



Welcome to Praying Together but Separately

Sunday June 14th - First Sunday after Trinity
(Trinity 1, or Proper 6):

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION (LINDA AND NIGEL)

HYMN: All My Hope On God is Founded

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

As we come before God, we say together:

I am in the presence of the Living God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

CONFESSION

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
We confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,**

and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen

ABSOLUTION

The Lord enrich you with his grace,
and nourish you with his blessing:
The Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil;
The Lord accept your prayers,
And absolve you from your offences,
For the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour: **Amen**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God.

**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

PRAYER OF THE DAY (THE COLLECT)

O God,
the strength of all those who put their trust in you,
mercifully accept our prayers and,
because through the weakness of our mortal nature
we can do no good thing without you,
grant us the help of your grace,
that in the keeping of your commandments
we may please you both in will and deed;

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.**

REFLECTION

Ask God to speak to you through the passage that you are about to read.

BIBLE READINGS:

PSALM 100

R The Lord is gracious; his steadfast love is everlasting.

O be joyful in the Lord, all the earth;
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.
Know that the Lord is God;
it is he that has made us and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

R The Lord is gracious; his steadfast love is everlasting.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and bless his name.
For the Lord is gracious;
his steadfast love is everlasting,
and his faithfulness endures
from generation to generation.

R The Lord is gracious; his steadfast love is everlasting.

SECOND READING Romans 5:1–8

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

HYMN He Who would Valiant be

GOSPEL Matthew 9:35 – 10:8

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

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest." Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to

cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him. These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

TIME TO REFLECT

Read through the passage once. Read it quietly out loud but say each word out loud.

Try and take note of any words or phrases that strike you.

Say that word or phrase quietly out loud or underline it with a pen.

Read the passage a second time.

As you read, think about how the word or phrase you notice might speak to you today.

After you have read the passage again, sit in silence and try and come up with a sentence or two that sums up what you think the word or phrase means for you today.

Read the passage a third time and prayerfully think about what Christ has said to you.

SOME THOUGHTS FOR FURTHER REFLECTION (A DIFFERENT SERMON IS GIVEN ONLINE)

There are two distinct themes in the Gospel reading today. The first, in 9.35-38 is the need and task as Christ perceives it. The second theme, in 10.1-8, is Jesus’ call of the apostles and their appointment to that task. Here are a few brief thoughts on those two themes.

The need: Jesus was very systematic in his approach to his calling, he ‘went about all the cities and villages’, he wanted to ensure all people could hear the message of the kingdom of God, and wanted no one to miss out. It pays for us, as churches, to think about those to whom we are called, to think about our ‘mission field’ who we are reaching, and those who we aren’t reaching. A good way to do this might be for your PCC to compare the ‘[Parish Spotlight](#)’ (information about the size of population, age demographics, etc.) with your ‘[Parish Dashboard](#)’ (statistics of your church based on the statics for mission return). This will show who you are ministering too, and who you might be missing. Your PCC could do this on Zoom, or even via email with each member comparing the two and emailing in what they notice to the PCC secretary.

That suggestion, which is very worthwhile, is quite technical nonetheless. I hope that we don’t need the PCC to come together and look at statistics, no matter how useful, in order that we ‘have compassion’ as Jesus did on the crowds of people he encountered. (The crowds aren’t numbered here as they are elsewhere in the Gospels, if they were, each number represents

a person, and each person is important to Christ: statistics and numbers are not bad things).

Jesus knows that there is a 'harvest', a group of people whose lives could be changed for the better by them having the hope in their heart that the Good News of the kingdom of God brings. Conclusion: *evangelism is God's idea.*

Evangelism is a word a lot of us dread

Some of us grew up in a church where we were encouraged in strong terms to 'evangelize' and share our faith. Perhaps you have used, or had used upon you, the evangelists equivalent of a chat up line: 'You know that television program "who wants to be a millionaire?" and the million pound question? Should I tell you what I think the million pound question is? What will happen to you when you die?'

Cue awkward silence...

Perhaps you grew up in a church where evangelism was not encouraged. This is because it was seen as being a little rude or forceful. It didn't seem right to try and convince someone to believe something they had not chosen to do.

There is certainly a wrong way to do evangelism, but it is God's idea, and so it is never a bad idea even if there are wrong ways to do it.

Call and appointment: We have Good News and a hope that we can gently and lovingly share. And Jesus calls and appoints us to that task. Of course, the appointment and commissioning here is of twelve special people (well, eleven and one 'bad egg'). We may feel we are not special and so we can leave this task to someone else – probably someone wearing a clerical collar. In the meantime those who are 'wearing a clerical collar' face the temptation to assume that proclaiming the Good News is for someone else to do – we are busy mastering how to improve our videos for Facebook Live.

What made the Apostles special was the fact that they were called and appointed by the incarnate Lord rather than some innate ability or gifting that they had. Christ calls and commissions them to stick to Israel: ignore Samaria or any Gentiles they might encounter.

At the end of Matthew's Gospel, in the reading for Trinity Sunday last week, there is the Great Commission: for all followers of Christ to go to all places and all peoples. Those who have encountered the *Risen* Christ are asked to share in God's idea: to be a messenger of the Good News.

CREATIVE PRAYER ACTIVITY

You will need: pens, paper, Lego/toy figures

The Great Commission was not just for Jesus' followers at the time but is also a mission for us today. We might not be able to meet in person for all our friends that do not yet know Jesus but we can pray for them and share God's love with them.

Find some toy figures e.g. Lego, Happyland that you can use to represent friends that don't know Jesus yet. (You can also do this without the figures.) Think of a friend or family member who doesn't yet know Jesus as their friend. Pick a figure to represent them and put them on your page. Write their name by the figure.

Once you have named all the figures take it in turns to pick up a figure and pray for the person they represent. Put the piece of paper with the names on it somewhere in the house, can you send an encouraging message all the people on this list this week? Cross them off the sheet when you have been in contact with them.

Taken from www.tath.co.uk 'Together at Home' [lectionary based resources](#).

HYMN: WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME:

OUR PRAYERS

Lord, you are with us as we proclaim the good news,
as we reach out to heal, to cure, and to raise up;
you are with us when we battle against evil.

We pray for the church throughout the world,
for all involved in mission and outreach.

Lord as you call us

make us worthy of that calling.

Lord, you have called us to work together.

We pray for the work of the United Nations and World Health Organization.

We remember all who are seeking to build up communities.
We pray for those in government, and leaders of industries.
We pray for all who have a sense of vocation and dedication.
We remember those whose work is thwarted by the greed or violence of others.

Lord as you call us

make us worthy of that calling.

We give thanks for all who have called us to a knowledge of you.
We pray for those who have sacrificed for us,
those who love us, and those whom we love.

We give thanks for all who have been examples to us,
and pray that we may be an example to others.

Lord, as you call us,

make us worthy of that calling.

We give thanks for carers, for home helps and social workers.

We pray for all those whose vocation has been cut short by
sickness and disease,

for all whose lives are restricted by poverty or oppression.

We pray for all those who are suffering as a result of shielding
because of the coronavirus.

We pray for all those who have lost any sense of vocation or
meaning to life.

Lord as you call us

make us worthy of that calling.

We are glad for all who have fulfilled their calling
and have entered the fullness of your kingdom.

We pray for those who mourn their death.

We pray that, like them, we may follow you for ever.

Lord as you call us

make us worthy of that calling.

From 'Clouds and Glory: prayers for the Church Year' by David Adam

A PRAYER CONCERNING THE CORONAVIRUS

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

HYMN - 'Let Your Living Water'

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself
wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

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.**

THE BLESSING

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself,
The power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service,
The joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts
And the blessing of God the Father,
God the Son and God the Holy Spirit
be with you and those you love,
now and forever more, Amen

FINAL HYMN GO FORTH AND TELL