

Berrow with Pendock, Eldersfield, Birtsmorton and Hollybush
A Service for the 3rd. 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

God so loved the world that he gave his only
 Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins,
 to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to
 eternal life.

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.**

Almighty God,
who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive you your sins,
open your eyes to God's truth,
strengthen you to do God's will
and give you the joy of his kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE COLLECT

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 of 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

READING : Matthew 10.40 to end

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(At home, please read Romans 6.12 to end)

REFLECTION

In this part of the Gospel, Jesus prepares his disciples and gives them further instructions for his first disciples; but it is also speaking to those a few generations later and to us. There is still a need to send out labourers into the harvest, to send missionaries out beyond the community into a perilous world. And those sent will still need to depend on the hospitality of others. Jesus says of those who enact such hospitality, "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me" (10:40).

In the ancient world identity was tied to family and community. It was understood that in showing hospitality, one welcomed not just an individual, but implicitly, the community who sent the person and all that they represent. Therefore, welcoming a disciple of Jesus would mean receiving the very presence of Jesus himself and of the one who sent him, God the Father.

Jesus says, "and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple -- truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward" (10:42). "Little ones" (*mikros*) often refers to children, but Matthew uses it to refer to Jesus' disciples, especially those who are young in faith or particularly vulnerable. The statement about giving a cup of cold water has echoes of the parable of the judgment in Matthew 25. "I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink" (25:35), and "truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (25:40). Those who welcome and care for the needs of "little ones" welcome and care for Jesus himself. To receive Jesus is to receive the one who sent him, and to become heirs to all that the Father has to give.

Sent by God, Jesus sends his disciples to participate in his mission of proclaiming in word and deed the good news of God's kingdom drawing near. Matthew assumes that the church is a "sent" church, a missionary church (Matthew 28:18-20). There is simply no other way to be the church!

There is growing awareness that mission is not just a program of the church but a way to define the purpose of everything the church does.

We are not all sent to be wandering missionaries, depending on others for shelter and sustenance, but that doesn't mean we are off the hook. The entire baptized are sent into the world to tell and embody the good news of Jesus Christ. All are sent to bear Christ to others with humility and vulnerability, being willing to risk rejection.

When church is not 'open' or people not attending church even on-line, how do we bring the gospel to them? What would happen if we truly believed that we bear the presence of Christ to every person we encounter, in every home, workplace, or neighbourhood we enter? What would happen if we saw every conversation as an opportunity to speak words of grace, every interaction as an opportunity to embody Christ's love for the neighbour?

We may not always receive such a positive response when we take the risk of reaching out, yet we may be surprised at how ready many are to receive our most humble efforts. Lest we forget what we have to offer, we have Jesus' promise: "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me."

Welcome. Welcome is such a simple word.

What does it mean to welcome someone? You are glad to see them. You are delighted and pleased. You are very happy. You have a happy smile on your face which sends a message that you are happy that the person is here.

What are memories that you have about being welcomed or welcoming someone?

When we walk in the Lord's ways, we are blessed for doing that. When we give a cup of cold water to the needy, we will be blessed for doing so. Yes, God will bless us for giving a cup of cold water to those in need, for being generous to the poor and starving, for being prayerful and devout...not in order to impress others and receive applause from other people. Also, God will bless us when we welcome new people who are new disciples into our Christian communities. Similarly, God will bless us when we welcome *anyone* into our fellowship of love. When we as human beings walk in the way of the Lord and walk in the ways of God's welcoming generosity, blessings will flow from God. God will bless us for being welcoming people.

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To give a cup of cold water was a symbol of meeting another person's essential need. The giving of a cup of cold water was a pure gift, a meaningful expression of hospitality and genuinely welcoming another disciple into one's home or community.

First impressions are so important. A new person or guest sizes up a community within minutes about whether or not they are accepted or not, whether they will make friends or not, whether this is potentially a friendly community or not. There was so much power in the welcoming.

The quality of the welcoming is a sign, a signal, a symbol of what will happen later. If you are welcomed warmly in the first encounter, you may be loved and accepted later. The power of Christian group friendship is enormously transforming. So as we 'open' our churches once more, whether for individual prayer or for services, even with the procedures and regulations to abide by for safety due to Covid-19, it is the welcome which is crucial to the advancement of forgiveness and healing, of justice and mercy, of righteousness and hope.

When people realise that each of us is loved equally by God, and that each of us is crucial to God's kingdom of forgiveness and healing, justice and mercy, righteousness and hope on earth as it is in heaven.

With our welcome, we open that space where connections can be made and by God's grace, lives be transformed. **Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us focus ourselves, mind, body and spirit, as we pray to the God of all creation.

Holy God, we focus on you with our love and worship,
May we live in your freedom, serving you with joy and thanksgiving. Though the world may reject you, you never fail to believe in us all. We pray for all areas of tension, conflict, mismanagement and greed, and for those who are drawn into the powers and chaos of evil.

(pause)

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

Holy God, we thank you for all who lovingly look after those in nursing homes, hospitals, care homes, hospices, nurseries and prisons. We pray for all those shielding their loved ones and who care for their families in their own homes, and those who are totally reliant on the help of others.

(pause)

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

Holy God, our daily lives have changed dramatically since Lock Down, but, with the lessening of the restrictions, we can engage in activities which bring us different opportunities once more. Please give us the courage, self-discipline and strength to participate once more outside of the home. May we offer others acts of kindness and willingly receive them too.

(pause)

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer

Holy God, we call to mind those who have recently died and thank you for each act of goodness in their lives. Have mercy on them and forgive their failings, so that they may share the joy of heaven forever.

(pause)

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Holy God, we thank you for our human potential for good, and for your gift of grace that makes such goodness a real possibility. Thank you for the friendship and kindness of others demonstrated in our community and country.

(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

We are all one in Christ Jesus.
We belong to him through faith,
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

The peace of the Lord 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 your 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

O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining
and whose power we cannot comprehend:
show us your glory as far as we can grasp it,
and shield us from knowing more than we can bear
until we may look upon you without fear;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

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

May the father from whom every family
 in earth and heaven receives its name
 strengthen you with his Spirit
 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts;
 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