

The Camel-Allen Churches

Morning Worship at home



Sunday 6th June 2021 – Trinity 1

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:

1. All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown, he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

2 Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.

3 God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore, from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.

4 Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.

Christ doth call, one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.

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 first Sunday after Trinity

God of truth,
help us to keep your law of love
and to walk in ways of wisdom,
that we may find true life
in Jesus Christ your Son. **Amen**



Gospel Reading

Mark 3.20-35

²⁰and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. ²¹When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, 'He has gone out of his mind.' ²²And the scribes

who came down from Jerusalem said, 'He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.' ²³And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, 'How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. ²⁷But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

²⁸ 'Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; ²⁹but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin'—
³⁰for they had said, 'He has an unclean spirit.'

³¹ Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. ³²A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, 'Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.' ³³And he replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' ³⁴And looking at those who sat around him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.'



Hymn

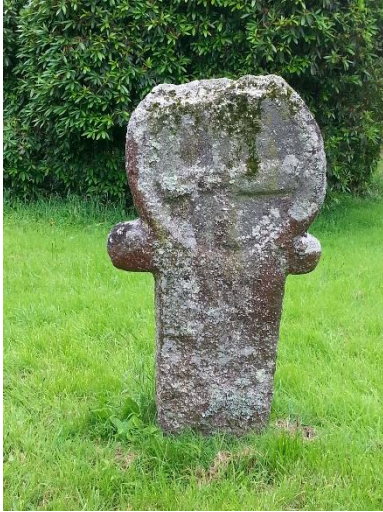
Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives Thy service find,
In deeper reverence, praise, in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
Beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word,
Rise up and follow thee, rise up and follow thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee,
O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with thee
The silence of eternity,
Interpreted by love! Interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of thy peace, the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm, O still, small voice of calm.



Reading - 2 Cor 4.13-5.1

¹³ But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—'I believed, and so I spoke'—we also believe, and so we speak, ¹⁴because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, ¹⁸because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

⁵For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Reflection

So we do not lose heart. - Even though it is a truth, universally acknowledged that... we are none of us getting any younger!

Most of us are all too often aware of the passing years - we can't read without our glasses, and sometimes not even with them. We sometimes give strange answers because we haven't always heard the question properly; we get out of the car and our knees protest. We can't do what we once did, and it can be hugely frustrating. In a thousand and one niggely little ways we are reminded of the passing of the years. And all too often it is in bigger and much more serious ways too, as we hear of our friends and contemporaries fighting serious illnesses, and we realise, as Paul wrote in our reading today, that the outer tent of our bodies is indeed wasting away - oh, I know how to cheer you up on a Sunday morning!

So, is life just a downward spiral from here on in: 'eat drink and be merry for tomorrow we die', sort of thing? And what if anything comes after that?

What comes after? That is a question I sometimes pose in funeral talks, but we really need to think about it before such times of crisis hit us: we need to be prepared, and we also need to consider it now, because it will have a bearing on how we live.

So what happens when we die? What does the Bible tell us, what has the church through the years believed?

First and foremost, we are people who believe in the Resurrection of the dead: we believe in the resurrection of Jesus *'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...* we say it every week in the creed, it is a foundational tenet of our faith and its corollary is that we too shall be raised, therefore ...*'we look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.'*

Our passage from the 2 Corinthians today tells us clearly: *we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence!*

No, we won't be 'one more angel in heaven' or 'one more star in the sky', sweet and comforting though these images might be, it's much better than that! As Jesus has been raised from the dead, so too we shall be raised to be with God forever - to be in God's presence; to live in God's dimension.

There will be a day of resurrection, the Bible tells us, when those who have died will be raised with a new and glorious body - like Christ's, which was, if you remember, the same but different from his earthly body - he was still recognisable, but even his followers (like the two on the road to Emmaus) didn't always see. They could touch him, put their hands on his wounds, he could eat fish on the beach yet he seemed to be able to appear and disappear through locked doors - a mystery.

Paul writes in 1 Cor 15. 42: *So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body*

When does this happen? At the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ! When Jesus comes again the dead shall be raised and clothed in a new body like his resurrected body to inhabit a new creation with no more death or dying or decay.

But if it hasn't happened yet, where are our loved ones who have died? They are resting safe in God's keeping with Christ Jesus (*"today you will be with me in paradise"*, he tells the repentant thief beside him on the cross) safe in the many mansions set aside for us as described in John 14, enjoying the presence of God and resting in peace, until the day they, with us, rise in glory!

No wonder, then, that Paul can dismiss earthly suffering as not worth comparing with what is to come! He encourages us not to lose heart when our *outer* physical body is wasting away, because our *inner* nature is eternal and is being renewed, even now, ready for that day when it will be clothed with a new resurrection body.

So, how should we then live?

Well, we do not lose heart: we are people of hope not despair. We look forward to a better future. That's not to say we dismiss suffering: life is often very tough and people go through horrendous things. We stand with one another, we pray for relief, we work to alleviate suffering wherever we come across it, but we know that it is not the end: there are better things ahead.

And in our own lives, instead of focussing on the things we can no longer do, we can give increasing time to our inner nature as we grow older. Focus more on the things that are eternal, rather than what is temporary and wasting away - and I have no illusions that that is easy either, it's hard to pray when you are in pain. But we can give attention to our Spirit: take in some soul food; 'take time to be

holy, speak oft with thy Lord.' as the old hymn says. Can we no longer be as active as we once were? Then let's learn to be prayer-warriors and support the work of God and one-another in prayer.

Above all we have confidence that God who has called us out of darkness into his glorious light, will do what he has promised and bring about his good purposes in our lives and in his world; will hold us in his presence and will raise us to new life with Christ Jesus.



We affirm our faith

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,

**maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

We believe in 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 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.
**With the Father and the Son he is
worshipped and glorified.**

He 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

Hymn

Such love, pure as the whitest snow;
Such love, weeps for the shame I know;
Such love, paying the debt I owe;
O Jesus, such love.

Such love, stilling my restlessness;
Such love, filling my emptiness;
Such love, showing me holiness;
O Jesus, such love.

Such love, springs from eternity;
Such love, streaming through history;
Such love, fountain of life to me;
O Jesus, such love.

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

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.

I once was lost, but now I'm found;
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved.

How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares
We have already come.

'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

When we've been there a thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun

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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