

Sunday Worship at Home, 17th July 2022, Fifth 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 bible readings today calls us to be faithful in our worship of God and service of our neighbour. As we offer ourselves to him in penitence and faith, we renew our commitment 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 Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Reading: Luke 10:38-42

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.' But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'

Reflection on the reading:

There is an old Gospel song that begins with the words “God loves a cheerful giver give him all you’ve got. He loves to hear you laughing when you’re in an awkward spot.” The thing about Martha and Mary is that they were both doing what God requires of us. Love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength, and love your neighbour. Mary had chosen to sit at the feet of Jesus and hang on his every word, she had chosen the former. But it is no less important to practise the ministry of hospitality, and it was Martha who was following the second commandment. It was Martha who welcomed Jesus into their home and Martha who was now working hard to care for their guest. The problem here was not that Martha had chosen practical hospitality to the guest over loving and learning from Jesus, but the attitude in her heart. She wants Mary to help her with her labour and is perhaps resentful in carrying out her tasks without Mary’s help. This spills over in her complaint to Jesus. He responds by gently correcting her. You have allowed yourself to become distracted by becoming upset about Mary. Jesus tells her not to be distracted by judging what others are doing. It is the same for us, we should joyfully focus on the unique role or task that God has called us to do and concentrate on that, allowing others the freedom to fulfil their different calling. We may or may not understand why it has been arranged this way right now, but everything will fall into place when the time is right. **Amen**

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 our Government, distracted from national leadership by the election of a new prime minister; 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