

Camel-Allen Churches

Worship at Home

Sunday 6 September 2020

Welcome to this service; continuing our theme
'As the Church, the people of God,
how should we live?'



WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP

There is a pathway of passion, of costly life,
which leads us towards the Christ
who always walks before us.

Call us on, Jesus Christ.

There is a company of the faithful
who have gone ahead,
singing with life in the Spirit.

Call us on, Jesus Christ.

God, the great Creator,
cups hands of love around us as we go.

Call us on, Jesus Christ.

There are times, loving God, when we know that
to acknowledge your presence among us
is to invite your challenge into our lives.

But we still do that in faith,
with our vulnerable lives only too clearly before you.

Come to us this day, Spirit of God, Spirit of Christ. **Amen**

HYMN PRAISE, MY SOUL, THE KING OF HEAVEN;

to His feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me His praise should sing?

Praise Him! Praise Him!

Praise Him! Praise Him!

Praise the everlasting King.

2 Praise Him for His grace and favour
to our fathers, in distress;
praise Him still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.

Praise Him! Praise Him!

Praise Him! Praise Him!

Glorious in His faithfulness.

3 Father-like He tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame He knows;
in His hands He gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.

Praise Him! Praise Him!

Praise Him! Praise Him!

Widely as His mercy flows.

4 Angels, help us to adore Him;
ye behold Him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before Him;
dwellers all in time and space.

Praise Him! Praise Him!

Praise Him! Praise Him!

Praise with us the God of grace.

Words by Henry Francis Lyte

We say, 'Sorry'...

God, who does not turn away from the truth about our life,
even unto death,
we confess that we have far less courage.

We often pretend to ourselves, we often pretend to others,
and sometimes we even try to pretend in your presence.
Lord, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy.

If we are afraid to see who we have become,
if we are too grieved about our lives to ask for forgiveness
or if we are too proud to ask others for forgiveness.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

When our lives celebrate comfort and complacency
instead of the journey of faith,
when we close off the reality of the lives of others
because it demands a response we will not give.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy,

**Stand before us in the truth of your costly grace,
Lord Jesus.
Speak into our hearts in new ways,
the ways of your faithfulness to us, O God. Amen**

... and receive the Assurance of God's Pardon

May the God of love and power
forgive *you* and free *you* from *your* sins,
heal and strengthen *you* by his Spirit
and raise *you* to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen**

We give thanks...

Let us give thanks to the God of our Lord Jesus Christ,

**who has blessed us in Christ
with every spiritual blessing.**

Before the world was made, God chose us in Christ,
that we might be holy and blameless before him.

Let us praise God for the glory of his grace,
for the free gift he gave us in his dear Son.

To Father, Son and Holy Spirit
**give praise and dominion, honour and might,
for ever and ever. Amen**

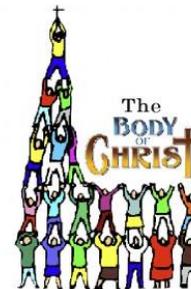
A collect for today...

Almighty God, you search us and know us:
may we rely on you in strength and rest on you in weakness,
now and in all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading

Romans 12.9-21



⁹⁻¹⁰ Love from the centre of who you are; don't fake it.
Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle.

¹¹⁻¹³ Don't burn out; keep yourselves fuelled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality.

¹⁴⁻¹⁶ Bless your enemies; no cursing under your breath. Laugh with your happy friends when they're happy; share tears when they're down. Get along with each other; don't be stuck-up. Make friends with nobodies; don't be the great somebody.

¹⁷⁻¹⁹ Don't hit back; discover beauty in everyone. If you've got it in you, get along with everybody. Don't insist on getting even; that's not for you to do. "I'll do the judging," says God. "I'll take care of it."

²⁰⁻²¹ Our Scriptures tell us that if you see your enemy hungry, go buy that person lunch, or if he's thirsty, get him a drink. Your generosity will surprise him with goodness. Don't let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing good. *(From The Message)*

Gospel Reading

Matthew 21-28

²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life

for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom." *(NRSV)*

HYMN

'TAKE UP THY CROSS!' THE SAVIOUR SAID,
'if you wouldst my disciple be;
deny thyself, the world forsake
and humbly follow after me.'

Take up thy cross – let not its weight
fill thy weak spirit with alarm:
His strength shall bear thy spirit up,
and brace thy heart, and nerve thine arm.

Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame,
nor let thy foolish pride rebel:
your Lord for Thee the cross endured
to save thy soul from death and hell.

Take up thy cross, then, in His strength,
and calmly every danger brave;
'twill guide thee to a better home,
and lead to victory o'er the grave.

Take up thy cross, and follow Christ,
nor think 'til death to lay it down;
for only those who bear the cross
may hope to wear the glorious crown.



To thee, great Lord, the One-in-three,
all praise for evermore ascend:
O grant us in our home to see
the heav'nly life that knows no end.

Reflection

Last week we were challenged to, 'be transformed by the renewal of your mind', in other words to learn to think God's way. Here in today's Gospel reading we have another example of the transformation that Jesus introduces in Mt 16.24

Thinking God's way involves a complete turnaround in our thinking: a transformation indeed. From looking out for no 1, seeking our own comfort and well-being, going our own way, to being prepared to deny ourselves and take-up our cross and follow him.

It's a tall order but don't be despondent, remember we are a work in progress, we can each of us say, "Please be patient, God's not finished with me yet!" A large part of this transformation is the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, but it requires our co-operation; our willingness to change and be changed; our willingness to put ourselves in a place where God can get at us by spending time with him in worship, prayer and Bible reading.

Turning to our passage from Romans we find lots of practical suggestions for the things we can do to co-operate with God in this: advice that has the subtitle: **Marks of the True Christian**

Have a look at the passage again, in the version here and in your own Bible and consider what answers you would give to the questions below...

How should we live? eg verses 9 and 21

Don't let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing good.

How do we cope in hard times? eg Verses 11-13

How should we treat one another? eg. Verses 10; 13; 15-18

How should we treat our 'enemies'?

(Who is my enemy? Maybe we could interpret this as anyone whom we find it difficult to get along with?) eg verses 17-21

When we are faced with these people, we should consider how we can extend grace to them (grace is God's undeserved favour) how can we treat our 'enemies' with grace; always seeking to bless those around us, even those who don't deserve it?

So how should we then live?

With love; humility; care; hospitality; empathy; grace and prayerfulness. Rejoicing, hopeful; patient; persevering; forgiving and peace-loving.

Putting these attitudes into practice with the back-up of the Holy Spirit will transform our lives to God's glory.

We make our response...

Let us 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.**

cf Philippians 2.6-11

WE PRAY TOGETHER

Prayers of intercession

Lord we pray for unity and peace in your church. Increase our fellowship with one another and our openness to others. Give us the courage to proclaim the saving power of the cross. May your church help to bring reconciliation and peace in your world.

Lord of glory,
grant us your peace.

We pray for peace in our hearts, for peace in our communities, for peace in your world, that as much as possible we may live at peace with all people. We pray for peace-keeping forces, for the United Nations, We pray for the police and probation services. We give thanks for all peacemakers. We pray for all who offer your peace to this world.

Lord of glory,
grant us your peace.

May our homes be places of peace and love, of holiness and hospitality, of harmony and of unity. May we learn acceptance and

forgiveness. Let us not be overcome by evil, but may we overcome evil with good.

Lord of glory,
grant us your peace.

We pray for all who are not at peace, for people of broken homes and broken relationships. We pray for the broken-hearted and the broken in spirit, for places where there is a breakdown of peace or well-being, for all who are being destroyed by hatred or revenge, remembering all who have suffered from the violence of others.

Lord of glory,
grant us your peace.

Lord may our lives reflect your peace and love and joy this week and always.

**Lord of glory, grant to us, and those whom we love your peace.
Amen**



HYMN

**MY SONG IS LOVE UNKNOWN;
my Saviour's love to me;
love to the loveless shown,
that they might lovely be.
O who am I, that for my sake,
my Lord should take frail flesh, and die?**

2 He came from His blest throne,
salvation to bestow;
but sin made blind, anone
the longed-for Christ would know.
But O my friend, my friend indeed,
who at my need His life did spend.

3 Sometimes they strew His way,
and His sweet praises sing;
resounding all the day,
hosannas to their King.
Then: 'Crucify!' is all their breath,
and for His death they thirst and cry.

4 Why, what hath my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run,
He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! yet they at these
themselves displease, and 'gainst him rise.

5 They rise and needs will have
my dear Lord made away:
a murderer they save,
the Prince of life they slay.
Yet cheerful He to suff'ring goes,
that He His foes from thence might free.

6 Here might I stay and sing,
no story so divine;
never was love, dear King,

never was grief like Thine.
This is my friend,
in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.

WE RECEIVE GOD'S COMMISSION & BLESSING

May we go forth as those who have chosen
to follow the way of the cross
with Jesus at our head. **Amen**

May the road stretch straight and clear before us,
the bread of life be in our hands
and the Spirit provide us resting places on the way. **Amen**

And may the blessing of God almighty,
The Father,
the Son,
and the Holy Spirit,
be upon us and remain with each one of us,
now and always, **Amen**



*This service draws on material from
Liturgies for Daily Life, Dorothy McRae-McMahon 2004
& New Patterns for Worship. Church House Publishing*

*Service compiled by Claire Salzmann. Reflection by Angela.
Prayers of Intercession from Radiance of his Glory by David Adam*