



Sunday Worship at Home 26th June 2022 Trinity 2

Opening Prayers:

The Lord our God Almighty reigns!

Let us rejoice and be glad and give him the glory.

Lord, direct our thoughts and teach us to pray.

Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Invitation to confession:

Jesus says, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand".

So let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Lord, you are gracious and compassionate:

Lord have mercy

Lord, you are loving to all:

Christ have mercy.

Lord, your faithful servants bless your name and

speak of the glory of your kingdom:

Lord have mercy

May almighty God have mercy upon you,

forgive your sins and bring you to everlasting light. Amen

The Collect (Prayer for the day)

Faithful Creator, whose mercy never fails:

deepen our faithfulness to you and to your living Word,

Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Gospel Reading: Luke 9: 51-end

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set towards Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, 'Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?' But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village. As they were going along the road, someone said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' And Jesus said to him, 'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.' To another he said, 'Follow me.' But he said, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.' But Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.' Another said, 'I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.' Jesus said to him, 'No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'

Reflection on the Gospel:

The premise of our Christian faith is easy. Follow Jesus, love your neighbour as yourself, love those you don't like, welcome the stranger, nurture the sick, feed the hungry and clothe the naked; oh, and forgive those who do you wrong. These are the values Jesus teaches us, he is the example to follow, and of course, we all abide by them – in principle anyway.

But the reality is that following Jesus in real life is hard because our feelings, our prejudices and our workload get in the way, there is always something else to be done. Family to see, shopping to do, flowers

to be arranged, dog to be walked etc, etc. etc as Yul Brynner says in the King and I. Jesus, however, puts no qualifications on his love for us, he doesn't care who we are or what we are, he always has time for us, his love is unconditional. To those in the gospel story today, following Jesus is not a priority. They have excuses – they're actually very good excuses – I want to bury my Father, and I want to say goodbye to my family – but they're still excuses. Don't get me wrong, Jesus doesn't want us to turn away from our duties and our families, he wants us to lead our lives to the full, but he also wants us to realise that following him takes commitment and we should be prepared to give up everything, even security, duty and affection to follow him – he should be our priority, not a tag-on when we have nothing better to do. It's easy to be a good Christian in our heads, but it's much harder to be a good Christian in practice. What excuses do you use for not following Jesus wholeheartedly – maybe they are good ones, but they are still excuses? 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:

Include the needs of the world and your family and community. The Queen and her family. Pray that those who have plenty will share with those who have nothing. We pray for all those fleeing their homes in search of a better life, bless those who work to bring them relief or donate funds to enable others to help. Guide all nations of the world towards that day when we will all rejoice in your kingdom of justice and peace. We live in a world of diversity and inequality, yet we are all your creation, brothers and sisters united in need. Hold in your hearts Georgia and Rich who will be married in Little Houghton next Saturday that God may bless them and increase their love for each other as each day passes. Be with those families exploring baptism for their children, that their hearts may be ruled by love of you and not earthly celebrations. Father God, bring comfort and peace to those who are ill, Wendy Hamborg following a hip operation, and pray for the souls of those who have died, especially Mary Edge from Brafield whose funeral will place on Tuesday. Pray for strength for Mike and all who mourn her loss.

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 Lord bless you and watch over you,
the Lord make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you,

the Lord look kindly on you and give you his peace,
today and always. **Amen.**

Reverend Irene