

The Blofield Benefice

**A Service for the
17th Sunday after Trinity
(online)**

Live from The Rectory



The Welcome and Greeting

Rejoice in the Lord always
Again, I say, Rejoice

Philippians.4.4

Lord God, always faithful and loving,
we may not always feel like rejoicing.
Even as we gather to worship you,
our minds are sometimes distracted and elsewhere,
weighed down by the burdens of our lives.
Help us, in this moment, to lift up our hearts to you
and rejoice in your constancy and loving care for us.
Amen.

The Song

Jubilate, ev'rybody,
serve the Lord in all your ways,
and come before his presence singing:
enter now his courts with praise.
For the Lord our God is gracious,
and his mercy everlasting,
Jubilate, Jubilate, Jubilate Deo!

Based on Psalm 100

The Confession

We come to God in quiet reflection, opening our
hearts to the searching light of his Word and Spirit.
Seeking his forgiveness for our wrong doings and
looking for renewal and strength to follow in his way.

May your loving mercy come to me, O Lord,
and your salvation according to your word:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Your word is a lantern to my feet and a light to my
path:
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

O let your mercy come to me that I may live,
for your law is my delight:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Amen.

The Collect

Gracious God,
you call us to fullness of life:
deliver us from unbelief
and banish our anxieties
with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

We hear the first Reading

Philippians.4.1-9

*Paul urges unity in the church at Philippi and prayerful
trust and joy in Christ Jesus.*

My brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!

I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

The Song.

I Shout for joy and sing,
Let your praises ring;
See that God is building
A kingdom for a King.

His dwelling place with men,
The new Jerusalem;
Where Jesus is Lord over all.
*And we will worship, worship,
We will worship Jesus the Lord.
We will worship, worship,
We will worship Jesus the Lord.*

2 A work so long concealed,
In time will be revealed,
As the sons of God shall rise and take their stand.
Clothed in His righteousness,
The church made manifest,
Where Jesus is Lord over all.
Refrain

3 Sovereign over all,
Hail Him risen Lord.
He alone is worthy of our praise.
Reigning in majesty,
Ruling in victory,
Jesus is Lord over all.
Refrain

Dave Bilbrough
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The Gospel Reading

We hear the Reading of the Gospel

Matthew.22.1-14

Jesus tells a parable of a gracious invitation to God's great Wedding feast but cautions that none should turn up unprepared.

Jesus spoke in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. "Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.'

"But they paid no attention and went off – one to his field, another to his business. The rest seized his servants, ill-treated them and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. "Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.' So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. 'Friend,' he asked, 'how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless. "Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and

foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ “For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you O Christ

The Sermon

All

**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.**

- 1 Father, hear the prayer we offer:
not for ease that prayer shall be,
but for strength that we may ever
live our lives courageously.
- 2 Not for ever in green pastures
do we ask our way to be;
but the steep and rugged pathway
may we tread rejoicingly.
- 3 Not for ever by still waters
would we idly rest and stay;
but would smite the living fountains
from the rocks along our way.
- 4 Be our strength in hours of weakness,
in our wanderings be our guide;
through endeavour, failure, danger,
Father, be thou at our side.

Love Maria Willis (nee Whitcomb) (1824-1908), Samuel Longfellow (1819-1892)
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Our Prayers

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your gift of peace that you have given to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. We thank you that your gift of peace does not depend on the circumstances that we know in the world around us but that it is the gift of Jesus himself to us. Thank you that is the blood of his cross that reconciles us. It is His peace. May that peace continue to be a garrison to our hearts and minds and a strong reminder to us that you are ever near us.

God whose gift is peace

Help us always to rejoice in the Lord.

Heavenly Father we thank you for each of our brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ and for all whose names are written in the book of life. Help us when we give into pride or selfishness and the divisiveness that can separate us. We long to have the mind of Christ amongst us and to have that unity of will and purpose that will be a sign of our unity together in his love.

As we reflect on divisions in the Christian community that are so often a source of pain and that hinder the spread of the Gospel, for Jesus sake, help us to contend side by side.

God whose gift is peace

Help us always to rejoice in the Lord.

We give you thanks for that practical wisdom that you have given us and on which we can build our lives. May that wisdom fill our minds and truly motivate us to live in your way. Make us eager to put into practice that wisdom that will always lead us into your paths of peace and which will daily renew our lives through your truth.

We pray for our world that so often neglects your wisdom and pursues its own course. We pray for the leaders of the nations and those in governance in our own country. May they see the blessing and benefit that following the path of wisdom brings. We ask that

whatever is noble and right, pure and lovely, admirable, excellent or praiseworthy may be truly valued in our society and in our community.

God whose gift is peace

Help us always to rejoice in the Lord.

Again, we bring to you this painful time our world is experiencing as the pandemic continues to affect lives, communities and countries. We pray for your mercy at this time. We pray for your blessing upon health workers and those in hospital. Again, we ask for your guiding presence and for your church to continue to be a sign of hope in all the despair.

God whose gift is peace

Help us always to rejoice in the Lord.

Lord, your presence knows no boundaries, so we ask you to be near those we are carrying in our hearts today. Those we love and those for whom we are burdened. Those known to us who are sick or deeply troubled. Those for whom life is a struggle and who are experiencing real vulnerability. Those finding it hard to feed a family; those who are facing a loss of income or a much-needed job. Those who are really at the end of themselves. Help them to reach out to you and find for themselves that you are near.

God whose gift is peace

Help us always to rejoice in the Lord and to share the peace you have placed in our hearts

Amen

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

All **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.**

Concluding Prayer

In darkness and in light,
in trouble and in joy,
help us, heavenly Father,
to trust your love,
to serve your purpose,
and to praise your name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

- 1 Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,
Give me joy in my heart, I pray;
Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,
Keep me praising till the break of day.
Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna!
Sing hosanna to the King of kings,
Sing hosanna! Sing Hosanna!
Sing hosanna to the King.

- 2 Give me peace in my heart, keep me loving,
Give me peace in my heart, I pray;
Give me peace in my heart, keep me loving,
Keep me loving till the break of day.
Chorus

- 3 Give me love in my heart, keep me serving,
Give me love in my heart, I pray;
Give me love in my heart, keep me serving,
Keep me serving till the break of day.
Chorus

Anonymous
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