotation from Dietrich Bonhoeffer says in his book, *THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP*, “*True disciples are always few in number. I remember that Jesus ultimately found power in a small number of transformed lives rather than in the casualness of the crowds.*”

The second part of this Biblical passage for today is the awareness that struggle and suffering are part of discipleship. Christianity always involves struggle, whereby a person becomes a strong disciple. It is only through struggles that a person becomes strong spiritually or strong emotionally. For Christian who stumble and fall but get up again, with obstacles and difficulties in their lives, they grow to be a strong and loyal Christian, committed to the mission of Jesus Christ in the world.

Disciples these days might be asked to carry out Risk Assessment appraisals, fill in Insurance forms. If anything confronted them which was difficult, or caused them pain, they might be advised to seek counselling or debriefing. Mentors would advise them not to burn themselves out or tell them how to set boundaries to protect them from the people they were commanded to serve.

As a society we are facing a lack of commitment. Those who run organisations, whether it is the Scouts or cricket teams, all complain that they find it hard to find people who will take on roles of responsibility, become Treasurers, Secretaries etc. Certainly, people want to come and take part, they don't mind being the consumers of the Scouts or the Cricket Team, but they will not commit to regular attendance or take on responsibility. Joining things has become too much of a commitment. Many associations and charities all are reporting a dropping off in membership. There are all kinds of sociological reasons that you might cite to explain this. No one much wants to take on responsibility or sign up to anything on a regular basis. They would rather keep their freedom.

People are now thinking less about wanting to be part of a cause, or a community of believers (in anything) and more in terms of individual pleasures and activities.

Will this change after Lock Down?

I don't know. What do you think?

If you want to persuade people to do things you have to downplay the commitment involved. What would Jesus say to his disciples now? "Just do what you can, as and when, no worries if you don't feel like it." Is this what he is saying to us? Come and follow me, in your own time, no pressure"? No! He didn't say that to his disciples or to us. He throws out the challenge to his followers. He told that bunch of scared men that their new way of life was going to be tough. And they rose to the challenge, rose magnificently to the challenge. They were heroes and heroines, those early Christians: brave, self-sacrificing, and unswerving in their commitment to Jesus and to the church.

How can we be braver Christians? We need to be willing to take a risk with ourselves, our money, our privacy, and our time, even our energy. Jesus told his disciples that they need not be afraid, that they would be guided and protected, that they were precious in the eyes of God. He reassured them that, although their feelings and their bodies might be hurt, no harm could come to their souls.

God's love and assurance of his promises surround Christians. Yes, we might suffer, indeed as typical humans we will suffer, but we are dear to God and held in the palm of his hand. Our souls are safe in his care. We can and will endure.

We are most fortunate that we have a few people willing to work hard and to make themselves responsible for every area of church life. We must be on our guard that the other interests don't drain us of commitment to others and to God. Jesus' message in this great chapter in Matthew's Gospel is that as Jesus' followers we are all involved with each other, with God's will for the world, with his command to spread the word, to bring in the Kingdom, and we must not let the siren call of self interest and lack of commitment thwart that purpose. To encourage others to join us, that is the challenge too.

Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray to our heavenly Father.

Lord of all, we ask for courage and inner strength;
Whenever we are called to be your witnesses, give us the grace to communicate your love.

Wherever love for God has gone cold, we ask for your Holy Spirit to fan the flames once more.

We pray for anyone persecuted because of their faith.

(pause)

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

Lord, wherever the human spirit is daunted by oppression or injustice, help us to speak out where corruption is seen to flourish.

We ask for a deeper commitment and more compassion, and a desire to encourage the coming of your kingdom values on this earth.

(pause)

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

Lord of all, wherever families are struggling, where there are arguments and feuds, we ask you to anoint the situation with tranquillity and harmony.

Wherever children are unwanted, unloved, neglected or at risk, we ask for your protection and help

(pause)

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer

Lord, wherever bodies, minds or spirits are wracked with pain, anxiety or distress, we ask for the bathing love of your presence, and the practical caring of others working in your name. Wherever there are doubts and the battle is strong, we ask for your empowering and clear guidance.

(pause)

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Lord of all, wherever the dying are anxious or afraid, we ask for your peace;
wherever the faithful have passed from this life into eternity, we commend
them to your unchanging and everlasting love.

(pause)

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

In nature's beauty and the daily miracles of life, alert us to your presence, we
thank you for your grace and mercy in living this resurrection life.

(pause)

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Please ask for any additional prayers

Merciful Father,

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

Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us.

Our Father,

which art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come;

thy will be done ;

in earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;

but deliver us from evil;

for thine is the kingdom,

the power and the glory,

for ever and ever.

Amen.

THE PEACE

Peace to you from God our heavenly Father.
 Peace from his Son Jesus Christ who is our peace.
 Peace from the Holy Spirit, the life-giver.

The peace of the triune God be always with you
and also with you.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.
 I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the Virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting.
 Amen.**

THE THANKSGIVING PRAYER

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 him 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 you Holy Spirit
 That broken bread and wine outpoured
 May be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

Here is the table set for a special meal.

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 a 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 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 is risen:

Christ will come again.

Lord of all life,
 Help us 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 into your loving arms with St Faith, St John the Baptist, St Thomas of
 Canterbury with St Peter and St Paul and 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.

**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.**

Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast

(consume)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Loving Father,
 we thank you for feeding us at the supper of your Son:
 sustain us with your Spirit,
 that we may serve you here on earth
 until our joy is complete in heaven,
 and we share in the eternal banquet
 with Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

We thank you, Lord,
that you have fed us in this physical and spiritual sacrament,
united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet prepared for all peoples.
Amen.

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

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.

THE BLESSING

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love,
defend you on every side,
and guide you in truth and peace;
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