



Camel-Allen Churches
Sunday Prayer at Home

Sunday 13th September 2020

Welcome to our worship

WE PREPARE

Together we come to worship;
individuals gathered as one in the name of the Lord. Amen.

O Lord our God,
we sometimes tremble as we think of who we are and who you are.
Bring us now, in this moment, to know you.
See us as we are, and see our yearning to be more like you.
May we lay aside anything that hinders our journey with you,
and with our friends and neighbours. Amen.

Song

THINE BE THE GLORY, RISEN, CONQUERING SON,
endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where Thy body lay.
*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly He greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the Church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.

Thine be the glory . . .

No more we doubt Thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is nought without Thee: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors, through Thy deathless love:
bring us safe through Jordan to Thy home above.

Thine be the glory . . .

Words by Edmond Budry /Words tr. by R Birch Hoyle

We say sorry....

In the higgledy-piggledy ways of life, Lord,
with challenges and changes pulling us this way and that,
we sometimes find it hard, in the heat of the moment,
to know what is right and what is wrong.
Forgive us for our failings and wrongdoings.
Forgive our insensitivities to the ways of others.
Forgive anything that cuts us off from each other or from you.
Amen.

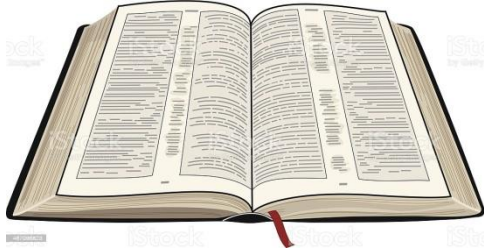
... and receive God's loving forgiveness.

May we see the grace of God for us.
We are loved as we are, not as we believe we should be.
We are given forgiveness as a gift,
beyond anything we have deserved or earned.
Let us lift up our hearts and receive our freedom. Amen.

... we give thanks

We thank you, God
for the life which is offered to us in your word.
We thank you for its layers of meaning and truth
which we can see in fresh ways as the years pass,
or as different experiences turn the pages of life for us
and bring new gifts of understanding.
We thank you also for the word which comes to us today. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD



First Reading

Romans 13; 8-14

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light. ¹³Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarrelling and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 18; 15 - 20

Jesus said,

¹⁵"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church.

And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

Thanks be to God for these words of life. **Amen.**

Reflection

'Christian' means, a believer in Christ, a follower of Christ, even, 'little Christ'. I like that, 'Little Christ', as in seeking, learning day-by-day to be more like Jesus. Put him on and not just 'talk the talk but walk the walk'.

Writing initially to the Christians in Rome, with guidance on behaviour, in verse 13 St Paul gives examples of activities that they [and the good people of the Camel-Allen Churches] wouldn't want to be seen engaged in during the day, therefore, he urges, don't behave like this at all. Being watched by the puzzled eyes of local unbelievers they / we are to make Jesus known by their / our behaviour; by being different; living attractive lives; advertising Christ's way; doing as our name implies.

Life seems filled with catch phrases; while some used by Politicians are not always helpful; others such as these might be when considering a Christian attitude...

- * 'Be the change you want to see in the world',
[attributed to Ghandi]
- * 'It always seems impossible until it's done', [Nelson
Mandela]
- * 'Great things are done by a series of small things
brought together'. [Vincent Van-Gough]

Christian Love saves; it is deeply powerful and transformative. Paul says: 'Owe no one anything, except to love each other'.

I suspect, he has in mind how Jesus 'condensed' the Ten Commandments into two [well perhaps, three]. To 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind' and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself'.

Love is the root of Jesus' word, work, life; he calls 'Little Christians' to live likewise, working out those three basic loves.

Love God - making everything we do and say in his name, for his glory.

Love our neighbour - Jesus is always clear; remembering that everyone is our neighbour, he calls us to **SHOW** love, **DO** love, **BE** love.

And thirdly? To love ourselves, the part often neglected. We cannot give what we do not have. Our ability to love others depends on us loving ourselves - God loves us each way more than we could ever imagine, so much that he took all the negative and

damaging stuff we do and nailed it to a tree in his own Son; that we might freely live; owing nothing....

...but, to love as he first loved us. Keeping to Jesus' example with genuine love for ourselves; we will be enabled to share with all around. It is the least we can do; it's the most we can do. As 'Little Christians', may our neighbours, whether we know them or not, come to know Jesus by the walk we walk.

Song

LET THERE BE LOVE SHARED AMONG US,

let there be love in our eyes;
may now Your love sweep this nation,
cause us, O Lord, to arise:
give us a fresh understanding
of brotherly love that is real;
let there be love shared among us,
let there be love.

Words and music by Dave Bilbrough



We affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God

Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.

Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.

Therefore, God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God, the Father. Amen.

WE PRAY TOGETHER

Prayers of intercession

Jesus commanded us to love one another.

We thank you for the love of family, for the joys and responsibilities of children and the fellowship of our community. We pray for those who have no homes, whose children know no love or place of safety, who live in fear of persecution because of their race or creed.

Jesus commanded us to love one another.

As we return slowly to normal life, let us not allow the love and generous spirit which united us during the worst days to die back, but let us carry it forward to involve ever more people until all the world is bound in one embrace of love.

Jesus commanded us to love one another.

We pray that we may always treat our neighbours as we would wish to be treated, to repair any hurt we have done to anyone and be ever vigilant that we do not offend through our own pride or selfishness, that they may forgive us our faults in their turn.

Jesus commanded us to love one another.

Grant that the leaders of the nations act with the love of humanity in their hearts, and temper national pride and interests with a desire for harmony.

And Lord, we pray for all who are sick in body, mind or soul; we pray for those who have died and those who mourn, seeking your loving hand upon each

We make our prayers in the name of the One who taught...

... Our Father in heaven...

And draw together all our prayers

Lord, awaken us to your glory.

Open our eyes to your presence.

Open our ears to your call.

Open our hearts to your love,

that we may proclaim that you are among us,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Song

SOLDIERS OF CHRIST, ARISE,
and put your armour on,
strong in the strength which God supplies
through His eternal Son.
Strong in the Lord of hosts,
and in His mighty power;
who in the strength of Jesus trusts
is more than conqueror.

Stand then in His great might,
with all His strength endued;
and take, to arm you for the fight,
the panoply of God:

to keep your armour bright,
attend with constant care,
still walking in your Captain's sight
and watching unto prayer.

From strength to strength go on,
wrestle and fight and pray;
tread all the powers of darkness down
and win the well-fought day.
That, having all things done,
and all your conflicts past,
ye may o'ercome through Christ alone,
and stand entire at last.

Words by Charles Wesley

OUR SERVICE DRAWS TO A CLOSE

Being Christian, O God, is not just about 'me and you',
not just about our conversations and our love.
Help us to see those we meet beyond these doors
in the way that you see them.
Help us to offer support from what we know of you.
Send us out from here to be a shining light for you,
a guiding light for those in confusion, aloneness and darkness.

And, may our eyes see the signs and wonder of God,
our ears hear the sounds of the Spirit calling us on
and our feet be placed in the footprints of Christ. Amen.

*Service material drawn from:
RootsontheWeb.com
Liturgies for Daily Life, by Dorothy McRae McMahon
Clouds and Glory, by David Adam
Prayers of intercession by Liz Miskin
Hymns taken from Mission Praise CCL#999402
Service and reflection drawn together by Claire Salzmann*