

Ashburton and Moorland Team

TRINITY 15

25th September 2022



¶ The Gathering

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

Hymn – Immortal, invisible

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLEajS1omRU>

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the ancient of days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish-but naught changeth Thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

Walter Chalmers Smith
(1824-1908)

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

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church
in the burning fire of your love:
grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel
that, always abiding in you,
they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service;
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

Readings

A reading from the book of Amos 6.1a,4-7

Alas for those who are at ease in Zion,
and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria,
the notables of the first of the nations,
to whom the house of Israel resorts!
Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory,
and lounge on their couches,
and eat lambs from the flock,
and calves from the stall;
who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp,
and like David improvise on instruments of music;
who drink wine from bowls,
and anoint themselves with the finest oils,
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!
Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile,
and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A reading from the first letter of Timothy 6.6-19

Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honour and eternal dominion. Amen.

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn – Breathe on me breath of God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TssHTATafi0>

Breathe on me, Breath of God
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure;
until with thee I will one will,
to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am wholly thine;
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God:
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.

Eric Hatch
(1835-1889)

Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 16.19-31

Jesus said to his disciples ‘There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores.

The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, “Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.”

But Abraham said, “Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.”

He said, “Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house—for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.” Abraham replied, “They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.” He said, “No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.” He said to him, “If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.” ’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

In our reading today, St. Paul was giving instruction to a young leader, Timothy, saying: **‘Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness’**. Here there is real treasure and inspiration not just for a leader, but for every follower of Jesus.

Paul’s first word here is: **PURSUE**. If the Police **‘pursue’** someone, it usually means they are doing it with blue lights flashing, if they are in a car, or running fast on foot.

If you pursue a child, you are usually chasing them, to catch them up urgently. So, there is a sense here that we are talking about vital things, urgent business, even a sense that it’s a life-or-death matter.

Paul gives us 6 things that we can all chase after in life.

1) The 1st word is **RIGHTEOUSNESS** (perhaps the hardest of these words). It is tied up with things like integrity, purity, goodness. Life can take us in many directions, about how we treat others, what we do with our time our attitudes and so on. In terms of right relationships and right dealings it can be seen or not seen in churches or nations. Being able to choose the right and the nest, needs a heart shaped by God and his purposes. It does not come to us automatically, like getting older.

Righteousness (like all the 6) is ultimately a gift of God. Christ came to make us right with God, something we cannot do for ourselves. In But, by his power at work in us, all of us can be part of God’s purposes in showing what is right to others, and to the world. This is Timothy’s first task to pursue.

2) 2nd word is **GODLINESS**, or to: BE LIKE GOD. The Christian faith is a journey with God and into God. All we discover in God, like he is loving, merciful, just, patient, that we are grateful for that he is for us, we are called by him to show to others.

Even though we fall short of this, because of the immensity of all he is for us, we can begin again. We learn and grow.

Remember **WWJD** – What Would Jesus Do?

3) 3rd word is **FAITH** or we could say **TRUST**

A young child trusts her parents that they are caring for her needs. In that trust we see the kind of trust that all Christians are invited to grow into for a God who loves them and cares for them.

As Christians, there will be many things we don't yet understand, yet the Christian life is at its heart a journey of faith and trust.

4) **LOVE**. Love is the very nature of God. It is the greatest gift in life. The love revealed in Jesus went to the cross and was stronger than death, as his resurrection reveals. Our deepest identity as a Christian is about being deeply loved by him. Life is not long enough to take in even a fraction of that.

5) **STEADFASTNESS**: This could be translated endurance, consistency, keeping going.

I do quite a bit of work in schools and a word that schools are coming back to, which is close to this, is resilience. Being able to keep going, even when times are tough is an important side of growing up well and being a Christian well.

All Christians have challenges to face in life. Life is like that for us all. We are called to pray and work to be strengthened to triumph through these times.

6) **GENTLENESS**: A gentleness that comes from knowing the tender love of God, that can show this to others and at times be gentle to yourself is a most precious gift. It doesn't make headlines, yet the kind of gift that truly makes life worth living.

The world around us may **PURSUE** very different things, many of which prove to be here today and gone tomorrow. God offer us the gifts of his kingdom to live in, in all the everyday tasks and situations we find ourselves.

These 6 are precious gifts, jewels of heaven, to grow in and treasure, all our lives.

May God give us grace to long for and receive these precious heavenly gifts, more and more. 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.***

**// 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 – The head that once was crowned with thorns

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aw2U_sf02II

The head that once was crowned with thorns
is crowned with glory now;
a royal diadem adorns
the mighty Victor's brow.

The highest place that heaven affords
is his, is his by right,
the King of kings, and Lord of lords,
and heaven's eternal Light;

The joy all of all who dwell above,
the joy of all below,
to whom he manifests his love
and grants his Name to know.

To them the cross with all its shame,
with all its grace is given;
their name, an everlasting name;
their joy, the joy of heaven.

They suffer with their Lord below,
they reign with him above,
their profit and their joy to know
the mystery of his love.

The cross he bore is life and health,
though shame and death to him:
his people's hope, his people's wealth,
their everlasting theme.

Thomas Kelly
(1769-1855)

Prayers of Intercession

'Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness'.

We pray for right dealings in all human affairs, remembering especially the situation in Ukraine and in all situations of injustice. We pray for all who risk their lives for what is right and true. We pray for courage in the times when we need to stand up for what is right.

We thank God for all whose godly example has inspired us in faith and life. May our dealings with people always be Christ-like, whether at home, at work or in the wider community and world.

We pray especially for our new King, Charles III and also our new Prime Minister and Government. May they be inspired by all godly virtues in all they do.

We pray that we may be strengthened in faith each day. Help us to trust you Lord in every situation and help us when our fears threaten to overwhelm us. We pray that the witness of your church throughout the world may inspire faith in many people, young and old.

We pray for all situations in the world where your love seems absent. We pray for relationships under strain. We pray for the healing of old hatreds in people and nations. Lord, encourage us in all we do with the knowledge of your great love for us shown in your life, death and resurrection.

We pray for all who are weary and find it hard to carry on. Lord, keep us steadfast in life and faith in all our hardships, that we may always witness to your grace and be an encouragement to others.

Lord, we thank you for every taste of your gentleness that we receive. Help us to treasure and share special moments of gentleness, that can make life worth living. Help us to respond with gentleness and grace in all circumstances, even when it is hard.

Loving God, keep us pursuing the ways of your kingdom in all we are and do, until that day when we shall meet you face to face, through the work of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

At the end of the prayers

**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 – Crown him with many crowns

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7OCs0d_4vM

Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne,
while heaven's eternal anthem drowns
all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died to be
your saviour and your matchless king
through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of life
triumphant from the grave,
who rose victorious from the strife
for those he came to save:
his glories now we sing
who died and reigns on high;
he died eternal life to bring
and lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of peace
his kingdom is at hand;
from pole to pole let warfare cease
and Christ rule every land!
A city stands on high,
his glory it displays,
and there the nations 'Holy' cry
in joyful hymns of praise.

Crown him the Lord of years,
the potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres
in majesty sublime:
all hail, Redeemer, hail,
for you have died for me;
your praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity!

Matthew Bridges
(1800-1894)

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.

