

# Sunday Worship at Home, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2021, Sixteenth 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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**

## Mark 9:30-37 Who Is the Greatest?

[Jesus and his disciples ...] passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, 'The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?' But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.' Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

### **Reflection on the reading:**

As my mother was fond of saying to my brother and sister, but I'm sure never to me, "there's none so deaf as those that want to be". But let us not be too harsh on Jesus' disciples. What he is saying does not fit with their experience of him so far. Jesus has shown them he can control the wind and waves, feed thousands of people out of thin air, raise the dead to life and even demons obey his commands. Now he is telling them that he needs to give up his life, and that he will soon be killed by the authorities. Jesus is telling them some hard stuff which they don't want to hear, so they close their ears to his words and instead occupy their time by arguing about who was the greatest among them and who would be given the best positions in His new kingdom. His response is to tell them the last will be first, and then to take a child, small enough to hold in his arms and tell them they welcome him IF they welcome the small child. In the time of Jesus, even slaves were valued members of society with rights and the protection of the law. Children, under twelve years of age, and remember this child was small enough for Jesus to hold in his arms, were the real lowest members of society, with no value or legal rights whatsoever. The whole point of the cross was that Christ laid aside his own ambition, his own needs and comfort for the greater good of all mankind. For us to take up our cross and follow him means that we too have to put aside our own ambition and desire, and work for the greater good of our society and the wider world. This is what it means to follow the example of Christ. We are to be the servant of all, both worthy and unworthy, friend and stranger, whatever their status or social standing. 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*