



Sunday Worship at Home November 14th 2021

Remembrance Sunday

Opening Prayers:

O Lord, open our lips

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Reveal among us the light of your presence
that we may behold your power and glory.

Invitation to confession:

We remember those who have suffered and died in wars past and in present conflicts. We admit and confess our own guilt in not loving our neighbours as ourselves.

Lord God: you made us to be one family, yet we have divided humanity.

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

Lord Jesus, you were born a Jew to reconcile all people, yet we brought disharmony:

Christ have mercy

Christ have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you rejoice in our differences, yet we make them the cause of hate:

Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy

The Collect (Special Prayer for the day)

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

Gospel Reading: Mark 13:1-8

As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down." When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?" Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

Reflection on the Gospel.

Today's reading draws our attention to matters related to the end of the world. We are encouraged to pay attention to what's going on around us and be prepared to face God for the choices we made in life. Similar bible readings warn us about false teachers, wars and insurrections, nation rising against nation, earthquakes, famines and plagues, not to mention deterioration of families, and hatefulness. Human accountability to God at the end of the world is a familiar biblical theme. We only have to see the front pages of our newspapers; and constant radio and television newscasts to see that in a many ways, not much has changed but I am not for suggesting there is no hope, and no point to life.

I believe there will always be women and men of good character from all walks of life who will rise to the challenge to develop remedies for humanities failings. All national and religious leaders and policy makers in both public and private sectors are in unique positions for guiding their people towards change for good. Moved by the Holy Spirit's power, courageous Christian ministry is essential for guiding humanity along a path toward honourable and godly enterprises. Merely *calling ourselves a* Christian is not enough. We all have to take responsibility. But how do we as individuals do this? Should we accept the woes of personal and communal life as inevitable and just hope that "someone else will do something"? We all suffer troubles and injustices: our personal earthquakes, including family and friendship crises, money and employment worries, and, illnesses and losses. During our history, darkness, despair, indeed – biblical "Signs of the End" – have engulfed many nations in war and it continues today. The past twenty months alone have been a global trial, much more so for some than others, and if we are not careful, we can fall into the trap viewing all of life through a dark lens of despair. But the Gospel of Christ acknowledges the darkness! Jesus experienced human darkness and the "Signs of the End" from birth to death, he was persecuted and ridiculed, but grew in inner strength and peace. He was monetary poor, yet very rich. He was humiliated and executed for his preaching, yet rose again from the grave! While experiencing darkness, Jesus' life and ministry revealed shimmering Light amidst the evils of his day. We have the Light and hope promised to us in Christ, those of us who accept Christ's invitation to true Life, know that there is Light and hope amidst woeful realities. In Christ, the true and only Light, each day becomes the beginning of the rest of our lives, not merely a day nearer a disastrous End of the World.

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, pray: Father God, today we have been remembering those who made the greatest sacrifice of all by giving their life for others. May we always give thanks for the freedoms won for us and the peace we enjoy as a result. May we always choose to love rather than hate, to serve others rather than think only of ourselves and to share what we have rather than want for more. For the glory and honour of your name.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer: Our Father who art in heaven..... Amen

The Blessing:

Let us be thankful to those who gave their lives in all wars, may be determined to live a life of love today and always. And the blessing of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and all those you love, and all those you find hard to love, this day and always.

Amen

Reverend Irene