

Ashburton and Moorland Team

TRINITY 17

26th September 2021



¶ The Gathering

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Hymn – Morning has broken

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PnRDXjaPjc0>

Morning has broken, like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken, like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
like the first dew fall, on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where his feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's re-creation of the new day!

Prayer of Preparation

**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.**

Prayers of Penitence

The Summary of the Law

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Confession

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ
to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven,
and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments
and to live in love and peace with all.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

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.

Gloria in Excelsis

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Collect

Almighty God,
you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you:
pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself,
and so bring us at last to your heavenly city
where we shall see you face to face;
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 Liturgy of the Word

Reading

James 5:13-20

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn – We have a gospel to proclaim

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B2FX0-kS7wA>

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Gospel Reading

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark
Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark 9.38-50

John said to him, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.' But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell., And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

'For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

Today is a special day for Widecombe Church, as Harriet is being baptised and welcomed into our church community. She is a perfect example of a "little one" that Jesus mentions in our gospel reading - a little one who needs all the support of those around her to keep her safe throughout her childhood.

Jesus was well aware that children could be led astray in all sorts of ways, that they can have “stumbling blocks” put in front of them. This clearly was an issue in his day just as it is a major issue today.

And Jesus’ condemnation of someone who takes advantage of a child couldn’t be more graphic – having a millstone tied around their neck and being thrown into the sea!

The image *is* so graphic, to illustrate just how appalling it is that any child should have to suffer at the hands of someone else. Jesus is saying that child safety and wellbeing should have the highest possible priority. And none of us can possibly disagree!

So a major theme in any child’s baptism ceremony is gaining the commitment of everyone present to turn away from sin, reject evil and to support the child by prayer, example and teaching. As it were, supporting her with concentric walls of protection – parents, then godparents, then friends, then the wider community.

Of course none of us are perfect, I know I frequently get things wrong. However, it sometimes happens that I don’t realise I’ve got something wrong, and I need to be told, just as Harriet needs to be taught right from wrong.

So what’s the right thing to do when we do get something wrong, and hurt someone else (either physically or emotionally)?

- Forget all about it, toughen up?
- Do nothing and keep your head down?
- Find someone else to blame?
- Request a millstone and be thrown into the sea?
- Apologise to God?
- Apologise to the person we’ve upset?

Both the last two are the positive answers.

If we can empathise with the person we have upset, then we’re most of the way there. Seeking their forgiveness, making amends, and asking God for forgiveness and a fresh start – these are the ways to a brighter future, where we gradually learn to behave better.

Having a fresh start is like having a shower – washing away the dirt. Hence the symbol of washing Harriet clean with the water of baptism – showing her the way to forgiveness and as many fresh starts as needed.

And through these to experience joy and happiness – living a life free from guilt and shame, and surrounded by love, thanking God for all his goodness.

Amen.

The Nicene Creed

***I / We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.***

***I / We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.***

***For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.***

***I / We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.***

***// We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
// We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
// We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.***

The Peace

We are the body of Christ.
In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace
and builds up our common life.

The peace of the Lord be always with us.

HYMN – He’s got the whole world in his hands

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MWpwCE94L3w>

He’s got the whole world in his hands,
He’s got the whole wide world in his hands,
He’s got the whole world in his hands,
He’s got the whole world in his hands.

He’s got you and me brother in his hands,
He’s got you and me brother in his hands,
He’s got you and me brother in his hands,
He’s got the whole world in his hands.

He’s got you and me sister in his hands,
He’s got you and me sister in his hands,
He’s got you and me sister in his hands,
He’s got the whole world in his hands.

He’s got the little tiny baby in his hands,
He’s got the little tiny baby in his hands,
He’s got the little tiny baby in his hands,
He’s got the whole world in his hands.

He's got the wind and the rain in his hands,
He's got the wind and the rain in his hands,
He's got the wind and the rain in his hands,
He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got the people everywhere in his hands,
He's got the people everywhere in his hands,
He's got the people everywhere in his hands,
He's got the whole world in his hands.

Prayers of Intercession

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.

In joy and hope we pray.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy
of his glorious and life-giving resurrection,
and that he may fill us with his love.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

That God may grant us the strength
to apologise to those we have hurt,
to acknowledge wrong actions and our own failings,
and to seek forgiveness.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

That children whose lives have been damaged by violence or abuse
may be surrounded by love
and regain confidence and trust.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

That the poor, the hungry and the homeless
may find they are not left unsupported.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

That people in all countries and places of oppression
may find fresh strength and support in their struggles
for a place of safety, and for justice and fairness.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

That God may comfort all those suffering from
loneliness, isolation or fear at this uncertain time.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick,
the weak, the dying and those who mourn,
to comfort and strengthen them.

In a moment of silence, let us bring before God
those whom we know to be in particular need at this time

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

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

Hymn - Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUd0VwMvCiU&t=27s>

Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning
give me oil in my lamp, I pray.
Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning
keep me burning 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!*

Give me love in my in my heart, keep me sharing
give me love in my heart, I pray.
Give me love in my heart, keep me sharing,
keep me sharing till the break of day.

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna....

Give me joy in my heart, keep me singing
give me joy in my heart, I pray.
Give me joy in my heart, keep me singing
keep me singing till the break of day

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna....

Give me faith in my heart, keep me praying
give me faith in my heart, I pray.
Give me faith in my heart, keep me praying
Keep me praying till the break of day.
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna....

¶ Ending

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us,
and make us continually to be given to all good works;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

The Blessing

The peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep our hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always.

Amen.