



Trinity 5 - Sunday 12th July 2020

Pop-up Pocket Congregations 4

Readings:

Psalm 119.105-112

Genesis 25.19-34

Romans 8.1-11

Matthew 13.1-9,18-23

Preparation

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and forever. Amen.

O Lord, open our lips

and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Hymn...

Stand up, stand up for Jesus

ye soldiers of the cross!
Lift high his royal banner,
it must not suffer loss.
From victory unto victory
his army he shall lead,
till every foe is vanquished,
and Christ is Lord indeed.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus!
the solemn watchword hear;
if while ye sleep he suffers,
away with shame and fear.
Where'er ye meet with evil,
within you or without,
charge for the God of battles,
and put the foe to rout.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus!
The trumpet call obey;
forth to the mighty conflict
in this his glorious day.
Ye that are men now serve him
against unnumbered foes;
let courage rise with danger
and strength to strength oppose.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus
Stand in his strength alone;
the arm of flesh will fail you,
ye dare not trust your own.
Put on the Gospel armour,
each piece put on with prayer;
when duty calls or danger
be never wanting there.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus!
the strife will not be long;
this day the noise of battle,
the next the victor's song.
To him that overcometh
a crown of life shall be;
he with the King of glory
shall reign eternally.

Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your Name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 119.105-112 - with the refrain...

*'O deal with your servant
according to your faithful love.'*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be forever. Amen.**

1st Reading - Genesis 25.19-34

2nd Reading - Romans 8.1-11

Hymn...

When I needed a neighbour

were you there, were you there?
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?

And the creed and the colour
and the name won't matter, were you there?

I was hungry and thirsty,
were you there, were you there?
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?

I was cold, I was naked,
were you there, were you there?
I was cold, I was naked, were you there?

When I needed a shelter,
were you there, were you there?
When I needed a shelter, were you there?

When I needed a healer,
were you there, were you there?
When I needed a healer, were you there?

Wherever you travel,
I'll be there, I'll be there,
wherever you travel, I'll be there.

And the creed and the colour
and the name won't matter, I'll be there.

The Gospel Reading - Matthew 13.1-9,18-23

We still ourselves for a time of Confession...

Human sin disfigures the whole creation, which
groans with eager longing for God's redemption.
We confess our sin in penitence and faith.

cf Romans 8.22,23

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace, we
have sinned against you and against our
neighbour, in what we have thought, in what
we have said and done, through ignorance,
through weakness, through our own deliberate
fault. We have wounded your love, and marred
your image in us. We are sorry and ashamed,
and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your
Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all
that is past; and lead us out from darkness to
walk as children of light. Amen.**

A time of silence and self-examination...

**May the almighty and merciful Lord grant us
pardon and forgiveness of all our sins, time for
amendment of life, and the grace and strength
of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Blessed be the Lord,
who has heard the voice of our prayer.

Therefore shall our hearts dance for joy
and in our song will we praise our God.

Psalm 28.7,9

Hymn...

Father, I place into your hands
the things I cannot do.

Father, I place into your hands
the things that I've been through.
Father, I place into your hands
the way that I should go,
for I know I always can trust you.

Father, I place into your hands
my friends and family.
Father, I place into your hands
the things that trouble me.
Father, I place into your hands
the person I would be,
for I know I always can trust you.

Father, we love to see your face,
we love to hear your voice.
Father, we love to sing your praise
and in your name rejoice.
Father, we love to walk with you
and in your presence rest,
for we know we always can trust you.

Father, I want to be with you
and do the things you do.
Father, I want to speak the words
that you are speaking too.
Father, I want to love the ones
that you will draw to you,
for I know that I am one with you.

Prayers - with the response to...

Lord of all creation, **send us out in your Name.**

We pray together...

**Almighty God, send down upon your Church
the riches of your Spirit, and kindle in all who
minister the gospel your countless gifts of
grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

We join with Jesus in saying...

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name;**

**thy Kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on 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.**

**And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the Kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Hymn...

Brother, sister, let me serve you

let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow trav'lers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.

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Let us pray...

Lord, we commit ourselves to love you with all our hearts, with all our minds, with all our strength, and our neighbours as ourselves. Lord, so fill us with your Holy Spirit that we may be faithful to the commitment we have made. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Questions to think over and discuss...

Genesis 25:19-34

As with Isaac and Ishmael, Jacob and Esau are set to become different nations. From the same Father have come peoples set against one another; even from the same mother, the same womb, we have two other peoples set at odds with one another. We too live in polarising times where people are at odds with one another. When we've taken down the statues, rewritten our histories in a balanced way, sought justice for everyone, and reconciliation where necessary... *how might the human family move forward together without creating further divisions?*

Romans 8:1-11

Here we have more of Paul exploring what it is to be a Christian. He says to the church in Rome, 'Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.' *How do you know when you have the 'Spirit of Christ'?*

Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

'A sower went to sow'. This is one of Jesus' parables that we could probably all recount fairly easily; it lodges in the mind. Yet, funnily, it is one of the few of the parables that we have actually explained to us afterwards, apparently because it wasn't understood by the disciples. Funny because I think we can readily get Jesus' analogy and can then work out that the story is about our level of receptivity to 'God's Word' and the level of commitment we have to it. What was their problem? Of course often, when we do readily understand something we don't actually do anything about it, but carry on as usual. We know the climate crisis is real, but we still just jump in our cars, buy another plastic bag, and continue eating meat. We know there is a world-wide pandemic, but we just look for ways of dodging round regulations, put in place to try and reduce its impact, so we can carry on as we please. We know we've upset someone and it's our fault, but we let them stew rather than offer forgiveness.

We can point the finger at those who are like hard ground, rocky ground or choked by thorns; it's perhaps that there are three more fingers pointing back at us that is the hard bit, so we pretend we don't understand, because that's asking us to 'bring forth grain'. The disciples and ourselves are the ones then who have said 'yes' to Jesus, to God, to his Spirit, the ones who should commit and go out on a limb, as Jesus did; willingly putting ourselves between the rock and the hard place. If I say I don't understand I can remain just one of the crowd.

The parable begins and ends with Jesus using the same word, 'listen'. Jesus differentiates between 'hearing' and 'listening'. If you can hear the sounds I'm making, you have ears; then listen, to the words, think about what I'm saying.

*We've **heard** two familiar Bible stories today. To what extent have we **listened** to what they have to say?*

Will we allow the seed to grow in us that we might join the sower in going out to sow?