

Sunday Worship at Home, 7th August 2022, Eighth 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:

The bible reading today calls us to be faithful and persistent in our prayer. We pray for forgiveness for ourselves, confident of God's love and saving grace:

We have not always worshipped God, our creator. **Lord, have mercy.**

We have not always followed Christ, our Saviour. **Christ, have mercy.**

We have not always trusted in the Spirit, our guide. **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 Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Lord God, your Son left the riches of heaven and became poor for our sake:
when we prosper save us from pride, when we are needy save us from despair that we
may trust in you alone; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Reading: Luke 11:32-40

'Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

'Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. 'But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

'Reflection on the reading:

The John Newton hymn Amazing Grace begins with this absolute confidence in salvation: *"Amazing Grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see"* But faith does not stop with knowledge of things past but also includes confident hope for things to come. Amazing Grace continues: *"The Lord has promised good to me. His word my hope secures. He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures."* Our Gospel reading this morning is an odd snippet from a passage in which, from then on, we are told not to worry about the future and not to place our trust in securing wealth and possessions in this world, because all of that will come to nothing in the end. Instead of placing our trust in earthly treasure we are to place our trust in God and our heavenly treasure – that is our hope in our future in heaven. And then our Gospel reading goes further. We are to be ready, always, to respond to the Master's call, even though we do not know when it will come. We are to be ready, always, to do his bidding though we do not know what he will ask of us. How are we to bear this waiting and uncertainty? In the knowledge that he has a plan, that he knows where he wants us to go, when he wants us to go and how he wants us to go. And he will journey alongside us, to make sure that we get there. So this is our faith. It is the sure and certain hope, and secure knowledge, that God will provide for us both in this world and the next.

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: God of love, peace, justice and healing; we pray for all those in our benefice who are ill at this time, and those who are caring for them whether at home or in hospital; we pray for those struggling with rising cost of fuel and food, and who are fearful of how they may pay for tomorrow; we pray for our Government, distracted from national leadership by the election of a new prime minister; we pray for the people of Ukraine who fear what this day will bring; we pray for all who live in fear and threat of conflict, and especially for the peoples of China and Taiwan. We pray that those in authority will seek peace and the laying down of weapons; we pray for all your precious children living at risk or in fear, that you would hold and protect them; We pray for all those who are on our hearts at this time.

Finish with The Lord's Prayer:

Conclusion

May God bless us and keep us, make his face to shine upon us, and give us his peace; **Amen**
Reverend Eddie