

Sunday Worship at Home, 5th September 2021, Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity.



Opening Prayers:

O Lord, open our lips

and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Give us the joy of your saving help

and sustain us with your life-giving Spirit.

A Prayer of Confession:

In a dark and hurting world, we have not held out the light of life.

Lord, have mercy.

In a hungry and despairing world, we have not shared the bread of life.

Christ, have mercy.

In a cold and loveless world, we have kept the love of God to ourselves

Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins,

and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Collect for the 14th Sunday after Trinity

Merciful God, your Son came to save us and bore our sins on the cross:

may we trust in your mercy and know your love, rejoicing in the righteousness that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

A Warning against Prejudice, James 2:1-5

My dear brothers and sisters, how can you claim to have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favour some people over others?

For example, suppose someone comes into your meeting dressed in fancy clothes and expensive jewellery, and another comes in who is poor and dressed in dirty clothes. If you give special attention and a good seat to the rich person, but you say to the poor one, "You can stand over there, or else sit on the floor" —well, doesn't this discrimination show that your judgments are guided by evil motives?

Listen to me, dear brothers and sisters. Hasn't God chosen the poor in this world to be rich in faith? Aren't they the ones who will inherit the Kingdom he promised to those who love him?

Reflection on the reading:

Jesus' commanded us to Love our neighbour as ourself. James, in his letter expands on this command. He tells us that if two people come into our congregation, one wealthy and finely dressed, the other poor and badly clothed and we welcome one and ignore or put down the other we are breaking the command to love our neighbour as ourselves. So, James in our reading today, challenges our prejudice and practice in welcoming those who perhaps do not fit our image of what a church member should look like or be like. When a man comes in wearing his Royal School of Church Music tie and a Prayer Book Society lapel pin on his suit and we say "come on in, do stay for coffee afterwards, we have Belgian chocolate biscuits this morning", and when the mother in ripped Jeans and an off the shoulder tee-shirt drags in a buggy and three squirming children so that all four of them can learn more about the Baby Jesus, and we say "Actually Sunday School is over the road and it's best you come back in three weeks' time when we do our once a month on Children's Church", Then what has happened to our love and welcome of the stranger, and what in God's name have we done to His Kingdom? So today we begin a new pattern of worship in our in-person church, and you will have noticed that whilst it does still contain the traditional and familiar, much of it is geared towards a younger generation. It is time welcome in the next generation of worshippers. It is time to proclaim God's message, which has not changed in 2,000 years, in a new and fresh way, to a new generation. It is time to begin growing God's kingdom once again. **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: In your prayers, include prayers for the church, the needs of the world and our local community. Particularly pray for: Areas of the world affected by War, natural disasters and man-made disasters, especially Afghanistan, Turkey, and the West and East Seaboards of America; for our own nation and other nations still dealing with rising COVID infection rates and new variants; for healing and peace for those who are ill; and for the souls of those who have recently died and comfort for those who are mourning their loss.

Finish with The Lord's Prayer:

Conclusion

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the source of all goodness and growth, pour his blessing upon all things created, and upon you his children; **Amen**

Reverend Eddie