

The Camel-Allen Churches

Celtic-style Morning Prayer at home



Sunday 25th October 2020 – Last after Trinity

Opening Acclamation & prayer

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

(Genesis 1.1-2)

Be thou my vision, O Lord.

**Be thou my soul's shelter,
O Lord of my heart**

Eternal God, who knows neither morning nor evening,
yet wraps us in love both night and day,
Lift the curtain from the world and the veil from our hearts.
Rise with the morning sun upon our souls
and enliven our work and prayer.

May we walk this day in the steps of your Son
who lived on earth and who always worked in harmony with your will.

And God said, 'Let there be light' (Gen 1.3)

A candle may be lit

Hymn: *(we say or sing)*

Be still for the presence of the Lord
The holy one is here
Come bow before him now
With reverence and fear
In him no sin is found
We stand on holy ground
Be still for the presence of the Lord
The holy one is here

Be still for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around
He burns with holy fire
With splendour he is crowned
How awesome is the sight
Our radiant king of light
Be still for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around

Be still for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place
He comes to cleanse and heal
To minister his grace
No work too hard for him
In faith receive from him
Be still for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place

We make our confession

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. (Gen1.27, 31)

Secure in the knowledge that God, who created us, loves us dearly, let us now confess before him those sins of which we are ashamed, and which fill our lives with darkness and despair...

Silence may be kept

**High King of Heaven, Father of all,
in our pride and our weakness we have failed you
and we are truly sorry.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Saviour,
who died for us, forgive us our sins
and bind us to you with cords of compassion
that we may once again walk in the light of your love.**

and receive God's forgiveness...

May the High King of Heaven, with Jesus his Son,
have mercy upon you.

May all that dismays you and fills you with fear
be cleansed and forgiven,
and in the power of the Spirit
may you never be separated from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

O Lord, open our lips,
And our mouths shall sing your praise.

Let us worship the Lord

All praise to his name.

**Eternal light shine in our hearts
Eternal goodness deliver us from evil
Eternal power be our support
Eternal wisdom scatter the darkness of our ignorance.**

**Eternal pity have mercy on us
That with our all our heart and mind
And soul and strength we may seek your face
And be brought by your infinite mercy
To your holy presence**

Alcuin of York

The alternative Collect for the last Sunday after Trinity

Merciful God,
teach us to be faithful in change and
uncertainty,
that trusting in your word
and obeying your will
we may enter the unfailing joy
of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**



Readings

Isaiah 45.1-7

^{45.1}Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—

and the gates shall not be closed:
² I will go before you
and level the mountains,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron,
³ I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the Lord,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name,
I surname you, though you do not know me.
⁵ I am the Lord, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the Lord, and there is no other.
⁷ I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things.



1 Thess 1.1-10

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of people we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place where your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Hymn

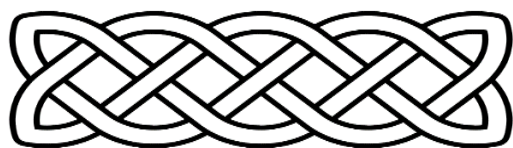
O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him the Lord is his name.

Low at his feet lay your burden of carefulness,
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,
comfort your sorrows and answer your prayerfulness,
guiding your steps as may best for thee be.

Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth thou would reckon as thine;
truth in its beauty and love in its tenderness
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.

These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,
he will accept for the name that is dear;
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him the Lord is his name.



Gospel Reading

Mt 22.15-22

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?' ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' ²¹ They answered, 'The emperor's.' Then he said to them, 'Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.' ²² When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Reflection

Identity is important; names are important. We use them to identify who we are and who we belong with – we may get upset when someone gets our name wrong.

I'm not very good at names - a handicap in my job where I am meeting people in different spheres all the time. At my previous church there was a chap, who ran a shop in the village so met lots of people and knew everyone by name: he only had to hear name once to remember it, visitors and residents alike, and so he became a source of knowledge, a living encyclopaedia of the community - how I would love to have that gift! I'm always impressed with teachers who know the secret of relating to the children and indeed of being able to command the attention of a large class or assembly is to know everyone by name.

I call you by your name - says God in our OT reading from Isaiah: *'It is I the Lord, the God of Israel who calls you by your name.'*

Surprising words: not in themselves perhaps, the Hebrew Scriptures are full of instances where God calls his people by name and gives them a role, a special purpose to fulfil, but surprising in this case because of who they are addressed to. This is not one of the people of Israel that the God of Israel is addressing but Cyrus King of king of Persia, who defeated the Median empire in 550bc and went on to conquer Asia Minor, Babylonia, Syria, Palestine, and most of the Iranian plateau. In other words this was the sworn enemy of God's people and here is God, calling him by name. God knows Cyrus and directs what he is going to do. God uses this godless king to bring about his will. God calls Cyrus by name and Gods purposes are fulfilled through him: *'so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other.'*

God is able to do that! He is that powerful. His knowledge, influence and command extends over the believer and the unbeliever alike.

Our reading from 1 Thessalonians reminds us that we too are known individually to God. He knows us and loves us - we are called 'beloved by God': *for we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you,*

Chosen and called to know him and be known by him. What an amazing privilege: to be known, called and beloved by God!

Of course, God's knowledge of us goes far beyond merely knowing our name. He knows the true identity behind the name. Many times in the Scriptures we read of people being given new names: Simon becomes Peter and Saul, Paul, to name but two and there are many more. In that enigmatic book the Revelation there is a passage which talks of God giving the people in one of the churches a white stone and a new name – a white stone as opposed to a black one given to the accused in a court of law denoted innocence – God declares us innocent because of Jesus, and the picture of the new name speaks to me at least, of a truer identity, that God sees the potential in us, who we really are and brings that out – if we let him.

Like Cyrus we are called and chosen for a purpose – not thankfully, to bring judgement to God's erring people and so reveal God's power, we are called to live in relationship with the living God, rather than be estranged from him, and through this make God's holiness and power known.

It is by the vibrancy, the truth of that relationship as we live it out day by day, that will show God's holiness and power and love for all and so encourage others to know God too.

'your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. becoming imitators of the Lord ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you... in every place where your faith in God has become known'

Perhaps this something to reflect on this week: what is your work of faith, labour of love and how is your steadfastness of hope in our Lord? Is the word of the Lord being sounded forth from your life (and mine) this week.

I am reminded of those words from *2 Corinthians 5.17-20*

'if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.



Affirmation of faith *Can be said or sung to tune Hyfrydol (eg Alleluia sing to Jesus, or I will tell the wondrous story)*

We believe in God the Father,
God almighty, by whose plan
earth and heaven sprang to being,
all created things began.

We believe in Christ the Saviour,
Son of God in human frame,
virgin-born, the child of Mary
upon whom the Spirit came.

Christ, who on the cross forsaken,
like a lamb to slaughter led,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
he descended to the dead.

We believe in Jesus risen,
heaven's king to rule and reign,
to the Father's side ascended
till as judge he comes again.

We believe in God the Spirit;
in one Church, below, above:
saints of God in one communion,
one in holiness and love.
So by faith our sins forgiven,
Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend,
we shall rise with him in glory
to the live that knows no end.

Prayers of intercession

Let us pray for those who may be born today
and bless them in Jesus' name...

**The joy of God shine from your face
and joy to all who see you;
the shield of God surround your head
and angels ever guard you.**

May every season be good for you
and the Prince of Peace give peace to you

Let us pray for those who must work today
and bless them in Jesus' name...

**God bless you today,
the earth beneath your feet,
the path on which you tread,
the work of hand and mind,
the things which you desire.**

And when the day is over,
God bless you to your rest.

Let us pray for those who are sick in body mind or spirit today
and bless them in Jesus' name...

**May the keeping of Christ be round you,
may the guarding of God be with you,
to possess you, to protect you
from danger and from loss.**

May the gospel of the God of grace
bless you from head to sole.

Let us pray for those who may face death today
and bless them in Jesus' name:

**May God provide for you
all that is needed
for body, mind and soul
as you face the final journey**

May Christ take your soul in his arms
and bring you through the balancing time
to the dwelling place of peace
and make it your home forever.

And let us pray for ourselves and one another...
**In the isolation or the busyness of this day
grant me a stillness of seeing, O God.**

**In the conflicting voices of my heart
grant me a calmness of hearing.**

**Let my seeing and hearing
my words and my actions
be rooted in a silent certainty of your presence.**

**Let our passions for life
and the longings for justice that stir within us
be grounded in the experience of your stillness.
Let my life be rooted in the ground of your peace, O God,
let me be rooted in the depths of your peace. Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven...



Hymn

1 Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless king
through all eternity.

2 Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save;
his glories now we sing
who died and rose on high,
who died eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.

3 Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified;
no angels in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends their burning eye
at mysteries so bright.

4 Crown him the Lord of years,
the potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
for thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.

Thanksgiving

For all that God can do within us,
for all that God can do without us,
Thanks be to God.

For all in whom Christ lived before us,
for all in whom Christ lives beside us,
Thanks be to God.

For all the Spirit wants to bring us,
for where the Spirit wants to send us,
Thanks be to God. Amen

Benediction

**I bind unto myself today
The strong name of the Trinity.
The love of the Father who made me,
The love of the Son who died for me,
The love of the Spirit who dwells within me,
Bless me and keep me.
Amen.**



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