

Sunday Worship at Home, 3rd June 2022, Third Sunday after Trinity



Opening Prayers:

O Lord, open our lips, and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Give us the joy of your saving help, and sustain us with your life-giving Spirit.

A Prayer of Confession:

The gospel calls us to turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ. As we offer ourselves to him in penitence and faith, we renew our confidence and trust in his mercy.

We have not always worshipped God, our creator. **Lord, have mercy.**

We have not always followed Christ, our Saviour. **Christ, have mercy.**

We have not always trusted in the Spirit, our guide. **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 Third Sunday after Trinity

God our saviour, look on this wounded world in pity and in power; hold us fast to your promises of peace won for us by your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Reading: Luke 10:1-11,16-20

After this the Lord appointed seventy^{al} others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you. But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.' I tell you, on that day it will be more tolerable for Sodom than for that town.

The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!" He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

Reflection on the reading:

The background to this morning's Gospel is that Jesus is heading for Jerusalem. It is a pilgrim journey that he had made many times before, but now on his final journey his mind is focussed on what lies ahead and he cannot be distracted or diverted by those in the towns and villages along the way. So he chooses others to go ahead of him, to heal the sick and proclaim the Good News in advance of his arrival. We know (because the Bible tells us so) that Many people followed Jesus on his travels, not just the closest twelve disciples. We have no idea what this greater number thought when Jesus names his original twelve. Presumably there were still more who did not make the second cut for the seventy. The point is that most of us are not called to live our lives in the limelight. Like the Poster for a new movie, it will advertise the stars, but the co-stars, if they are well known, might get a mention, and the extras may not even see their name on the credits at the end of the movie itself. Yet every single one of them is important. Everyone has a role to play in the film or they wouldn't be there. The extras in a movie might be unnamed, they might not be in the limelight, but how well they all play their part can make the difference between a poor movie and a great movie. It is exactly the same in the Kingdom of Heaven. Every single one of you has a role to play in the church. Your particular role Whether you play it well or not is up to you, and how well you play it does not affect your place in the Kingdom but if everyone plays their part to the best of their ability and as God ask them to, then the whole body of Christ will be better and stronger as a result.

Both the seventy and Jesus rejoiced at the seventy's success, as well as the fact that their names are written where it matters, in Heaven **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: God of peace and justice, God of love and healing; we pray for all those in our benefice who are ill at this time, and those who are caring for them whether at home or in hospital; we pray for those struggling with rising cost of fuel and food, and who are fearful of how they may pay for tomorrow; we pray for the people of Ukraine who fear what this day will bring; we pray that those in authority will seek peace and the laying down of weapons; we pray for all your precious children living at risk or in fear, that you would hold and protect them; We pray for all those who are on our hearts at this time.

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