

PERSHORE BENEFICE
The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with
St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick
Sunday, 16 August, 2020
THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
SUNDAY PRAISE

SERVICE SHEET

Welcome and Introduction

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you

And also with you.

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

St Paul says 'Be imitators of God;
Love as Christ has loved;
Do not grieve the Holy Spirit;
Put away all anger and bitterness,
All slander and malice.'

So let us confess our sins to God who forgives us in Christ.

We confess our sin, and the sins of our society, in the misuse of God's creation. God our Father, we are sorry for the times when we have used your gifts carelessly, and acted ungratefully.

Hear our prayer, and in your mercy:
forgive us and help us.

We enjoy the fruits of the harvest, but sometimes forget that you have given them to us.

Father, in your mercy:
forgive us and help us.

We belong to a people who are full and satisfied, but ignore the cry of the hungry.

Father, in your mercy:
forgive us and help us.

We are thoughtless, and do not care enough for the world you have made.

Father, in your mercy:
forgive us and help us.

We store up goods for ourselves alone, as if there were no God and no heaven.

Father, in your mercy:
forgive us and help us.

May almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon us,
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and keep us in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Hymn

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored,
forgiven, who like me his praise should sing?
Alleluia, alleluia, praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him still the same for ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless:
Alleluia, alleluia, glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us,
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes:
Alleluia, alleluia, widely as his mercy flows.

Frail as summer's flower we flourish;
blows the wind and it is gone;
but, while mortals rise and perish,
God endure unchanging on:
Alleluia, alleluia, praise the high eternal One.

Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face; sun and moon,
bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space:
Alleluia, alleluia, Praise with us the God of grace.

[Henry Francis Lyte, 1793-1847]

Collect

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please 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. **Amen**

The Gospel

Matthew 15:21-28

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

At the end of the Gospel the reader will say:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ

A REFLECTION BY ANGELA GERRARD (Licensed Lay Minister)

May I speak in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

God did not create us equal!! If he had we could all be astrophysicists or Olympic

gold medal champions. God gave each one of us different skills and talents to develop (or not).

On a phone-in programme many years ago discussing the importance of further education a surgeon expounded the benefits, proclaiming it a necessity. However, the next caller was a woman who worked as a cleaner at her local hospital, who said she left school at 16, but without her dedication to spotlessly cleaning the operating theatre the surgeon would not have the successful outcomes he enjoyed.

I've always been struck by her comment and it parallels the Syrophenician woman's response to Jesus in our reading. The cleaning lady was not as clever or learned as the surgeon, but nevertheless in her humility she was dignified, seeing the value and importance of her work, taking pride in it.

The Syrophenician woman was not a Jew and knew she wasn't favoured in Jesus' eyes, so he wasn't demeaning her, merely stating a fact, but she still had pride and self-respect and the confidence to ask for her daughter to be cured, created by God she felt deserving of her request.

And even in those days people kept dogs as pets and treated them to titbits from their own meals, they were not wild, street dogs, but valued as part of the family.

Interestingly this is the only healing Jesus performs remotely, the daughter wasn't there for him to lay hands upon, but when he realised the mother's faith the girl was instantly cured, proving his one-ness with the God our creator – the power to heal comes via the authority and might of God the Father.

This brings me back to where I started. God creates us all of equal worth. It doesn't matter how intelligent we are, or how lowly and humble – in his eyes we are all of equal worth. Gentile or Jew, surgeon or cleaner, we can know our place in society but still have dignity and self-respect to approach God with our requests in confidence and expectation that he will respond because he values every life he has created. Our faith, hope and love come from knowing our worth in his eyes. Amen.

Declaration of Faith

We say together

**We believe in God the Father,
who created everything in heaven and on earth.**

**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.

The Peace

God is love and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you

We offer God our Prayers and Thanks

*At the end of each prayer when you hear 'Lord in your mercy', please respond '**hear our prayer**'*

We end by saying together The 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. 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.

Hymn

Thy hand, O God, has guided
thy flock, from age to age;
the wondrous tale is written,
full clear, on every page;
Our fathers owned thy goodness,
and we their deeds record;
and both of this bear witness:
one Church, one faith, one Lord.

Thy heralds brought glad tidings
to greatest, as to least;
they bade men rise, and hasten
to share the great King's feast;
and this was all their teaching,
in every deed and word,
to all alike proclaiming
one Church, one faith, one Lord.

When shadows thick were falling,
and all seemed sunk in night,
thou, Lord, didst send thy servants,
thy chosen sons of light.

On them and on thy people
thy plenteous grace was poured,
and this was still their message
one Church, one faith, one Lord.

Through many a day of darkness,
through many a scene of strife,
the faithful few fought bravely,
to guard the nation's life.

Their gospel of redemption,
sin pardoned, man restored,
was all in this enfolded:
one Church, one faith, one Lord.

And we, shall we be faithless?
Shall hearts fail, hands hang down?
Shall we evade the conflict,
and cast away our crown?
Not so: in God's deep counsels
some better thing is stored;
we will maintain, unflinching,
one Church, one faith, one Lord.

Thy mercy will not fail us,
nor leave thy work undone;
with thy right hand to help us,
the victory shall be won;
and then, by men and angels,
thy name shall be adored,
and this shall be their anthem:
one Church, one faith, one Lord.

[Edward Hayes Plumptre, 1821-1891]

Thanksgiving and Blessing

Eternal God, our beginning and our end, accompany us in this day's journey. Dawn on our darkness, open our eyes to praise you for your creation and to see the work you set before us today. Take us and use us to bring to others the new life you give in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all, evermore. Amen.**

Go in the joy and peace of Christ
Thanks be to God.

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