

Berrow with Pendock, Eldersfield, Birtsmorton and Hollybush



19th. Sunday after Trinity – Holy Communion at Harvesttide

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

The Lord be with you
and also with you

HYMN

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.

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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 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

Eternal God,
 you crown the year with your goodness
 and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season:
 grant that we may use them to your glory,
 for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being;
 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 : Isaiah 35:3-6, Luke 10:1-9

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

(At home, please read 2 Timothy 4: 4-17)

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REFLECTION:

We are so lucky to live in this part of the countryside and all the glorious parts of creation that surrounds us. We are in tune with the seasons and all the beauty that blossoms and grows.

Deserts have often been a result of what people have taken from the land. Israel a thousand years ago cut down all the trees when the powerful Turkish government had a law that for every tree, you had to pay a tax. This changed the climate. If you don't have moisture gathering and condensing and eventually you have the beginnings of a desert. At one time, the land was flowing with milk and honey and gorgeous trees.

We celebrated last Sunday at St John the Baptist, Eldersfield, the harvest of our land and sea. We took a car boot load of donated food to the local foodbank, to share our harvest with those who are struggling in our community.

In the Old Testament lesson, in Isaiah 35, it says:- "When the Messiah comes, the deserts will bloom."

The people were in captivity, their cities and farms had been burned, and people murdered. The prophet said, "I will make your wilderness a pool of water and your dry land, I will make into springs of water. I will put trees in your desert: the cedar, the acacia, the myrtle wood. I will plant trees in her desert, and I will make her desert like a Garden of Eden and her wilderness will be like the garden of the Lord. So shall it be when the Messiah comes. When the Messiah comes, your deserts will begin to bloom again."

In many parts of the world, our exploits in the world have led to many areas becoming desert and whole environments on land and sea are in danger of extinction. Our farmers may struggle with the weather and the demands of producing food, but we are fortunate in this country to have a rich variety of food available, brought to us in that network of transport, shops and local outlets. We give thanks to all those who during Lock Down e.g. Pendock Stores, Yvonne and the team and compassionate family, friends and neighbours who made sure food came into our homes.

But Life can also feel like a desert rather than a harvest celebration. Especially after a death of a loved one. Illness. Divorce. Job loss. Loneliness.

Life at present feels a lot like this for many people. Life can be like a desert for each one of us. Inevitably, sometime, somewhere, someplace, each of us will walk a desert path.

In the New Testament, the Messiah came. Again and again, when Jesus came into people's lives, their lives were like deserts and when Jesus left them, their deserts were blooming once more.

Jesus said, "I am the living water. Whoever drinks of me will never thirst again." To drink the living water means to have the Spirit of Jesus come inside of you. His forgiveness. His patience. His kindness. His moral values. His goodness. To drink the living water is to have the Spirit of the Living God come and live within. That is the most important thing that could ever happen to your life and mine.

The deserts begin to bloom when we experience the living water of God's Spirit inside of us. When the living water is inside of us, we begin to dream dreams and imagine possibilities.

We ask the big questions, "How can this desert blossom?"

"God, what can you and I do to make this situation better?"

"God, what can you and I do to help?"

It always takes hard work and patience to make a desert bloom.

Jesus sent out seventy people in pairs empowering them to bring peace, to cure the sick and to proclaim the kingdom of God. Initially, he sent them to every town and village where he intended to go, saying, "The harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few...." I believe this particular story in the life of Jesus and the early Christian Church has implications for our own communities of faith today.

Jesus came among us to preach, to teach and to heal. He came to reconcile human beings to the God of all creation and to each other. Jesus reminded his followers that God's love surpasses their understanding and the importance of living into that love by engaging the ministry of justice and mercy for all.

As Luke recounts the story of Jesus' life, Jesus began his ministry of teaching and healing alone. After Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension, the good news of God's reconciling work depended on a network of people who were witnesses to what God had done. Luke in both his Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles focused on the harvest and the call of labourers to engage the reconciling work of God's kingdom. Proclaiming the kingdom is a communal and relational activity to which the whole body of Jesus' followers had been commissioned.

This intentional empowering and sending out reminds the church today that we need to be engaged in the same empowerment and reconciling activity. We spend an inordinate amount of time feeling anxious about the demise of the Christian Church and forget that like the seventy in the Gospel story, we have been empowered. Empowered to share the good news of God's reconciling work in our world today.

Jesus in sending out the seventy to share the good news, warned them that this ministry was not easy. "See I am sending you out as lambs among wolves." One might assume that in this age of social media spreading the message has become easier.

Yet, in our day the message is more likely to encounter indifference than rejection. While technology is remarkable and can broaden access to people, it inhibits authentic relationship with God and with each other. Faced with this challenge, how do we engage this work today in our world?

I believe Jesus knew what he was doing when he sent the seventy out in pairs instructing them to engage others in relationship as a sign of God's kingdom.

As we strive for justice and peace in our world, those whose lives are impacted realize the power of God's reign to change lives and change the world we live in. The harvest remains plentiful. The labourers in the harvest continue across the ages to be empowered to share the reconciling message of God's love. Go therefore...join with others in the power of the Spirit spreading the good news of God's kingdom. Go!

Amen

HYMN

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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,**

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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 PRAYER

Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love
in creation and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom:
by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us and
make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy;
through 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.**

HYMN

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;**

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**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 Father, who created the world,
give you grace to be wise stewards of his creation.

Amen.

God the Son, who redeemed the world,
inspire you to go out as labourers into his harvest.

Amen.

God the Holy Spirit, whose breath fills the whole of creation,
help you to bear his fruits of love, joy and peace. **Amen**

and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you, now and forever.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen

