

ST. JOHN THE DIVINE, RASTRICK

Welcome to Morning Worship

25th October 2020

Click on the underlined links to take you to safe content on the internet.

If you are able light a candle as you start the service and if others are in the house encourage them to reading some of the service with you.

Introduction

This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

We have come together in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive God's holy word, to pray for the needs of the world, and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may give ourselves to the service of God.



Prayer of Penitence

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' So, let us turn away from our sin and turn to Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Together we pray:

**Lord God, we have sinned against you.
we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore to us the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hymn: [To God be the glory, great things he has done](#)

The Word of God – [Click Here](#)

First Reading: Colossians 3:12-17 read by Julia Tum

Second Reading: Matthew 24: 30-35 read by Julia Tum

Reflection prepared by Archdeacon Anne Dawtry

*Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning,
help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them
that, through patience and the comfort of your holy word,
we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in 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*

The last Sunday after Trinity is Bible Sunday, when we are encouraged to reflect in a particularly focused way on the way we engage with the Scriptures we read. The collect set for today, transposed from Cranmer's Prayer Book Collect for the Second Sunday in Advent, reminds us that Scripture has been inspired by God and is given for our learning, and then asks for help for us 'to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them'.

There is much to unpack here: we need grace to hear, really to hear, what God is saying to us through the Scriptures – how we interpret and discern, how we do that together with one another and in conversation with the Church down the centuries. It's not enough just to **hear** passively, we need to engage actively – to **read** the Bible privately as well as in church, to '**mark**' – to pay attention and to **learn** from Scripture, even when it is challenging, and then we need to inwardly **digest** them – in other words to allow ourselves to be fed by the nourishment that the Bible provides. It's important to do all this, not just so that we know about the Scriptures and could pass a test, but so that they are allowed to shape us.

Paul, writing to the Colossians 3.12-17 says: 'Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.' The way in which we receive God's gift of the Scriptures, shapes who we are as Christ's disciples, and shapes how we are as his Church – how we live together and engage with one another, and how we worship, together or on our own, so that gratitude is poured out in prayer and praise. Back to the collect, the purpose of hearing, reading, marking, learning and inwardly digesting the words of Scripture is that 'we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life.' Similarly, when Paul talks of the word of Christ dwelling richly in us, he means that we are to be people shaped by Christ's teaching in such a way that we bear fruit as members of the Body of Christ.

For the word of Christ to dwell richly in us, we need to be dwelling in it. One of the things we seek to do as a diocese is to Live, Love and Learn together so as to become Confident Christians. One way in which we can do this is through the practice of 'Lectio Divina', holy reading, which involves staying with a passage of Scripture, reading it prayerfully, together or on our own, persisting with it over a period of time, allowing God to continue to speak to us in new and fresh ways even through a familiar text. Deepening our prayer and our appreciation of the Scriptures also helps

us grow in holiness, and frees us to become more fully Christ's own people. When we pray, when we attend to the living Word of God, things will happen and God will change us.

So today think about how you read and pray the Scriptures and how you might improve what you are already doing? That way you will, as an individual and together as a parish, become People who dwell in the Word, allowing that Word to dwell, take deep root and bear fruit richly within and amongst you.

The Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

[Prayers of intercession prepared by John Hearson](#)

A Prayer for Church Growth

**God of Mission
Who along brings growth to your church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give
Vision to our planning
Wisdom to our actions
And power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
In spiritual commitment to you,
And in service to our local community,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
As our Saviour taught us, so we pray
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Collect for today

God, the giver of life,
whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church:
by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ
and make us eager to do your will,
that we may share with the whole creation
the joys of eternal life;
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 forever. Amen

Hymn: [Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father.](#)

Final Prayer

God, our light and our salvation:
illuminate our lives,
that we may see your goodness in the land of the living,
and looking on your beauty
may be changed into the likeness of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Our service ends with the Grace,
**The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the Love of God,
and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore. Amen.**

[The Lord Bless you and keep you](#)