

# The Camel-Allen Churches

## Worship at Home



Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2021 – Trinity 5

### Opening Acclamation & prayer

#### Wherever we are to worship...

As the family of God in our Father's presence:  
we offer him praise and thanksgiving,  
we hear and receive his holy word,  
we bring before him the needs of the world,  
we ask his forgiveness of our sins,  
and seek his grace, that through his Son Jesus Christ  
we may give ourselves to his service.

### Hymn

1 Praise to the Holiest in the height,  
and in the depth be praise:  
in all his words most wonderful,  
most sure in all his ways.

2 O loving wisdom of our God!  
When all was sin and shame,  
a second Adam to the fight  
and to the rescue came.

3 O wisest love! that flesh and blood,  
which did in Adam fail,  
should strive afresh against the foe,  
should strive and should prevail.

4 And that a higher gift than grace  
should flesh and blood refine,  
God's presence and his very self,  
and essence all-divine.

5 And in the garden secretly,  
and on the cross on high,  
should teach his brethren, and inspire  
to suffer and to die.

7 Praise to the Holiest in the height,  
and in the depth be praise:  
in all his words most wonderful,  
most sure in all his ways.

## Confession

Let us bring to mind our sin, our failure to value the love of others and our failure to love as Christ has loved us.

Your love gives us life:  
we fail to live as your children.

Lord have mercy  
**Lord, have mercy.**

You call us to do good:  
we seek our own good.  
Christ, have mercy  
**Christ, have mercy.**

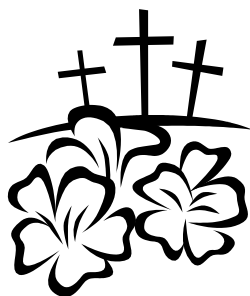
You hear us when we cry for help:  
we ignore the cries of others.  
Lord have mercy  
**Lord, have mercy.**

## Receiving God's forgiveness...

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

## The Collect for the fifth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty and everlasting God,  
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church



is governed and sanctified:  
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,  
that in their vocation and ministry  
they may serve you in holiness and truth  
to the glory of your name;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.



## Readings

### Ezekiel 2.1-5

He said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. <sup>2</sup>And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. <sup>4</sup>The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God.' <sup>5</sup>Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

### 2 Corinthians 12.2-10

<sup>2</sup>I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. <sup>3</sup>And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows— <sup>4</sup>was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. <sup>5</sup>On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on

my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. <sup>6</sup>But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, <sup>7</sup>even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given to me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. <sup>8</sup>Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, <sup>9</sup>but he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.' So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. <sup>10</sup>Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

### **Hymn** (from *Psalm 121*)

I lift my eyes to the quiet hills,  
in the press of a busy day;  
as green hills stand in a dusty land,  
so God is my strength and stay.

I lift my eyes to the quiet hills,  
to a calm that is mine to share;  
secure and still in the Father's will  
and kept by the Father's care.

I lift my eyes to the quiet hills,  
with a prayer as I turn to sleep;  
by day, by night, through the dark and light  
my Shepherd will guard his sheep.

I lift my eyes to the quiet hills,  
and my heart to the Father's throne;  
in all my ways, to the end of days  
the Lord will preserve his own.

### **Gospel Reading** Mark 6.1-13

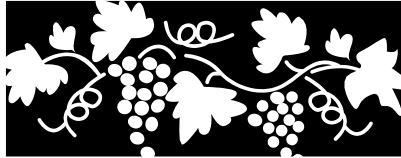
#### **The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth**

He left that place and came to his home town, and his disciples followed him. <sup>2</sup>On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, 'Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! <sup>3</sup>Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?' And they took offence at him. <sup>4</sup>Then Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honour, except in their home town, and among their own kin, and in their own house.' <sup>5</sup>And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. <sup>6</sup>And he was amazed at their unbelief.

#### **The Mission of the Twelve**

Then he went about among the villages teaching. <sup>7</sup>He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. <sup>8</sup>He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; <sup>9</sup>but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. <sup>10</sup>He said to them, 'Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. <sup>11</sup>If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a

testimony against them.’<sup>12</sup> So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. <sup>13</sup> They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.



### Reflection

Why do you come to church? Why are you a Christian? How would you answer those questions? Think about it a minute.

Our readings today are all about the struggles of the life of faith:

Ezekiel had an encounter with God in a vision and was sent to the people of Israel with a message: *‘I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them...’* They won’t listen to you, he is told, but go anyway – not very encouraging!

In 2 Corinthians, Paul, the great evangelist and teacher of the faith, talks about the ups and downs of faith, mountain-top experiences and the depths of despair in living for God.

In our gospel reading Jesus spends his time teaching in the synagogue, we read, <sup>5</sup> And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them and they took offence at him. The people wouldn’t listen despite the miracles!

Nevertheless, Jesus sends his disciples out to share the Good News even though he knows they too will experience rejection - they need

to be prepared for the fact that some will not welcome them and will refuse to hear them.

We too are tasked with passing on the Good News of God’s love and grace shown to us in Christ Jesus. At the end of Matthew’s gospel we have the great commission:

*‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’*

Despite the fact that many won’t listen to us, many will reject what we say and stand for, some may ridicule and persecute even (though thankfully not here where we are) but we are to go anyway.

1 Peter 3.15 says: *‘but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. **Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you***

Why? because the love of God compels us – because those who don’t yet know his love are ‘worth it’ to God. We go and share out of obedience to God, because we are told to. We go because of the benefits of knowing God we want other to share. We go because without growth and newcomers our churches will die.

I came across this story in a reflection on this passage (Reflections for Sunday’s Year B Proper 9 by Peter Graystone)

*‘I was on a bus, sitting behind two mature ladies whose conversation I couldn’t help overhearing. One said, ‘Our grandson will be christened on Sunday.’*

*The other said, 'I forgot you go to church. Why are you a Christian?'*

*'Oh, you can't possibly ask me that,' said the first. 'You'd have to ask the vicar.' I was willing her to say something positive and was delighted when she added, 'I do find the services peaceful'.*

*'Ah, peace,' replied her friend. 'You should come to my Pilates class. It's the most peaceful point in my week.' To my dismay the conversation ended with the Christian lady writing down the date of the exercise class in her diary, not the other one being invited to the baptism.'*

Could that be us? How would you respond if someone asked you why you believe, or why you go to church? We need to be prepared to tell others about the hope that is in us. And if our services aren't occasions we can invite others to then we need to change them.

Do you feel you can't do it? Don't give up, we have that promise in our reading from 2 Corinthians, *'my strength is made perfect in weakness'* we rely on the Holy Spirit of God to work in us and with us. In his strength and with his help, we can.



## Hymn

O Breath of Life, come sweeping through us,  
revive your Church with life and pow'r;  
O Breath of Life, come cleanse, renew us,  
and fit your Church to meet this hour.

O Breath of Love, come breathe within us,  
renewing thought and will and heart;  
come, love of Christ, afresh to win us,  
revive your Church in every part.

O Wind of God, come bend us, break us,  
till humbly we confess our need;  
then in your tenderness remake us,  
revive, restore – for this we plead.

Revive us, Lord; is zeal abating  
while harvest fields are vast and white?  
Revive us, Lord, the world is waiting -  
equip thy church to spread the light.

## Affirmation of faith

Let us affirm our common faith in Jesus Christ.

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our heart through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

## Prayers of intercession

Heavenly Father, we are only the church of Jesus Christ because your Spirit binds us together with your life.

Give us real concern and love for one another,  
may we be supportive and encouraging  
without malice or bickering,  
so that we can be sent out  
strong, despite our weakness and littleness

Give us your grace

**To hear your word with joy.**

Heavenly Father, all the kingdoms and states  
are answerable to your authority,  
yet much evil is allowed to flourish  
through the silence of good people;  
give us the courage to speak out your truth,  
whether it is popular or not.

Give us your grace

**To hear your word with joy.**

Heavenly Father, we pray for those  
whose pain screams silently and incessantly;  
for those who have no one to confide in, no one to listen.

We pray for your love to enfold them,

Your peace to calm them

and your healing to transform them.

Praying especially for....

Give us your grace

**To hear your word with joy.**

Heavenly Father, prepare us all during this life  
for the life to come;

We commend to your keeping all those

who have made their journey through death

Give us your grace

**To hear your word with joy.**

Heavenly Father, we thank you  
for making your ways known to us  
and guiding us to listen and to act

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son.**

**Our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

## The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name;**

**thy kingdom come;**

**thy will be done;**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation;**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**the power and the glory,**

**for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**



## Hymn

O Jesus, I have promised  
To serve thee to the end;  
Be thou for ever near me,  
My Master and my Friend:  
I shall not fear the battle  
If thou art by my side,  
Nor wander from the pathway  
If thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel thee near me:  
The world is ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle,  
The tempting sounds I hear;  
My foes are ever near me,  
Around me and within;  
But, Jesus, draw thou nearer,  
And shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear thee speaking  
In accents clear and still,  
Above the storms of passion,  
The murmurs of self-will;  
O speak to reassure me,  
To hasten or control;  
O speak, and make me listen,  
Thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised  
To all who follow thee,  
That where thou art in glory  
There shall thy servant be;  
And, Jesus, I have promised  
To serve thee to the end:  
O give me grace to follow,  
My Master and my friend.

O let me see thy foot-marks,  
And in them plant mine own;  
My hope to follow duly  
Is in thy strength alone:  
O guide me, call me, draw me,  
Uphold me to the end;  
And then in heaven receive me,  
My Saviour and my friend.

## Final Prayer and Blessing

God of our pilgrimage,  
you have led us to the living water:  
refresh and sustain us  
as we go forward on our journey,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

May God the Father from whom every family  
In earth and heaven receives its name  
strengthen us with his Spirit in our inner being,  
so that Christ may dwell in our hearts by faith;

And the blessing of God Almighty:  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
Be amongst us and remain with us always. Amen

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*Prayers of intercession from Susan Sayers (adapted)*

*Compiled by The Revd Angela Cooper*