**Ashburton and Moorland Team**

**TRINITY 5**

**17th July 2022**



*¶* The Gathering

In the name of the Father,

and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

***Hymn – Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,***

[*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CFpJ2u3hyNw*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CFpJ2u3hyNw)

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,

the King of creation!

O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy

health and salvation!

All ye who hear,

now to His temple draw near;

joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o’er all

things so wondrously reigneth,

shieldeth thee gently from harm,

and when fainting, sustaineth.

Hast thou not seen

how thy heart’s wishes have been

granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper

thy work and defend thee,

surely his goodness and mercy

shall daily attend thee.

Ponder anew

what the Almighty can do,

if to the end he befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that

is in me adore Him!

All that hath life and breath, come

now with praises before Him!

Let the Amen

Joachim Neander

(1650-1680)

sound from His people again;

gladly for aye we adore Him.

###### 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 oursins,  
confirm and strengthen usin all goodness,  
and keep usin 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 and everlasting God,

by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church

is governed and sanctified:

hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,

that in their vocation and ministry

they may serve you in holiness and truth

to the glory of your name;

through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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**¶ The Liturgy of the Word**

***Readings***

*Genesis 18.1-10a*

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, ‘My lord, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.’ So they said, ‘Do as you have said.’ And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, ‘Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.’ Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, ‘Where is your wife Sarah?’ And he said, ‘There, in the tent.’ Then one said, ‘I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.’

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Colossians 1.15-28*

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him — provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its servant according to God’s commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

***Hymn – Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side***

[*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BdOBuD4gvW0*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BdOBuD4gvW0)

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side;

bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;

leave to thy God to order and provide;

in every change He faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend

through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake

to guide the future as He has the past.

Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;

all now mysterious shall be bright at last.

Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know

His voice, who ruled them while He dwelt below.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on

when we shall be forever with the Lord,

when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,

sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.

Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,

all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Katherina von Schlegel

(b1697)

Gospel Reading

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Luke 10.38-42*

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, ‘Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.’

But the Lord answered her, ‘Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

##### The Sermon

At first glance, the story of Martha and Mary seems a simple case of two opposites – the one who does all the work, and the one who doesn’t!

And it’s echoed in the story of Abraham and Sarah. Abraham was happy to organise a welcome for three strangers, but didn’t actually do the cooking! That was done by Sarah (and a servant) – who did the hard work of getting a feast ready.

Is it the case that we have to decide, like Jesus, which of these is the “better part”? Is it better to be a spiritual person who laps up teaching from a charismatic leader, or someone who does all the work behind the scenes?

One type of person having all the ideas, and the other type actually doing the work.

I wonder if you fit easily into one of these categories?

Are you the person who loves mingling with people that you don’t know, enjoying being taught and inspired, or someone who likes to get on quietly behind the scenes?

The problem with such labelling is that they over-simplify people.

You may have noticed that Abraham ran to the herd to fetch a calf for supper – he wasn’t just “front of house”. He did what he could to help – but I guess he’d never cooked anything!

Did you notice that it was Martha who welcomed Jesus into the house rather than Mary. Martha was the one at the door inviting Jesus in – I wonder where Mary was?

I think the truth is that we behave differently in different settings, and if necessary can do tasks way outside of our comfort zone. Probably we adapt to the needs of the moment – we may not enjoy being the welcomer, but we can do it. We may not enjoy the cooking, but we can do it! Someone who lives on their own has no choice in the matter.

We may not enjoy sitting quietly and listening to someone, but we can do it.

In fact Martha was performing the role of a Deacon. Very early on in the church, St Paul (and I guess others) identified two different type of minister.

Bishops and Priests, called “overseers”, who presided over communion and teaching. And Deacons, “helpers”, who cared for the sick, the widows, the orphans, the imprisoned, and strangers – all the nitty-gritty tasks that simply had to be got on with.

Martha was acting as a Deacon.

I was a Deacon for a year. Everyone who is ordained spends at least one year being a Deacon. And some continue in that role for the rest of their lives – being called “Distinctive Deacons”. A role of service. I enjoyed the simplicity of this role. I had to wear my stole pinned diagonally across my chest to indicate my Deacon status, and it was really enjoyable just mucking in with what needed doing.

It surprised me to learn that in fact it was “Once a Deacon, always a Deacon.” Ordination as Priest did not replace the Deacon role, but added to it. So, for example, if Mary chose to be ordained today, she would have to spend a year being a deacon, serving those around her.

Perhaps there’s always a danger that “overseers” feel that they are above doing the nitty-gritty – hence the Church of England two step process.

We are not told more of Mary’s story, but we get a further insight in Martha’s character.

Martha would have been a Deacon and might have remained one, but with her insight into what was needed to keep practical things running smoothly, I’m sure she would have made a great overseer too.

But she was becoming jealous – “Why do I have to do all the work?” Rather than willingly serving people because she cared for their needs, she saw herself as being on a treadmill and she was feeling hard done by – it wasn’t fair. Someone had to do the work, and it was her!

Jesus could see her resentment building, and gently rebuked her “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing.”

What do you think the “one thing” was?

Jesus doesn’t spell it out, but I guess it was the first commandment – to love God with all your heart – to set self aside and learn to be loved by God. To find a new motivation for living – not resentful, but joyous and grateful.

This is the “better way”, free from resentment.

May all the service we offer be driven by our love for God.

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.  
*I / We* believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
*I / We* acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
*I / 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 – Just as I am***

[*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C8G0fAL8kDI*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C8G0fAL8kDI)

Just as I am, without one plea,

but that thy blood was shed for me,

and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,

O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about

with many a conflict, many a doubt;

fightings within, and fears without,

O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;

sight, riches, healing of the mind,

yea, all I need, in thee to find,

O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive;

wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve,

because thy promise I believe,

O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, thy love unknown

has broken every barrier down;

now to be thine, yea, thine alone,

O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, of that free love

the breadth, length, depth, and height to prove,

Charlotte Elliott

(1789-1871)

here for a season, then above:

O Lamb of God, I come.

***Prayers of Intercession***

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

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

Lord God, as we thank you for your love,  
we bring before you the needs of others and of ourselves.

Help us now to bring to mind all the concerns on our hearts  
and to lay them before you,

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Lord, in days of uncertainty, make us quiet and prayerful;

in days of challenge, make us stronger in you;

in days of emptiness, take possession of us;

in days of waiting, open our hearts to the mystery of your cross.

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

Lord God, we pray for the leaders of nations   
in their role in guiding their countries  
towards justice and peace,   
and good relationships with their neighbours.

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ,

you taught us to love our neighbour,

and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you.

In times of anxiety, give us strength

to comfort the fearful, the lonely,

and all those who are struggling at the moment.

In their loneliness, be their consolation;

in their anxiety, be their hope;

in their darkness, be their light.

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious God,

give skill, sympathy, strength and resilience

to all who are caring for the sick.

We pray for doctors and nurses, ambulance staff,

and all those who are working in hospitals and care homes. Strengthen them with your Spirit,

that through their work many will be restored to health.

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

God of compassion,

be close to those who are ill,

those who are facing operations,

those who are convalescing,

and to those for whom there is no cure.

In a moment of silence,

let us bring before you those we know

who are in special need at this time.…..

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father  
We thank you for the lives of those we love but see no longer,  
who now rest in your heavenly kingdom.  
We pray for those mourning the loss of loved ones  
that you may bring them comfort and peace.

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.**

Silence is kept.

**Hymn – Christ is made the sure foundation**

[*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIf62E1Eru0*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIf62E1Eru0)

Christ is made the sure foundation,

Christ, our head and cornerstone,

chosen of the Lord and precious,

binding all the Church in one;

holy Zion’s help forever

and her confidence alone.

To this temple, where we gather,

come, O Lord of hosts, today;

with thy wonted loving-kindness,

hear thy servants as they pray;

and thy fullest benediction

shed within its walls alway.

Hear vouchsafe to all your servants,

what they ask of thee to gain;

what they gain from thee forever

with the blessed to retain;

and hereafter in thy glory

evermore with thee to reign.

Praise and honour to the Father,

praise and honour to the Son,

praise and honour to the Spirit,

ever Three and ever One:

consubstantial, co-eternal

John Mason Neale

(1818-1866)

while unending ages run!

**¶ Ending**

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you,

that the course of this world

may be so peaceably ordered by your governance,

that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness;

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.**

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