

Sunday Worship at Home, 6th June 2021, 1st Sunday after Trinity

Opening Prayers:

God meets us in our scattered lives,

let us worship him together

God of our days and years, we set this time apart for you.

Form us in the likeness of Christ so that our lives may glorify you.

Amen

A Prayer of Confession:

God shows his love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Let us then show our love for him by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

We are often slow to follow the example of Christ. **Lord, have mercy.**

We often fail to be known as Christ's disciples. **Christ, have mercy.**

We often fail to walk the way of the cross. **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins,

and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Collect for the First Sunday after Trinity

O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Reading: Genesis 3:1-14

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³ but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.'

Reflection on the reading:

There are two interesting things about this reading. The first is that it tells us what sin actually is, not just the original sin, but all sin. The second is it describes how sin affects us and our relationship with God. The serpent said “when you eat [the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil] your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil”. The temptation was to be like God. And when we begin to put ourselves where God should be, going our own way and doing our own thing instead of following God doing what he wants, then we have fallen into sin. It doesn't matter whether we are killing or stealing or committing adultery or bearing false witness or coveting our neighbour's possessions. We have stopped putting God first and loving our neighbour as ourselves and have started to put ourselves first instead. Like all children who have disobeyed their parents, we deal with this in two ways: first by trying to hide ourselves or what we have done; and then when we are found out, by trying to blame someone else. So Adam and Eve eat the fruit and learn what wrong means. First, they try to hide, and then when that doesn't work, Adam blames Eve and Eve blames the serpent. Sin separates us from God, but that is not because God disowns us. It is because in our guilt and shame we cannot come close to God. In the garden of Eden, even though God already knew what Adam and Eve had done, he still went looking for them. It is they who were hiding from God. Luckily for us, God had a plan to deal with all our sin and guilt, and that plan was Jesus! In the epistle reading set for today (2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1) St Paul wrote these words; “we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us [...] into his presence.” **Amen.**

The Creed

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and earth is named.
We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts 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

Be still and pray: In your prayers, include prayers for the church, the needs of the world and our local community. Particularly pray for: Our Prime Minister, the Government and all world leaders they struggle to deal with new variants of COVID-19 and manage our release from lockdowns; for front-line health workers caring for the sick and vulnerable, and administering vaccinations; for healing and peace for those who are ill; and for the souls of those who have recently died and comfort for those who are mourning their loss.

Finish with The Lord's Prayer:

Conclusion

May God bless us and keep us, make his face to shine upon us, and give us his peace; **Amen**

Reverend Eddie