

26th July 2020: Pentecost 8
From A Service of the Word
Leader: Rev Nick Wills
Preacher: Rev Sue Whitehouse



I PREPARATION

Welcome and Introduction

1 GATHERING

Hymn: Lord, thy word abideth

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|---|---|
| 1. Lord, thy word abideth,
And our footsteps guideth;
Who its truth believeth,
Light and joy receiveth. | 4. Who can tell the pleasure,
Who recount the treasure
By thy word imparted
To the simple-hearted? |
| 2. When our foes are near us,
Then thy word doth cheer us,
Word of consolation,
Message of salvation. | 5. Word of mercy, giving
Succour to the living;
Word of life, supplying
Comfort to the dying. |
| 3. When the storms are o'er us,
And dark clouds before us,
Then its light directeth,
And our way protecteth. | 6. O that we discerning
Its most holy learning,
Lord, may love and fear thee,
Evermore be near thee! |

H. W. Baker (1821-77)

2 GREETING

*The words in **bold** are said by all.*

Different members of our congregation are responding on behalf of us all today, but you are invited to also respond at home.

2.1 Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:
And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen

2.4 *The Peace*

We meet in Christ's name.
Let us share his peace.

3 PRAYERS OF PENITENCE AND FORGIVENESS

Return to the Lord, who will have mercy:
To our God, who will richly pardon.

(Isaiah 55.7)

A time of silence is kept.

3.2 Penitential Psalm with Video

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your loving-kindness.

I know my transgressions:
and my sin is ever before me.

Purge me from my sin and I shall be pure:
wash me and I shall be clean indeed.

Create in me a clean heart, O God:
and renew a right spirit within me.

(From Psalm 51, Music: Neil Birse, used with permission)

3.5 Prayer of Forgiveness

A short silence is kept before saying

**May the Lord forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are
and direct what we shall be,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

(SEC Daily Prayer 1988)

3.6 Response

Blessed is the Lord:
Who has heard the voice of our prayer.

Therefore shall our hearts dance for joy:
And in our song will we praise our God.

(From Psalm 28)

4 Gloria in Excelsis: Festive Eucharist: Noel Rawsthorne (1929-2019) (Sung by the St Peter's Choir & Congregation.)

All: Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heav'nly King,
Almighty God and Father,
We worship you,
We give you thanks,
We praise you for your glory.

Men: Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Ladies: Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
Have mercy on us;

Men: You are seated at the right hand of the Father:

Ladies: Receive our prayer.

All: 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.
A-men, A-men.

5 COLLECT OF THE DAY

**O God, whose providence orders all things in heaven and earth:
keep from us everything harmful,
and lead us to all that is good;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end. Amen**

II PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

6 READINGS FROM THE HOLY WORD

Romans 8: 26-39

(Read by Wilson Poon)

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

(Read by Fiona Barton)

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.' He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened. kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.' This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

7 **SERMON by Rev Sue Whitehouse**

8 **Questions for Reflection (Video)**

(Music: Neil Birse, used with permission.)

A time of silence

9 **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in God the Son?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and 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 again
to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

III PRAYERS

10 PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION Led by Lenore Simson

10.1 *Prayer is offered for the world and its people, for those who suffer and those in need,
for the Church and its members.*

In our Year's Mind: Robert Tait, Bertha Cunningham, Minnie Hepburn,
Rose Kidd, Josie Jocelyn, Janet Thomas

10.2 The prayers conclude with the Lord's Prayer.
(Please use the version you are most comfortable with...)

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

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.
Do not bring us to the
time of trial
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on 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.

11 OFFERING

Generous God,
accept the offering of your people
for the work of your Church,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

IV CONCLUSION

12 ACT OF DEDICATION

12.2

Responsory

Your word is a lantern to my feet.
Your word is a lantern to my feet.

A light upon my path.
A lantern to my feet.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
Your word is a lantern to my feet.

Almighty God,
we thank you for the gift of your holy word:
may it be a lantern to our feet,
a light upon our paths,
and a strength to our lives.
Take us and use us to love and serve all people
in the power of the Holy Spirit
and in the name of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Common Worship)

13 Hymn: The kingdom of God

- 1 The kingdom of God is justice and joy,
for Jesus restores what sin would destroy;
God's power and glory in Jesus we know,
and here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.
- 2 The kingdom of God is mercy and grace,
the captives are freed, the sinners find place,
the outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share,
and hope is awakened in place of despair.
- 3 The kingdom of God is challenge and choice,
believe the good news, repent and rejoice!
His love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross,
our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.
- 4 God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal,
in Jesus begun, in heaven made whole;
the heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call
and all things cry 'Glory!' to God all in all. Amen, Amen.

Text: Alexander Scott

14 DISMISSAL

14.1 The Lord be with you.
The Lord bless you.

(Ruth 2.4)

14.2 Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

14.3 **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all, evermore.
Amen.**

(2 Corinthians 13.1)

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With grateful thanks to the Birse family for singing the hymns.