

A Service for 12th July

The Fifth Sunday after Trinity and the 1st service of Public
Worship in our benefice since March 15th

Welcome and Call to worship

I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the Lord!”

**Our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem!**

Psalm. 122.1

You have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living
God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands
upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church
of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven.

Hebrews. 12.22

Let us pray.

Almighty God,
we praise you for the many blessings you have given to
those who worship you in this house of prayer:
and we pray that all who yet seek you in this place
may find you,
And, being filled with the Holy Spirit,
may become a living temple acceptable to you;
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.

All Amen

Christ's resurrection proclaimed

Christ yesterday and today,
All the beginning and the end,

Alpha and Omega,
all time belongs to him,
and all ages;

**All to him be glory and power, through every age and
for ever. Amen.**

The candles are lit for the first time.

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness
from our hearts and minds.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia,

Hymn "Be thou my vision"

- 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
naught be all else to me save that thou art;
thou my best thought in the day and the night,
waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father, and I thy true heir;
thou in me dwelling, and I in thy care.

- 3 Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight,
be thou my armour, and be thou my might,
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower,
raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.
- 4 Riches I need not, nor all the world's praise,
thou mine inheritance through all my days;
thou, and thou only, the first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art!
- 5 High King of heaven, when battle is done,
grant heaven's joys to me, O bright heaven's sun;
Christ of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Irish, c 8th century tr Mary Byrne (1880-1931) versified, Eleanor Hull (1860-1935)
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The Collect

God of constant mercy,
who sent your Son to save us:
remind us of your goodness,
increase your grace within us,
that our thankfulness may grow,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

The Confession

Lord God, our maker and our redeemer,
this is your world and we are your people:
come among us and save us.

We have wilfully misused your gifts of creation;
Lord, be merciful:

All **forgive us our sin.**

We have seen the ill-treatment of others
and have not gone to their aid;
Lord, be merciful:

All **forgive us our sin.**

We have condoned evil and dishonesty
and failed to strive for justice;
Lord, be merciful:

All **forgive us our sin.**

We have heard the good news of Christ,
but have failed to share it with others;
Lord, be merciful:

All **forgive us our sin.**

We have not loved you with all our heart,
nor our neighbours as ourselves;
Lord, be merciful:

All **forgive us our sin.**

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive us our sins
and make us holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

First Bible Reading

Psalm 77

- ¹ I cried out to God for help;
I cried out to God to hear me.
- ² When I was in distress, I sought the Lord;
at night I stretched out untiring hands,
and I would not be comforted.
- ³ I remembered you, God, and I groaned;
I meditated, and my spirit grew faint. ^[b]
- ⁴ You kept my eyes from closing;
I was too troubled to speak.
- ⁵ I thought about the former days,
the years of long ago;
- ⁶ I remembered my songs in the night.
My heart meditated and my spirit asked:
- ⁷ 'Will the Lord reject for ever?
Will he never show his favour again?
- ⁸ Has his unfailing love vanished for ever?
Has his promise failed for all time?
- ⁹ Has God forgotten to be merciful?
Has he in anger withheld his compassion?'
- ¹⁰ Then I thought, 'To this I will appeal:
the years when the Most High stretched out his right
hand.
- ¹¹ I will remember the deeds of the Lord;
yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.

¹² I will consider all your works
and meditate on all your mighty deeds.'

¹³ Your ways, God, are holy.
What god is as great as our God?

¹⁴ You are the God who performs miracles;
you display your power among the peoples.

¹⁵ With your mighty arm you redeemed your people,
the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.

¹⁶ The waters saw you, God,
the waters saw you and writhed;
the very depths were convulsed.

¹⁷ The clouds poured down water,
the heavens resounded with thunder;
your arrows flashed back and forth.

¹⁸ Your thunder was heard in the whirlwind,
your lightning lit up the world;
the earth trembled and quaked.

¹⁹ Your path led through the sea,
your way through the mighty waters,
though your footprints were not seen.

²⁰ You led your people like a flock
by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Music for reflection.

Taize Chant

The Reading from the New Testament

2 Corinthians.1.3-7

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. ⁵ For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. ⁶ If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. ⁷ And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

The Sermon

Affirmation of faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

All I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

All 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.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**All 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.**

The Intercessions

Everlasting God, we bring our prayers to you, Lord of all nations, asking that your blessing of love and peace may be known to all people everywhere. Help us to bear abundant fruit from the seeds of potential that you have planted within us.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Merciful God, we pray for the many people who continue to contract coronavirus throughout the world. Bring comfort to those grieving loved ones who have died and peace to those worried, fearful and uncertain as the virus spreads. We also pray for governments and authorities who are developing strategies to contain and deal with the virus and

those in the health services who may be risking their own lives to care for sick patients.

Here in our own country we especially pray for the coronavirus situation and the procedures that have been put into force to try to halt its spread. As restrictions continue to be lifted, help us all to be responsible in the things that we do in our lives to prevent the spread of the virus by taking heed of the recommended precautions and avoiding situations which may make things worse.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Holy God, we pray for your church, especially for the people you have called to be prophets and teachers in our generation. We pray that they will be strengthened and protected by the Holy Spirit and that through them your Church will reveal the good news of salvation and draw all people together under your rule of justice and mercy.

As we start to move forward to meet once again into our Church buildings, we pray that we may do it safely and sensibly and in ways that help those who are still unsure about attending that this is not a problem and that we and God will understand their reticence.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Creator God, we are your chosen stewards of this beautiful world; you provide us with seed and soil to sow them in but sometimes we abuse this privilege and so we look to you for forgiveness for the damage we have done to this earth and pray that you would show us ways of healing the wounds that we have inflicted on the land, ourselves and on each other.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Father God, as statues fall and nations begin to grapple with histories that make us feel uncomfortable and ashamed today, we pray that the lessons learnt will mean that, in the future, in all our communities everyone will be welcome and accepted regardless of nationality, colour, gender or status and that we will seek always to serve you and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, in one another.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Gracious God, in these uncertain times when concerns for the future are on the increase, we raise before you all those who seek healing of body, mind or spirit asking that they will sense the touch of your loving hands and feel your peace and presence

alongside them, each and every step of their journey towards healing and wholeness.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Loving God, we remember before you all those who have died in the love of Christ. May they see your salvation and find their peace and final rest in you and we especially pray for those who were a formative part of our lives, who made us who we are and who we still miss.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Faithful God, we offer you these prayers for ourselves and for others. We ask you to accept them and to use them, and us so that your will may be done on earth and more of your kingdom revealed to those who seek you.

Merciful Father:

Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our
Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

Followed by The Lord's Prayer

**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

I The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.
*And I will trust in You alone.
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.*

I will trust, I will trust in You.

*I will trust, I will trust in You.
Endless mercy follows me,
Goodness will lead me home.*

- 2 He guides my ways in righteousness,
And He anoints my head with oil,
And my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on His pure delights.

Refrain

- 3 And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know.

Refrain

Stuart Townend

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A Prayer

Loving God, thank you for this house of prayer
where we praise and thank you for all you have given us.
Help us to go out into the world, refreshed by your Spirit,
to do all you have called us to do in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

The Blessing

May Christ's holy, healing, enabling Spirit be with you
and guide you on your way at every change and turn;
And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be with you and those who you love, this day and always

Amen