

21st June, Trinity 2, 2020 Facebook live

Welcome and Introduction

Good morning and a warm welcome to All Saints' and to this service on second Sunday after Trinity.

The Weekly sheet is on the All Saints Website together with regular updates about church life and various resources. Please feel free to 'like', and 'share'....we greet each other, we can also add own prayers in the comments....

Two readings: Jeremiah and Matthew's gospel, Jesus says to his first disciples, and to us, 'do not be afraid, So we offer our fears and doubts to God and seek his strength to overcome them....

Lord, you give us strength when we are weak. Lord have mercy.

Lord, you give us courage when we are afraid.

Christ have mercy.

Lord, you give us new heart when we fail.

Lord have mercy.

Absolution: May almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent. Have mercy upon you. Pardon and deliver you your sins. Confirm and Strengthen you in all goodness and bring you to eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Amen

In a moment of silence let us bring to God our hopes and concerns for today and the days ahead....

Collect: Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of

peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.

Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Reading : in this reading Jeremiah was able to remain faithful in his task of speaking God's word because of the assurance that God was with him.

Jeremiah said: ⁷ O Lord, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all day long; everyone mocks me.

⁸ For whenever I speak, I must cry out, I must shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the Lord has become for me a reproach and derision all day long.

⁹ If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,"

then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.

¹⁰ For I hear many whispering: "Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"

All my close friends are watching for me to stumble. "Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him, and take our revenge on him."

¹¹ But the Lord is with me like a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail.

They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonour will never be forgotten.

¹² O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous, you see the heart and the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

¹³ Sing to the Lord; praise the Lord! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

This is the word of the Lord

Gospel: Matthew 10:26-33 (38)

Here the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew: Jesus said,

²⁶ "So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷ What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹ So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³² "Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; ³³ but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

(³⁴ "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother,

and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

³⁶ and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

³⁷ Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸ and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.)

This is the gospel of the Lord,

In the name....

Is belief in God and going to church meant to make one's life easier? If one believes in God does that make the journey through life smooth and problem free?

The readings today say 'not so'!

In the reading from the prophet Jeremiah he complains bitterly to God with very strong words. Jeremiah has been out doing what God asked him to do, and it hasn't gone as well as the prophet had hoped. Jeremiah says, "I have become a laughingstock all day long; everyone mocks me." He goes on to complain, "All my close friends are watching for me to stumble."

Last week we heard Jesus commission the disciples to go out in his name and continue his work. Today Jesus encourages his disciples to be fearless witnesses, "Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell."

Yet, for Christians, perhaps the question is not, "Why do things go wrong for God's people?" But rather, "Why are things going so well?" "Why aren't we having more problems?" or for any follower of Jesus, "Why am I not being persecuted?"

Jeremiah did what God asked of him, and he was laughed at. Jesus' disciples went on to preach, teach and with the exception of John, the disciples were killed for their faith in Jesus. Why don't people laugh at us more? Make fun of us more?

We are fortunate to live at a time when people of faith can be active without risking their lives. Baptism into the church is longer a death sentence – though in many countries around the world it does bring danger and persecution and sometimes death.

I wonder if people grow out of Christianity at Primary School because it appears to be just about being nice and kind to people, and children realise that does not have sufficient depth or breadth to have something to say about the world as it really is, with failure, disappointment, fears, illness, hunger, people exerting power over other. Perhaps young people want to see Christianity making a difference to those who profess it and to the world we live in together.

When Jesus said to his disciples, 'Do not be afraid', he wasn't saying that they should never feel afraid. He knew that it is human to be afraid. He was concerned about what fear might do to them. It might restrict, or make them timid and unable to fulfil their mission.

Jesus was encouraging them so they could move on beyond the fear.

How is that possible? He urged them to have complete trust in God, who watches over the life and death of even the smallest and least valuable of his creatures – the sparrows.

To we pray for all Christians, that their lives may bear witness to the faith they profess with their lips.

In the name of the Father.....

Intercessions: In the power of the Spirit and in Union with Christ, let us pray to the Father....

Lord, you have called into your family and to serve you,
You have called us to heal,
You have called us to raise up,
You have called us to love,
Empower the work of the church in places of neglect and deprivation. We pray for all who work to bring healing,
Lord, in your mercy....

Lord, you raise up leaders for your people,

We pray for those in government, that they may protect the rights of all their people, whether of different colour or creed, we pray that the needs of the weakest and vulnerable may not be over looked.

Lord, we pray for those suffering for their faith or because of a stand for truth and justice. We pray for Christians in China, those who face pressure to renounce their faith...

Ray Wright, Claire Wood, Sandra Gait, Louise Pike

Lord, in your mercy..

We pray for those who have died, those who have lost family members or friends due to the virus,

Our Father.....

Concluding prayer and Blessing:

Loving Father, we thank you for feeding us at the supper of your Son: sustain us with your Spirit, that we may serve you here on earth until our joy is complete in heaven, and we share in the eternal banquet with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you**

May God who loves you keep you in his fatherly care;
May Jesus who dwells with you guide you on your way;
May the Holy Spirit who lives in you bring peace to your hearts, and blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.