

Morning Service Sunday 26th July 2020

You may wish to light a candle.

Introduction

Welcome to our online service and I am delighted that our preacher is The Very Rev Sue Jones, Dean of Liverpool.

A warm welcome to those who may be joining us for the first time and we hope this gives a flavour of who we are in St Peter's and do encourage others to join us online. We welcome those joining us from Dublin, Enniskillen, Derby as well as here in Formby.

In the last week we have had two days dedicated Saints days – yesterday we gave thanks for James the Apostle and Wednesday the great celebration for Mary Magdalene the Patron Saint of hairdressers.

Wherever you are we hope that our time together will help you feel the joy and peace that comes from worshipping together.

Grace and peace be with you,

and keep you in the love of Christ.

We sing our opening hymn All things bright and beautiful and then Sue Garnham and her sister Gill Holroyd will read our lessons. After the sermon by the Dean Michael & Jane Pitts will lead us in prayer.

Hymn All things bright and beautiful

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VgqKfGRT0PM>

The Collect of 7th Sunday after Trinity

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; 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

Bible Readings

Epistle – Romans 8:26-39 read by Sue Garnham

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

God's Love in Christ Jesus

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

'For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 read by Gill Holroyd

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

The Parable of the Yeast

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

Three Parables

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Treasures New and Old

'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

Sermon – Dean of Liverpool, Sue Jones

Hymn All my hope on God is founded

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3LCGh02Vew>

Prayers

Michael & Jane Pitts

“O give thanks unto the Lord, and call upon his Name: tell the people what things he hath done. O let your songs be of him and praise him: and let your talking be of all his wondrous works.” (From Psalm 105)

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you promised through your Son Jesus Christ to hear us when we pray in faith.

O Lord, in and post lockdown, we thank you that the generosity of spirit, which you built into each one of us, has shown itself to be such an important part of everyday life for the country, whether in the accepting or giving of necessary help.

We pray that the church may continue to find new ways via Zoom or similar of welcoming people who are feeling the need to turn to the church.

Help us in our spiritual life as we grow in grace and draw closer to you. Put into our hearts the desire so to control our self-centredness that we learn the better to answer each other's needs.

Strengthen Paul and Beverley our bishops and all your church in the service of Christ; that those who confess your name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, we pray for your world, your creation, which through our selfishness and greed we have despoiled. Even now, as we see worldwide the growing signs of the consequences of our supremely selfish ways, encourage us to work together more earnestly to spread abroad the good news of your love, the love that conquers all. Help us to see that it is through little acts of kindness, of Christ-like goodness, by the least of us that change may be brought into the world.

O Lord, look down in mercy on those in all parts of the earth who are suffering acutely from the Covid pandemic, as well as from the hardships of natural disasters, floods, droughts, plagues of insects. Make us ever ready to respond generously to the needs of the destitute and displaced, wherever they may be.

Bless and guide Elizabeth our Queen; give wisdom to all in authority; and direct this and every nation in the ways of justice and of peace; that men may honour one another and seek the common good.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Today we remember in our prayers the new vicar of St Luke's Formby, Rev Matt Davies, and the newly retired parish priest of Our Lady's, Fr Bernard Higham. We also remember our brothers and sisters who worship at Liverpool Cathedral, and Sue the Dean who is preaching today.

We remember all local people who have, as a result of Covid 19, no jobs to go back to, and are putting up with the attendant acute money worries. We pray for all young adults looking to find a way into the (at present reduced) world of work.

We pray also for the survival of local businesses and give thanks for those in the caring professions who provide us all with essential basic support.

In our cycle of prayer we think of those who live in Tower End, Badgers Rake, Grange Lane and Derby Road.

Give grace to us, our families and friends, and to all our neighbours; that we may serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, when this current pandemic, along with illness and the stress of twenty-first century living, with all its gadgets and distractions, takes its toll on body, soul and spirit,

renew us with your loving strength that we may confidently continue our daily pilgrimage, ever pressing for the prize of the heavenly calling in Christ Jesus.

In this time of uncertainty, we pray for all those working throughout the hospitals, care services and GP practices of our land, that their sense of vocation and service may remain strong.

In particular we pray for those who are ill: Barbara, Eileen, Graeme and Nicky, those in hospital and our parishioners who are housebound or live in nursing homes, and those known to us whom we remember in the silence of our hearts.

Finally we pray for all those whose lives perhaps painfully are drawing to a close, that they may experience your healing comfort.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit. Give them courage and hope in their troubles; and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We bring to mind all those who have recently died in the faith of Christ; Jane Milles, Cathy Walters and Brendan Ginty, and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time, especially Beth Philpott. We remember also those who have unexpectedly lost their lives through accident or violence, and those much further afield who have been victims of war. May they rest in your peace and awake to a joyful resurrection. According to your promises, grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Remind us, O Lord, of the mighty company in heaven and on earth to which we all belong. Rejoicing in the fellowship of St Peter, St James, and of all your saints, we commend ourselves and all people to your unfailing love.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Peace

Christ came and proclaimed the gospel: peace to those who are far off and peace to those who are near.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you

Taking of the Bread and Wine

God of all creation,
you bring forth bread from the earth
and fruit from the vine.

By your Holy Spirit
this bread and wine will be for us
the body and blood of Christ.



The Lord is here.

All: His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, Lord God,

our light and our salvation;

to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the beginning you have created all things

and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.

In the fullness of time you made us in your image,

the crown of all creation.

You give us breath and speech, that with angels and archangels

and all the powers of heaven

we may find a voice to sing your praise:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.

You embraced a people as your own.

When they turned away and rebelled

your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary,

to be the living bread,

in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered his life for sinners,

and with a love stronger than death

he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died,

he came to supper with his friends

and, taking bread, he gave you thanks.

He broke it and gave it to them, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;

do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,

he gave you thanks, and said:

Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,

which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died

Christ is risen

Christ will come again.

Father, we plead with confidence

his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;
we remember his dying and rising in glory,
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit
form us in the likeness of Christ,
and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Bring us at the last with Mary Magdalene, James, Peter and all the saints
to the vision of that eternal splendour

for which you have created us;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
by whom, with whom, and in whom,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:
Amen.

Wherever you may be let us pray together with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in the one bread.**

Prayer after Communion

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we bring life and hope to others;
and we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn Praise To The Lord, The Almighty, The King Of Creation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCnQNwQG5GI>

The Blessing

May the boldness of the Spirit transform you, may the gentleness of the Spirit lead you, may the gifts of the Spirit equip you to serve and worship God; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and all whom you love this day and always. **Amen.**

Sermon by The Very Rev Sue Jones, Dean of Liverpool. Matthew 13 31-33, 44-52

Imagine sitting in a lecture theatre and all of a sudden the presenter begins their talk with the Question:

The Kingdom of Heaven is like...

And then before your eyes on the screen a whole set of images flash up.....

Seeds

Yeast

Treasure

A pearl

A net.

It is through these images that Jesus tells us about the Kingdom of Heaven.

The Kingdom of heaven is like a seed. A seed is so small, so dead, so hopeless when it is first planted. Yet with the right conditions of water, sun and soil it grows into something beautiful and life giving.

The same is true of the seeds of faith when planted in our lives. The initial seed may seem so small, so hopeless, so dry yet with the right conditions of prayer, reading the scripture and learning the faith something beautiful and life giving grows.

The Kingdom of heaven is like yeast. Without yeast, flour, salt and water remains a sticky mess. Yet with yeast the mixture takes on a life of its own. It is secret and silent. We cannot see what it is doing. But we can experience its affect and see the bounty that is the Kingdom of Heaven.

As disciples in this diocese Bishop Paul is calling us to ask God for a Bigger Church making a bigger difference; more people knowing Jesus more justice in the world. We are called to be the yeast, to be the sticky mess, sent to serve those in need, and to give our

time talents and money back to God. We are called to be agents of growth through who we are and what we do.

The kingdom of Heaven is like yeast. The kingdom came into the world in the form of a tiny baby. It changed the lives of those first disciples. It transformed a Pharisee called Paul and began to spread throughout the world. It changed you and me.

The Kingdom of Heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. The one who finds it by accident, in the daily round of life sells everything else and goes and buys the field. Once the Kingdom of Heaven is discovered everything else is worthless.

The values of power, wealth and sex cease to be the Gods which drive life. What drives us is our relationship with the one true God and God's Son Jesus Christ. What makes us followers of the one true God is the call to an inner life of prayer, the call to read scripture and the call to learn from one another. But our call does not end in the inner life we are called to bring in the Kingdom of heaven through the outer journey of service and giving.

The Kingdom of heaven is like a pearl of great price. There are some of us who believe passionately that God is alive in our world. We believe that God and the Kingdom of Heaven is our pearl of Great Price. Many work tirelessly to establish the truth, that God is alive and amongst us. Many seek the truth through prayer, through studying the scriptures, by listening to the stories that others tell of their journeys of faith. These disciples rejoice in the truth and pray to God for a Bigger Church making a Bigger Difference.

The Kingdom of Heaven is like a net. Nets are the tools of the fisherman. Many fish are caught some are kept some are discarded. We I guess, have been caught in the net of the kingdom of heaven, but in the presence of God's grace we know ourselves to be self-important. In the presence of God's outgoing love we know ourselves to be self centred. We have to work at being a disciple in the Kingdom of Heaven and that work involves prayer, study of the scripture and learning from one another. But we cannot stay in our own bubble, In our inner journey, we have to move to the outer journey and work to bring in the kingdom of heaven through service to those in need. Through the giving of our time, talents and money.

The Kingdom of Heaven is here amongst us and as we ask God for a bigger church making a bigger difference we pray for ourselves as disciples of Christ and we pray for a Covid 19 world that has seen glimpses of the Kingdom of Heaven.

The Kingdom of Heaven is a seed, it is yeast, it is treasure to be stumbled upon, a pearl to be sought out. It is a net which seeks us and sorts us out. The Kingdom of Heaven is here amongst us. Amen