

## **Sunday Worship at Home Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2020 second Sunday before Advent**

### **Opening Prayer:**

God our Father,  
we thank you for making us, for giving us gifts and talents.  
For hands to work for you, hearts to love you and voices to praise you. **Amen**

### **Invitation to confession:**

Hear the good news that the love of God is beyond measure  
and he loves each one of us.

Lord God, For the times we forget you love us:

**Lord have mercy**

Lord, Jesus, For the times we forget to love others:

**Christ have mercy.**

Lord God, We thank you for reminding us how to love:

**Lord have mercy**

May almighty God have mercy upon you,  
forgive your sins and bring you to everlasting light. **Amen**

### **The Collect (Special Prayer for the day)**

Heavenly Lord,  
you long for the world's salvation: stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess  
and revive in us new hope that all creation will one day be healed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

**Gospel Reading: Matthew. 25:14-30** The Parable of the Talents

'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so, I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

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

## **Reflection on the Gospel.**

This parable is one of those difficult stories where people always feel sorry for the villain, in this case the servant who was so afraid to risk doing something wrong that he did nothing at all. The greatest risk and the greatest sadness in life is to play safe and stay securely in your comfort zone. This parable is one of a series in which Jesus talks of eschatology, the end times, the Kingdom of God and judgement. Jesus knows this are the last days he can get his message across to the disciples on what he expects of them when he is gone. It is an encouragement to us all to step forward to live our Christians lives by not hiding away from the wrongs of the world, because the day will surely come when we will be judged on our words and actions in our time on earth. 1940's German Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "The sin of respectable people is running away from responsibility." Running away from responsibility seems like digging holes to me! Thank God, we do not live in times akin to Dietrich Bonhoeffer, but we still live in a troubled world and we all run from responsibility from time to time. We refuse to speak out for fear of becoming involved, or making waves, so we dig holes and hide ourselves (and our talents) away. May this parable inspire you to stare your fears in the face and stand firm with Christ, who would prefer us to trust in him and try, rather than do nothing at all; our Christian faith comes with a responsibility to take risks, not to dig holes!.

**Amen**

## **The Creed**

We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family in heaven and earth is named.  
We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.  
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us with power from on high.  
We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.     **Amen**

**Be still and Pray:** For our families and all those we love. For the Church in this Diocese, especially Bishop John who is unwell. For all clergy struggling to find ways to minister to their congregations at this time, and take a few moments to pray for yourselves. Bless Her majesty the Queen, and all world leaders, including our own, to govern with care. Remember those who are ill, especially Vincent Grove, those in recovery or awaiting appointments. Pray for the soul of those who have died or whose anniversary of death falls this week. May they rest in peace & rise in glory.     **Amen**

## **The Lord's Prayer:**

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;  
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever     **Amen**

## **Blessing:**

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself,  
the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in time of trouble,  
and the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your heart;  
and the blessing of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  
be with you and all those you love, today and always. Amen

*Reverend Irene*