

Sunday Worship at Home, 6th February 2022, 4th Sunday Before Lent.



Opening Prayers:

God in Christ has revealed his glory. **Come let us worship.**

From the rising of the sun to its setting, **the Lord's name is greatly to be praised.**

Give him praise, you servants of the Lord. **O praise the name of the Lord! Amen.**

A Prayer of Confession:

The grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all.

Let us come to him, in sorrow for our sins, seeking healing and salvation..

O King enthroned on high, filling the earth with your glory: holy is your name,

Lord God almighty. In our sinfulness we cry to you to take our guilt away,

and to cleanse our lips to speak your word, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Collect

Almighty God, by whose grace alone we are accepted and called to your service:

strengthen us by your Holy Spirit and make us worthy of our calling;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Reading: Luke 5:1-11

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.' When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!' For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.' When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Reflection on the reading:

Today's readings from Isaiah chapter 6, 1 Corinthians 15, and the reading above from Luke's Gospel chapter 5, are all about calling and the response of those who were called by God or Jesus to do his work. They also have something else in common, and that is the acute awareness by the person being called of their own unworthiness to be chosen by God. God does not judge us by our outward appearance but by the inner quality of our heart. God does not want the self-assured and proud, he does not want those who are confident in their own abilities, or qualifications. Those whom God chooses are often those who are well aware of their own failings and shortcomings and who will rely on his strength and grace. God does not want beautiful cut and polished diamond but rough diamonds that he can cut and shape according to his plan. The word obedience comes from the latin word obidere, and literally means to listen. And that is the key, we do not have to be ready to do the work God wants us to do, we just need to be prepared to do as we are told, and trust God to give us what he needs to in order to do so. We do also need to remember that what God calls us to do today may be different from what he wanted us to do yesterday. When God calls us to follow him or go out in his name to do his work all he wants from us is the open ears to hear his call, the open heart to respond to his call, and the obedience to say, as Isaiah did, "Here I am, send me". So what is it that you personally need to say "yes" to today? **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:

Please pray 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; for peace to prevail in areas of rising international tension; for healing and peace for those who are ill; for the souls of those who have recently died, and comfort for those who are mourning their loss; and finally for ourselves, that we may be ready and willing to respond to listen to God's calling and obedient to his will.

Finish with The Lord's Prayer:

Conclusion

God of power, may the boldness of your Spirit transform us, may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us, may the gifts of your Spirit equip us to serve and worship you now and always. **To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.**

Reverend Eddie