

## **St Raphael's Community:**

### **Service for Sunday, 5th July 2020: the Fourth Sunday after Trinity**

#### Welcome

Traditionally, the first Sunday in the month is when we have choral Evensong in St James's Church, Boroughbridge. As many people will be reading this on Sunday morning, we have combined the two, and this Sunday's service is based on Book of Common Prayer Matins.

In our Lesson, Jesus calls to all who are wearied 'by the changes and chances of this mortal life' – while in our sermon we are able to reflect on Jesus's invitation to all of us – to 'come'.

#### Opening sentence

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

#### Hymn: I heard the voice of Jesus say

1. I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
'Come unto me and rest;  
lay down, thou weary one, lay down  
thy head upon my breast.'  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
so weary, worn and sad;  
I found in him a resting-place,  
and he has made me glad.

2. I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
'Behold, I freely give  
the living water; thirsty one,  
stoop down and drink, and live.'  
I came to Jesus, and I drank  
of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,  
and now I live in him.

3. I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
'I am this dark world's light;  
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,  
and all thy day be bright.'  
I looked to Jesus and I found  
in him my star, my sun;  
and in that light of life I'll walk,  
till travelling days are done.

#### Versicles and Responses

O Lord, open thou our lips.

**And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.**

O God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Praise ye the Lord.

**The Lord's Name be praised.**

Psalm 145. 8-15

The Lord is gracious and merciful: long-suffering and of great goodness.  
The Lord is loving unto every man: and his mercy is over all his works.  
All thy works praise thee, O Lord: and thy saints give thanks unto thee.  
They shew the glory of thy kingdom: and talk of thy power;  
That thy power, thy glory, and mightiness of thy kingdom: might be known unto men.  
Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom: and thy dominion endureth throughout all ages.  
The Lord upholdeth all such as fall: and lifteth up all those that are down.  
The eyes of all wait upon thee, O Lord: and thou givest them their meat in due season.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Lesson: Matthew 11. 16-19, 25-30

At that time Jesus said, ‘To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another, “We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.” For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, “He has a demon”; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, “Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!” Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.’

‘I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.’

‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’

Sermon: Revd Marjorie Warner

I wonder how our frustration levels have been during these last few weeks? So many changes, losses, over-work, boredom, sleeplessness or apprehensiveness to name but a few – that it would be surprising if we or our loved ones had not been subject to mood swings.

One thing that has been understandably absent from where we live has been the happy noise of children at play outside. (What have they all been doing, I wonder?) In our passage from Matthew’s gospel today, Jesus uses a vivid image from local children at play. It sounds as if those young ones often played at pretend weddings and pretend funerals. We know that children play to help further their understanding of the world and its often complex emotions.

It used to be a very common thing where I grew up for street games to simply begin when enough children came out to play. Someone called out a game and we joined in. Perhaps you remember games like tag, Mister Wolf or skipping! We even played a game down the sloping road cobbles called “Rotten Eggs!” It seemed to involve a huge amount of running about and avoidance of being boisterously hit with the ball. We didn’t actually play by chucking any real eggs – but maybe it was a very old game that had had connections with market place stocks!

However, in Jesus' example other children would not join in with the pretend wedding dancing, even though the music had started; and similarly, not with the wailing once the dirge had been sung. The sheer frustration of it for those children wanting to play together with others! And we sense Jesus' own frustration through his example.

Jesus is well aware that the crowd contains those who are critical towards him- and towards Baptist John. There are those who are seemingly unresponsive towards his message, unwilling to join him. They haven't recognised what is on view – God's life-giving, restoring presence in Jesus His Son. So, by not joining in God's dance, so to speak, they're not yet part of the emerging church with her attractiveness to worship, witness – and so draw-in others.

The times have most certainly been getting harder for Jesus too. He is frustrated and he voices it! Matthew continues the passage. We find Jesus at prayer to the Father. Are we surprised? Jesus knows that some things are not to be under his control. We hear him confirming his own calling, his understood and accepted identity as Son of his Father. Now, eased, he can move forwards again.

“Come”, Jesus says. Perhaps the words are very familiar to us: “Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” I am struck by the simple “Come!” “Come” is such an active word. “Come” invites a response. There's an urgency about the word that I'd not grasped before. It brings an image of the speaker giving their full attention to the other – eye-contact, calling-out, or holding-out their hands invitingly. “Come!”

Perhaps we can say that during this difficult time, we have nonetheless received blessings through loving actions and attitudes of faithful and unselfish folks. Perhaps we can say too that despite all, we also have been able to contribute to the well-being of others. Perhaps we have struggled to give or to receive because our mind, body or spirit has been in a hurting place. We are all children of our Father God. To each one of us, uniquely loved – Christ offers his attention – wanting to ease our burdens, teach us of his love and equip us for the times ahead. Just as we are right now, he calls: “Come!”

#### The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholick Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen.

#### The Lesser Litany

The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

### 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 them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.

### Versicles and Responses

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

**And grant us thy salvation.**

O Lord, save the Queen.

**And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**

Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

**And make thy chosen people joyful.**

O Lord, save thy people.

**And bless thine inheritance.**

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

**Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.**

O God, make clean our hearts within us.

**And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

### The Collect for the Fourth Sunday after Trinity

O God, the protector of all that trust in thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us thy mercy; that, thou being our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not the things eternal: Grant this, O heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake our Lord. **Amen.**

### The Second Collect, for Peace

O God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom: Defend us thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### The Third Collect, for Grace

O Lord, our heavenly Father, Almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day: Defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance, to do always that is righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Intercessions

We pray for our country in these difficult times: all who are responsible for making decisions at this time – ministers and scientists especially – and all those responsible for seeing they are carried out. We give thanks for all key workers and volunteers responding to the needs of others: may they know the depth of our nation's appreciation for all their efforts.

*A Prayer for the Queen's Majesty.*

O Lord, our heavenly Father, high and mighty, King of kings, Lord of lords, the only Ruler of princes, who dost from thy throne behold all the dwellers upon earth: Most heartily we beseech thee with thy favour to behold our most gracious Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth; and so replenish her with the grace of thy Holy Spirit, that she may always incline to thy will, and walk in thy way. Endue her plentifully with heavenly gifts; grant her in health and wealth long to live; strengthen her that she may vanquish and overcome all her enemies; and finally after this life she may attain everlasting joy and felicity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We give thanks for the life of our church – not least our realisation that the call to discipleship and ministry extends beyond the limits of our church buildings. We give special thanks for those who have continued to minister to the living – caring for our neighbours, running and supporting our foodbank, praying and working with our communities – as well as ministering to the dying – especially those who have been responsible for organizing and taking funerals throughout the pandemic. As we give thanks for those who have strived to provide us with on-line worship, we pray for those responsible for our safety and well-being as we prepare to re-open our churches.

*A Prayer for the Clergy and People.*

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who alone workest great marvels: Send down upon our Bishops, and Curates, and all Congregations committed to their charge, the healthful Spirit of thy grace; and that they may truly please thee, pour upon them the continual dew of thy blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honour of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

And in moment of quiet, we remember those who would ask for our prayers at this time: those people we know who are ill – physically, mentally, and spiritually, we especially those people who have been isolated because of this pandemic. We remember too those of our family and friends who have died – those whom we will still love and miss – and always will.

*A Prayer of Saint Chrysostom.*

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Unto God's gracious mercy and protection we commit ourselves. The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make his face to shine upon us, and be gracious unto us. The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon us, and give us his peace, both now and evermore. **Amen.**

We finish our worship with the hymn: Jesu, lover of my soul

Hymn: Jesu, lover of my soul

1. Jesus, lover of my soul,  
let me to Thy bosom fly,  
while the nearer waters roll,  
while the tempest still is high.  
Hide me, O my Saviour, hide,  
till the storm of life is past;  
safe into the haven guide;  
O receive my soul at last!

2. Other refuge have I none,  
hangs my helpless soul on thee;  
leave, ah, leave me not alone,  
still support and comfort me.  
All my trust on thee is stayed,  
all my help from thee I bring;  
cover my defenceless head  
with the shadow of thy wing.

3. Plenteous grace with thee is found,  
grace to cover all my sin;  
let the healing streams abound;  
make and keep me pure within.  
Thou of life the fountain art,  
freely let me take of thee;  
spring thou up within my heart,  
rise to all eternity.