

Sunday Worship at Home 13th June 2021 Trinity 2

Opening Prayers:

The Lord our God Almighty reigns!

Let us rejoice and be glad and give him the glory.

Lord, direct our thoughts and teach us to pray.

Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Invitation to confession:

Jesus says, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand".

So let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Lord, you are gracious and compassionate:

Lord have mercy

Lord, you are loving to all:

Christ have mercy.

Lord, your faithful servants bless your name and
speak of the glory of your kingdom:

Lord have mercy

May almighty God have mercy upon you,
forgive your sins and bring you to everlasting light. **Amen**

The Collect (Special Prayer for the day)

Faithful Creator, whose mercy never fails:

deepen our faithfulness to you and to your living Word,

Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Gospel Reading: Mark 4 26-34

Jesus also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come." Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade." With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

Reflection on the Gospel.

Our readings over the past few weeks have been exploring the word "faith" and what it is that constitutes our faith in God who loves us. We can't see it, we can't touch it, but through the Holy Spirit, we know we have it. God inhabits our very being, we walk by faith, not by sight and all we do, we do in his name. Our Gospel reading tells us a parable, a story in which Jesus described the kingdom of God in the every-day things around him. This time he used the mustard seed, and told how from something so small, something

far greater can come. Our faith may start as something as small as a mustard seed, but the more we learn about God, through the works of Jesus, the more our faith grows, and the more our faith grows, the more we grow into the kind of people God wants us to be. People who are loving and kind and open our eyes to those in need in the world around us, just as Jesus did. We increase God's kingdom in this world, by being transformed by our faith and in turn by transforming the lives of others by our words and our actions. When we get it right, the results can be summed up in the words of this poem by R. S. Thomas:

I have seen the sun break through to illuminate a small field for a while, and gone away and forgotten it.
But that was the pearl of great price, the one field that had treasure in it.
I realise now that I must give all that I have to possess it.
Life is not hurrying on to a receding future, nor hankering after an imagined past.
It is the turning aside like Moses to the miracle of the lit bush,
to a brightness that seemed as transitory as your youth once, but it is the eternity that awaits you.

So read the parables of Jesus and see how you can use them to change your life and the lives of others.
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: Include the needs of the world and your family and community. The Queen and her family, the work of the Government, NHS workers, carers and scientists. Pray that those who have plenty will share with those who have nothing, especially where the vaccine against Covid is concerned. We are a world of diversity and inequality, yet we are all your creation, brothers and sisters united in need. We pray for those who suffer discrimination of any kind & those who are lost and lonely. Father God bring comfort and peace to those who are ill or awaiting hospital appointments and in quiet reflection pray for the souls of those who have died, especially Shorne Beatty whose funeral took place on Friday. Pray for strength for his wife Julie, mother-in-law Dorothy Stopps and all the family who mourn his sudden loss.

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, in 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; lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever **Amen**

Blessing:

The Lord bless you and watch over you,
the Lord make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you,
the Lord look kindly on you and give you his peace,
today and always. **Amen.**

Reverend Irene