

A Service for 28th June
The Third Sunday after Trinity

The theme for today's service comes from some words of Jesus found in the reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

“Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me.”

These are profound words. Let us open our hearts to receive the presence of Jesus this day and so also receive the presence of the Father wherever we are watching this service today

Welcome and Call to worship

Surely the righteous shall give thanks to your name; the upright shall dwell in your presence.

Cf. Psalm 140.13

Let us be still for a moment and invite the presence of the Lord Jesus to come to us afresh, in our own words as we prepare to welcome him to our homes through our worship

Opening prayer

Loving God,

As we gather in the name of Jesus

We open our hearts to receive his presence afresh

Make your presence known to us, living God

through the worship we offer

and through our eager obedience to your word.

May we be changed by being in your presence today.

Amen

Hymn 'We have a Gospel to proclaim'

- 1 We have a gospel to proclaim,
good news for all throughout the earth;
the gospel of a Saviour's name:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

- 2 Tell of his birth at Bethlehem
not in a royal house or hall
but in a stable dark and dim,
the Word made flesh, a light for all.

- 3 Tell of his death at Calvary,
hated by those he came to save,
in lonely suffering on the Cross;
for all he loved his life he gave.

- 4 Tell of that glorious Easter morn:
empty the tomb, for he was free.
He broke the power of death and hell
that we might share his victory.

- 5 Tell of his reign at God's right hand,
by all creation glorified.
He sends his Spirit on his Church
to live for him, the Lamb who died.

- 6 Now we rejoice to name him King:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
This gospel-message we proclaim:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

The Collect

Almighty God,
you have broken the tyranny of sin
and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts
whereby we call you Father:
give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,
that we and all creation may be brought
to the glorious liberty of the children of God;
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.

Amen

The Confession

As we prepare to sit at the feet of Jesus and hear his word
in the readings from the bible and through the Spirit
speaking into our lives through the sermon time. We take
some time to prepare our hearts and minds through our
act of confession.

So now we confess the times we have considered
ourselves too busy to listen to his word.

We confess those times when we have used his word to
judge and condemn others with a spirit of self-
righteousness and not listened to it ourselves.

We confess those times when we have responded to his
word with unbelief or a hardened heart.

**O God whose voice we do not always hear
or listen to with attentive carefulness,
we confess our busyness and pre-occupation with
other things that we use as an excuse for not
listening.**

**We confess our self-righteousness that leads us to
assume you cannot be speaking to us.**

**We confess our unbelief that will not trust the
word you speak to us.**

**Let the prayer of the boy Samuel arise from our
hearts today and everyday.**

‘Speak Lord for your servant is listening.’

Amen

May the God of love,

forgive *us our* sins,

And give us ears to hear

And a ready and obedient heart to believe his word

and follow his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ

All **Amen.**

First Bible Reading

Jeremiah 28.5-9

*Hananiah, prophecies falsely that the exile will soon be over.
Jeremiah the true prophet acknowledges that he wishes it were
so, but he knows the words of judgment that he has had to
speak must stand. He can only prophesy peace only if and
when the Lord so commands. Then the words that announce
peace and restoration will be fulfilled.*

⁵ Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to Hananiah the prophet in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the Lord, ⁶ and the prophet Jeremiah said, “Amen! May the Lord do so; may the Lord make the words that you have prophesied come true, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the Lord, and all the exiles. ⁷ Yet hear now this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. ⁸ The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. ⁹ As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes to pass, then it will be known that the Lord has truly sent the prophet.”

Song – “I will offer up my life”

2nd Bible Reading –

Matthew 10.40 -42

⁴⁰ “Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. ⁴¹ The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. ⁴² And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”

The Sermon

Let us declare our faith in God.

**All We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on 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**

A Hymn. With an encouragement during this challenging time.

- 1 Christ is the one who calls,
the one who loved and came,
to whom by right it falls
to bear the highest Name:
 and still today
 our hearts are stirred
 to hear his word
 and walk his way.

- 2 Christ is the one who seeks,
to whom our souls are known.
The word of love he speaks
can wake a heart of stone;

for at that sound
the blind can see,
the slave is free,
the lost are found.

- 3 Christ is the one who sends,
his story to declare;
who calls his servants friends
and gives them news to share.
His truth proclaim
in all the earth,
his matchless worth
and saving Name.

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926)

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The Intercessions and The Lord's Prayer

Living God, thank you for the Lord Jesus whose presence
we cherish, and who come to be with us.

Help us to open our hearts daily to receive him afresh and
to welcome you

Living God, whose presence we cherish
Make your home among us

We pray for courage to be your witnesses
Take away our fear of rejection and give us your words of
life to speak. Lead us to opportunities that the Spirit will
give us and help us to rely on your presence with us.

Living God, whose word is life

Give us your words to speak

We pray for your persecuted church today

We pray for the Church in India where in some areas of the country mob violence leads to the destruction of churches and the harassment of Christians

We pray for the church in Iran which continues to suffer harassment and persecution. We pray especially today Hossein, Khalil, Kamal and Mohammed imprisoned at the beginning of this month for their Christian faith.

And for Pastor Yousef Nadarkhani serving a 10-year prison sentence in the infamous Evin prison.

Living God, you promise eternal rewards to those who endure persecution

Grant hope and strength to all your persecuted people.

We pray today for the Central African Republic where the ravages of internal violence and the threat of Ebola and Covid-19 blight the lives of many in areas of the country.

We ask the God will bring them justice, peace and deliverance

We pray also today for the Yemen, torn apart by civil war, suffering with Covid-19 infections with poor or nonexistent healthcare and now the threat of imminent starvation for many.

Heavenly Father, source of justice and peace

Bring your help to those who cry out for justice.

Hasten, Lord, the day
when people will come from east and west,
from north and south,
and sit at table in your kingdom
and we shall see your Son in his glory.
**Merciful Father, hear these our prayers
Amen.**

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**

Ending Prayer

The Father, whose glory fills the heavens,
cleanse you by his holiness
and send you to proclaim his word.

The Son, who has ascended to the heights,
pour upon you the riches of his grace.

The Holy Spirit, the Comforter,
equip you and strengthen you in all your service.

And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be with you wherever you are, this day.

Amen