

Morning Worship Sunday 3rd September 2023

Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Reading 1: Romans 12: 9 - end

Gospel: Matthew 16: 21 - end

Proclamation: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Psalm 150: 6

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with us all.

This is the day that the Lord has made
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Song: *(click link) Majesty* <https://youtu.be/uXRbZSqQnxc>

Invitation to Confession: God the Father forgives us in Christ and heals us by the Holy Spirit.
Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness,
all slander and malice,
and confess our sins to God our redeemer

Confession: Almighty and most merciful Father,
We have wandered and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.
We have offended against your Holy laws.
We have left undone those things that we ought to have done;
and we have done those things that we ought not to have done
and there is no health in us.
But you, O Lord, have mercy on us sinners.
Spare those who confess their faults.
Restore those who are penitent,
according to your promises declared to mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord.
And grant, O most merciful Father, for His sake,
that we may live a disciplined, righteous and godly life,
to the glory of your Holy name. Amen.

Absolution: May the Father of all mercies, cleanse us from our sins
and restore us in His image

to the praise and glory of His name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading1: Romans 12 : 9 - 21 Marks of the True Christian

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' ²⁰ No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Gospel: Matthew 16 : 21 - 28 Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

The Cross and Self-Denial

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷ 'For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

This is the gospel of the lord. Praise to you O Christ.

Prayer: As we listen to your word today Lord, illumine those things that you want to teach us, and give us courage to live by your words. Amen.

Talk: (*click link*) <https://youtu.be/Oct8EdpAyp8>

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only son, our Lord
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended to the dead.
On the third day He rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy catholic Church
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession:

(Please add in names and circumstances known to you in the appropriate place)

Loving God, we come to pray for the world where despite the ever presence of your love, there is a lack of love. May your love be more obvious among us and through us today and always.

Your love is patient and kind so we pray for those looking after relatives at home, and for carers in homes, hospitals and hospices. May they be supported by love, and may NHS funding meet our country's needs. We thank you for our local surgery and its hard-working staff, and we pray for their continuing success without being over-stretched in difficult times. We also pray for the volunteers working at the Food Pantry so that all who need assistance through them will receive it lovingly and adequately.

Your love is never arrogant, not boastful or rude. We pray for those who are bullied, and for those who torment them. May both find a love that is firm but free - and may this apply to world leaders as well as to individuals.

Your love never rejoices in the wrong, but only in truth. May people know the love which has integrity and delights in the truth, and be able to discern what the truth is so as to be able to respond to it. We include in this prayer politicians and national leaders who need to recognise what the possible results of their decisions could be - before launching out on a wrong course - especially we think about the continuing conflicts in Ukraine, Syria, Yemen and Sudan.

Love bears all things, and we pray for those known to us who are today carrying burdens beyond their strength whether it be because of illness, bereavement, or caring duties - particularly unpaid - in families or in the wider community.

As we approach a new school year we pray for teachers and other school staff as they prepare to guide the next generation forward. May the children settle into their new situation so that their learning can be enjoyable as well as successful. We also pray for Little Lions that all the families involved may experience your love and guidance. Please enable Karen and all her helpers to continue with this wonderful ministry. Thank you for the success of the recent Holiday Club, especially for all the hours of preparation which was needed for Jenny, Norman, Karen and all the group leaders.

Love believes all things - so we pray for those known to us who struggle with faith and doubt. Help us to show that people who ask pertinent questions should be listened to, cared for and guided lovingly by our example - not criticised for their so-called unbelief. Thank you for all the recent courses we have held in church; we pray for future ones to be successful too.

Love hopes all things so we pray for those at the end of their tether today - remembering the people who have lost relatives and homes in the recent wildfires and hurricanes. We also pray for refugees who are legally escaping conflict and possible death in one country - only to find that there are insufficient resources to enable them to live safely elsewhere. We pray for Aid agencies as they try to remedy these situations, and we pray that we, as a nation, will soon be able to enable more legal incomers to acquire homes and appropriate welcomes.

We thank you, Father God, for your loving care for us. We ask you to show us how you expect us to be at least part of the answer to our prayers rather than thinking that our words to you are enough. As part of this local community we pray for the people who work in the Residential Homes, the Industrial estate, the farms, the shops, the Sport and recreation facilities, and all the staff and volunteers at the Village Halls. We commit to you the Ride & Stride event on Saturday - asking you for safety and enjoyment for participants and a meaningful welcome for them here in this church.

A Prayer for the new Bishop of Bradwell

God of provision and care, discernment and knowledge:
lead us in your love, empower us by your Spirit,
and equip Adam and all of us with your gifts;
give us hearts full of love for all people,
minds open to the signs of the times,
and wisdom to know how to respond to the voice of your calling.
We ask this through him who's coming is certain,
whose day draws near,
your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect: Almighty God, you search us and know us: may we rely on you in strength and rest on you in weakness, now and in all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord's Prayer: Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name
Your kingdom come
Your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread
and forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil
For the kingdom the power and the glory
are yours now and forever. Amen.

Usually, at this point in the service, we take up our offering; let us pause for a moment to bring ourselves and all that we offer to God and give Him thanks.

Song: (click link) *All my Hope on God is founded* <https://youtu.be/DohxO6ytsaU>

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
He has given us new life and a living hope.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessing: May God keep us in all our days,
May Christ shield us in all our ways.
May the Holy Spirit bring us healing and peace.
May God the Holy Trinity drive all darkness from us
and pour upon us His blessing and light.....
...and the blessing of God almighty
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be with us, and all and those whom we love,
this day and always. Amen

Video: Ancient Words <https://youtu.be/3vmTkXNpwzs?list=RD3vmTkXNpwzs>

*As we come to the end of this service we can fellowship with each other in Spirit, with tea, coffee and biscuits, and continuing to pray for each other.
Post something on the Facebook page to bless others.*