



## Sunday Worship at Home 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent

### Opening Prayers:

O Lord, open our lips

**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Father God, thank you for my gifts, may I use them to help others.

### 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 Jesus, you came to call sinners to repent:

Lord have mercy

**Lord have mercy**

Lord Jesus, you came to earth to help the unhappy:

Christ have mercy

**Christ have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you came to earth to show us how much God loves us:

Lord have mercy.

**Lord have mercy.**

### The Collect:

Heavenly Lord, you long for the world's salvation:

stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess and revive us in new hope that,  
one day, all creation will be healed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Gospel Reading: Matthew 25: 14-30

'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents,\* to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the

ground. Here you have what is yours.” But his master replied, “You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

### **Reflection on the Gospel:**

This is one of those difficult stories where I always feel sorry for the “bad guy”, in this case the man who kept his talent to himself, at least he didn’t lose it! The main point of the story that Jesus makes is that our gifts, or talents, are there to be shared, they work better that way. There’s no point in having a huge box of chocolates and keeping them all to yourself. Either the last ones will be gone off by the time you get to eat them, or you’ll make yourself sick in the process. We all have gifts to share, and in response to God who loves us unconditionally, it is our responsibility to use them well. What are yours?

### **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, pray:** Father God, thank you for my gifts and talents, may I always use them well and be happy to share. Pray for those who are ill or awaiting hospital appointments or recovering at home. Pray for comfort and peace for families grieving at this time, especially Chris, Brian and Paul Billingham and any others you know.

### **The Lord’s Prayer:**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom the power and the glory, forever and ever. **Amen**

### **The Blessing:**

The God of all hope fill you with joy and peace in believing

and the blessing of God the father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you,

and all those you love, today and always. Amen

*Reverend Irene*