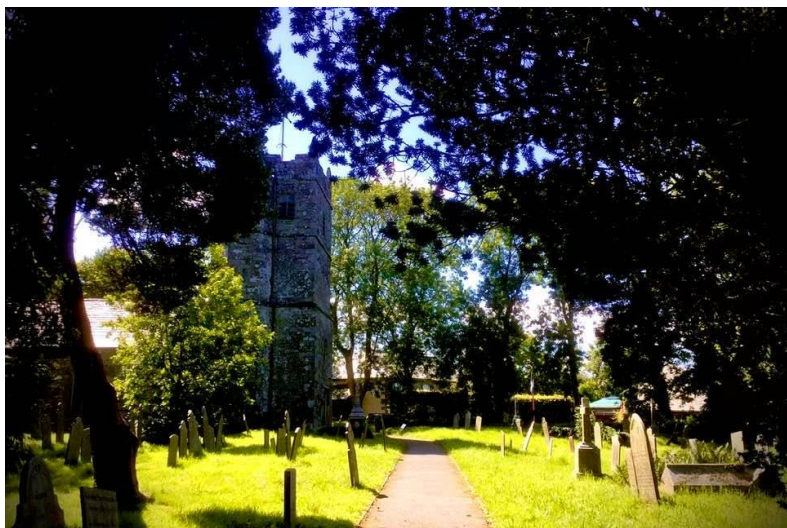


## The Camel Allen Churches - Worship at Home

Sunday 26 July 2020



*Sunny St Teath 19 July 2020 – photo courtesy of Pauline Kent*

Welcome as you worship with us at home. This service is adapted from the one we held at St Teath last week.

*Take a moment of stillness to recognise the presence of the living God with you and within you.*

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen**

## Hymn (sing or say)

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,  
holy is the Lord God almighty.  
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,  
holy is the Lord God almighty:  
who was, and is, and is to come;  
holy, holy, holy is the Lord.

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord,  
Jesus is the Lord God almighty,  
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord;  
Jesus is the Lord God almighty,  
who was, and is, and is to come;  
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord.

Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lord,  
Worthy is the Lord God, almighty:  
Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lord,  
Worthy is the Lord God, almighty:  
who was, and is, and is to come;  
Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lord.

Glory, glory, glory to the Lord;  
glory to the Lord God almighty,  
glory, glory, glory to the Lord;  
glory to the Lord God almighty,  
who was, and is, and is to come:  
glory, glory, glory to the Lord.

## Prayers of penitence

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ  
to save us from our sins,  
to be our advocate in heaven  
and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,  
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments  
and to live in love and peace with all.

**Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly, love mercy  
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon us,  
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,  
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,  
and keep us in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



**Gloria** (tune: Cwm Rhondda)

Glory be to God in heaven  
Songs of joy and peace we bring:  
Thankful hearts and voices raising  
To creation's Lord we sing  
Lord we thank you:  
Lord we bless you:  
Glory be to God our King (repeat)

Lamb of God who on your shoulders  
bore the load of this world's sin:

only Son of God the Father  
you have brought us peace within.  
Lord have mercy:  
Christ have mercy:  
Now your glorious reign begin (repeat)

You O Son of God are holy  
You we praise with one accord:  
None in heaven or earth is like you,  
Only you are Christ the Lord:  
With the Father  
and the Spirit  
ever worshipped and adored. (repeat)

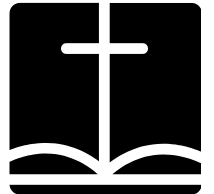
### Collect

Generous God, you give us gifts and make them grow:  
though our faith is small as mustard seed,  
make it grow to your glory and the flourishing of your kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### Bible Readings

#### Ephesians 2.11-22

*<sup>11</sup> So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called 'the uncircumcision' by those who are called 'the circumcision'—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—<sup>12</sup>remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup>But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup>For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down*



the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. <sup>15</sup>He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, <sup>16</sup>and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. <sup>17</sup>So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; <sup>18</sup>for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup>**So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup>built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. <sup>21</sup>In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; <sup>22</sup>in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.**



### **Matthew 16.13-18**

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' <sup>14</sup>And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' <sup>15</sup>He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.



### **Reflection**

This strange time of the Pandemic, and the lockdown in particular, has caused us to explore afresh what we think of as the church: What or rather, who the church is and how we need to adapt to fit the new normal. As part of that exploration in our benefice, We are looking again at some of those familiar, but sometimes overlooked metaphors for the church which are used repeatedly in the New Testament: God's people; Gods building; the household of faith; the flock of God; the body of Christ, (and these are just some of them – there are more) what can they tell us at this time about our on-going life? Last week we looked at the church as the *people of God*, chosen and called for a purpose, to make God known to all, and we asked ourselves, how can we best be and do that, in this generation, in this situation?

This week we are looking at another such 'picture': the church as *God's building, God's temple*. Building metaphors are common in the Epistles,

eg **1 Cor 3.9,16**<sup>9</sup>. *For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.*

<sup>16</sup>. *Do you not know that **you are God's temple** and that God's Spirit dwells in you?*

God's new people the church are compared to the Temple, the dwelling place of God on earth; that precious, beautiful, holy and unique building, dedicated to the worship of the living God; the place of presence; where God promised to meet with all people, and, as Jesus called it, a 'house of prayer'.

But more than just making a comparison, the NT writers realise that the church, those who have become the new people of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, has superseded the physical building. It is now the followers of Jesus who have themselves, become the new 'temple' the new dwelling place of God in the world, for example...

**Acts 17.24** <sup>4</sup>*The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands,*

**2 Cor 6.16** *What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, 'I will live in them and walk among them...*

How amazing that God lives in us, his people! As he promised long ago in OT times. Cf Jeremiah 31 *I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

There is a sense then that when people meet us they come into contact with the living God. That's truly awesome isn't it? We take the presence of the living God wherever we go!

Like the physical temple of old, we the church should be holy, and dedicated to the service of God, to enabling people to come into the presence of the living God.

We are each of us like stones in the building, living stones, we need to be shaped, honed and built together, with Jesus as the cornerstone, into a dwelling place fit for the living God. One stone on its own isn't much use, but together we can be built into something beautiful and worthy, for the presence of God almighty.

**1 Peter 2** <sup>4</sup>*Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and* <sup>5</sup>*like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.* <sup>6</sup>*For it stands in scripture:*

*'See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'*



Notice that to encourage and enable people to meet with the living God this new temple, like the physical temple of old, has a priesthood – and no, that's not the clergy – but every believer:

**1 Peter 2.9:** *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.*

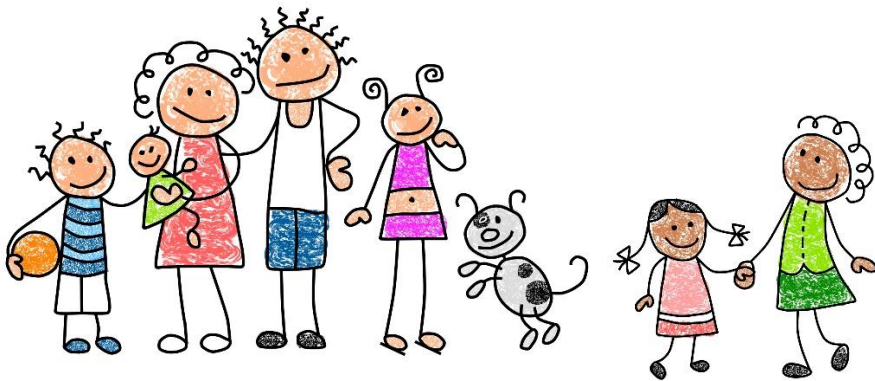
So we have seen that we, God's people, Jesus people, are God's temple, God dwelling place. He lives in us, by his Spirit within us, so we become the 'place' where people can meet with God. Like stones in a building we need one-another, we need to be built together into this building and we need to be fit for the living God,

holy, dedicated, set apart, beautiful even, 'shining with the light of his glory', and we need to take up our calling as priests who enable people to come into the presence of the living God and in him find wholeness and hope.

***Amen. May it be so in our lives, Lord God.***

## Song

We are being built into a temple  
Fit for God's own dwelling place  
Into the house of God which is the church  
The pillar and the ground of truth  
As precious stones that Jesus owns  
Fashioned by His wondrous grace  
And as we love and trust each other  
So the building grows and grows



## The Creed

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, 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 again 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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who 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.

## Prayers of Intercession

*Let us pray for the church and for the world and let us thank God for his goodness...(add in your thoughts and prayers)*

For all your loving-kindness O God, thank you. Especially today we want thank you for....

We pray for your world, for ...

For the leaders of the nations, we pray for....

We bring before you those suffering in body, mind or spirit, praying especially for ...

We pray for your church, that we might realise who we truly are in Christ Jesus and fulfil our calling in the world. We ask that ...

We pray for one-another, wherever we are worshipping today, for your blessing upon ...

Finally we bring ourselves before you, asking that ...

Merciful Father,  
accept our prayers for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

**We pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:**

**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 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.

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among us and remain with us always. Amen

*Common Worship Services and prayers for the Church of England  
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Compiled by The Revd Angela Cooper*