

Camel-Allen Churches

Sunday Morning Worship at Home

16 August 2020



Welcome to this morning's Home worship. Although we are alone at home, we stand before the throne of God with countless crowds from every nation and race, tribe and language.

Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honour, power and might be to our God for ever and ever. Amen.

Loving God, we have come to worship you.

Help us to pray to you in faith, to sing your praise with gratitude, and to listen to your word with eagerness; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost,
Taught by Thee we covet most
Of Thy gifts of Pentecost
Holy, heavenly Love.

Faith, that mountains could remove,
Tongues of earth or heaven above,
Knowledge—all things—empty prove,
Without heavenly Love.

Though I as a martyr bleed,
Give my goods the poor to feed,
All is vain—if Love I need;
Therefore, give us Love.

Love is kind, and suffers long
Love is meek, and thinks no wrong,
Love than death itself more strong;
Therefore, give us Love.

Prophecy will fade away,
Melting in the light of day,
Love will ever with us stay;
Therefore, give us Love.

Faith will vanish into sight;
Hope be emptied in delight;

Love in heaven will shine more bright;
Therefore, give us Love.

Faith and Hope and Love we see
Joining hand in hand agree;
But the greatest of the three,
And the best, is Love.

We Seek Forgiveness

We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden to
ask for his forgiveness and peace.

We have not always worshipped God, our creator.

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

We have not always followed Christ, our Saviour.

Christ, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

We have not always Trusted in the Spirit, our guide.

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy.

May the God of love bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins,
and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Word of God

The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 12

Hymn

May the mind of Christ, my Saviour,
Live in me from day to day,
By His love and power controlling
All I do and say.

May the Word of God dwell richly
In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph
Only through His power.

May the peace of God my Father
Rule my life in everything,
That I may be calm to comfort
Sick and sorrowing.

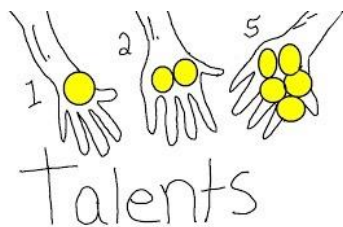
May the love of Jesus fill me
As the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self abasing,
This is victory.

May I run the race before me,
Strong and brave to face the foe,
Looking only unto Jesus
As I onward go.

May His beauty rest upon me,
As I seek the lost to win,
And may they forget the channel,
Seeing only Him..

Matthew 25: 14-30

14 “For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; **15** to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. **16** The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. **17** In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. **18** But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.



19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. **20** Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ **21** His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ **22** And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ **23** His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ **24** Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; **25** so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ **26** But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? **27** Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. **28** So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. **29** For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. **30** As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Reflection

Last week we thought about the Church as the body of Christ. This week we reflect on the spiritual gifts and ministries of the individual members of the church. *“You are the body of Christ and individual members of it. “..to each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good”. “There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit”, says Paul.*



Jesus told his disciples that, *“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth”*. The Spirit, then, not only provides us with spiritual gifts but also guides us how to use them: for the common good.

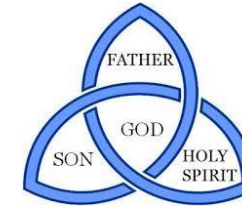
We are all of us capable of doing something for the common good, for the benefit of others; and we are stewards of the gifts the Spirit has entrusted to us for this purpose. **1 Peter 4: 10** tells us that, as good stewards *“of the manifold grace of God”* we

should *“serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received”*.

Our Gospel reading is the parable of the talents. A talent was a sum of money ~ but this parable has led to the English usage of a talent as an ability, one of the spiritual gifts from God of which we are speaking.

The three slaves were each entrusted with differing sums according to their respective abilities: no one is expected to do more than he or she is capable of doing. What matters is how we use the gifts we have been given: the first slave made a profit of five talents, the second only two, but the master treated both exactly the same, each had used his gift profitably, commensurately with the size of his particular gift. Both were told *“Well done, good and faithful servant: enter into the joy of your master”*.

But the third slave hid his talent away, buried it. “Use it or lose it”, we sometimes hear: this is what happened to the third slave. So, *“Do not neglect the gift that is in you” (1 Tim 14)*. *“..Rekindle the gift of God that is within you.....for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self discipline” (2 Tim 1: 6)*. Let us each recognise and use to the full the gifts which have been entrusted to us. If you have a gift which can be used for the common good in whatever way, however big or small, put yourself forward and make sure your gift is fully used, *“for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice”*.



Affirmation of Faith

Perhaps your gifts are meant to be used in the wider community rather than in church. That's fine. We all have to eat, so we need skilled farmers and fishermen. As we now appreciate only too well, we have great need of doctors, nurses and other caring professionals. But just as important as these life skills, which are spiritual gifts, may be the simple ability to remain cheerful and uplifting to a troubled neighbour or friend. We don't always recognise spiritual gifts such as these for what they really are.

So, let us recognise the God given gifts in others: but let us, above all, recognise them in ourselves. Let us not neglect them: but put them to the use God intended for them for the common good: to build up the body of Christ in the church, yes, but out there in the world as well. If we use our gifts ~ whatever they may be ~ in accordance with the second great commandment of Jesus, to love our neighbour as ourselves ~ we will yield the profit which we were intended to make on what was specifically entrusted to us by the Holy Spirit, and be welcomed at the last with the words "*Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your master*".



Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the church.

This is our faith, we believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers

Let us pray:

Lord, we give thanks for the spiritual gifts which you have graciously given to each one of us and we pray that you will guide us to use them for the common good of others in the service of your church and our communities.

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

God of vision and purpose, give us the goal of meeting our potential, in a world where you have shown that nothing is impossible with you. Put us to work for your greater glory: and help us to appreciate the joys of excellence in those who have practised and sharpened their skills, spiritually and physically, to your glory.

Lord in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

We pray for your church; that she may ever be guided by your Spirit, looking to Jesus as her source and her goal; and help us, who are members of the body of Christ, to use the spiritual gifts which you have entrusted to us always to work for the coming of your kingdom on earth, as it is in heaven.

Lord in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

Grant your wisdom, we pray, to the leaders of the nations, that they may understand the unique needs of our time; and use the spiritual gifts which you have given to them to strive together for the means to overcome the threat posed to our lives and ways of life by the coronavirus.

Lord in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

Lord of peace and reconciliation, we pray that war everywhere may be stopped in its tracks, by honouring diversity and the rights of others to be different to ourselves. May peace and the celebration of our diversity become the natural order and the enforced imposition of the will of one person or group over another become a thing of the past.

Lord in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

Healing, loving Lord, be with those who are suffering through sickness, distress or depression. Calm and comfort them and give the peace only you can provide. In a moment of quiet we each hold before you those known to us who are in need of your healing presence and pray that you will hold and soothe them as only you can do.

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for the dying, for those who have already passed and for all those who mourn. Be with them and us, Lord, in the dark times, but let us also acknowledge your love in the good times. And, finally, Lord, may it be as good to arrive as to travel, as we do, in hope. We ask this in the assurance of salvation through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

And so,

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

Amen.

Lord of heaven and earth, as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer, give us patience and courage never to lose hope, but always to bring our prayers before you, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
And the glory are yours
Now and for ever.
Amen.**

Hymn

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,
Blend all my soul with 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.



Closing

Let us pray

**In darkness and in light, in trouble and in joy, help us,
heavenly Father, to trust your love, to serve your purpose,
and to praise your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen

The love of the Lord Jesus draw us to himself;
The power of the Lord Jesus strengthen us in his service;
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill our hearts.

And the blessing of God Almighty,
Father Son and Holy Spirit be with us all,
this day and evermore.

Amen.

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