

The Parishes of Clent and Hagley

Worship for 6 September - Trinity 13

We will be using this service together on Zoom at 10.30 am.

A call to worship and an Opening Prayer

'Listen carefully...with the ear of your heart...'

St Benedict.

God of all individuals and all communities,
of all giving and all receiving,
grant us the stillness of spirit to give attention to you,
and the generosity of heart
to give attention to our neighbours.

Amen.

Where two or three are gathered in Jesus' name, he is there.

Alleluia!

Where two or three pray in Jesus' name, he is there.

Alleluia!

Where two or three proclaim Jesus as Lord, he is there.

Alleluia!

We gather, we pray, and we proclaim Jesus as Lord,
and we rejoice that he is with us, here, now.

Alleluia! Amen.

Hymn

Fill thou my life, O Lord my God

- a version can be found on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_2mpY0NahNQ

Fill thou my life, O Lord my God
in every part with praise,
that my whole being may proclaim
thy being and thy ways.

Not for the lip of praise alone,
nor e'en the praising heart,
I ask, but for a life made up
of praise in every part:

praise in the common things of life,
its goings out and in;
praise in each duty and each deed,
however small and mean.

Fill every part of me with praise:
let all my being speak
of thee and of thy love, O Lord,
poor though I be and weak.

So shall no part of day or night
unblest or common be;
but all my life, in every step,
be fellowship with thee.

A prayer of praise

God of ones and twos, of communities and nations,
you hear us when we call out in anguish;
you hear us when we sing out in joy;
you hear us when we cry silently in our hearts;
you hear us when we entrust our secrets to you;
you hear us before we even form our thoughts.
You are always listening and you always hear,
and we praise you.

Amen.

A prayer of thanksgiving

We thank you, loving God,
that you are with us in community,
and that, through your presence,
we are strengthened by each other.

We give you thanks and praise.

We thank you for the challenges we find in Scripture,
for guidance on faithful living
and wisdom to seek and to know you.

We give you thanks and praise.

We thank you that you are near to us,
that you forgive; that you empower;
and that you support us with your peace.

We give you thanks and praise.

We thank you that you enable us, through your example,
to live together; to guide each other;
and to offer and receive forgiveness.

Thank you for all that you are, and all that you do.

We give you thanks and praise.

Amen.

Asking for God's forgiveness

In the higgledy-piggledy ways of life, Lord,
with challenges and changes pulling us this way and that,
we sometimes find it hard, in the heat of the moment,
to know what is right and what is wrong.

Forgive us for our failings and wrongdoings:
forgive us and help us.

Forgive our insensitivities to the ways of others:
forgive us and help us.

Forgive anything that cuts us off from each other or from you:
forgive us and help us.

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A Collect

**Almighty God,
you search us and know us:
may we rely on you in strength
and rest on you in weakness,
now and in all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

A New Testament Reading

Romans 13.8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Hymn

As we are gathered, Jesus is here

- a version can be found on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SCdD5Ouq-2Q>

As we are gathered,
Jesus is here;
one with each other,
Jesus is here;
joined by the Spirit,
washed in the blood,
part of the body,
the church of God.
As we are gathered, Jesus is here;
one with each other, Jesus is here.

Repeat all over again!

A Gospel Reading

Matthew 18.15-20

Jesus spoke to his disciples. 'If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

A Reflection from Hayward Osborne

Hymn

When I needed a neighbour

- a version can be found on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fExR7eOhJO0>

When I needed a neighbour, were you there, were you there?
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?

*And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
Were you there?*

I was hungry and thirsty, were you there, were you there?
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?

I was cold, I was naked, were you there, were you there?
I was cold, I was naked, were you there?

When I needed a shelter, were you there, were you there?
When I needed a shelter, were you there?

When I needed a healer, were you there, were you there?
When I needed a healer, were you there?

Wherever you travel I'll be there, I'll be there.
Wherever you travel, I'll be there.

Intercessions

We pray for those living in places
where brothers and sisters are not reconciled,
where violence speaks out
and the voice of peace is not heard.

Jesus, Lord of love,
in your mercy, hear us.

We pray for families who cannot listen
to one another's pain;
where bitterness speaks out
and the voice of understanding goes unheard.

Jesus, Lord of love,
in your mercy, hear us.

We pray for those communities
where diversity is not celebrated,
where prejudice speaks out
and the voice of tolerance is not heard.

Jesus, Lord of love,
in your mercy, hear us.

We pray for Christians who cannot agree,
where doctrine excludes
and the voice of generosity is not heard.

Jesus, Lord of love,
in your mercy, hear us.

We pray for one another,
that we might speak out with the voice of truth,
and listen with ears of humility.

Jesus, Lord of love,
**in your mercy, hear us,
accept our prayers, and be with us always.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Hymn

Bind us together, Lord

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wRwfTS_Ne0o

*Bind us together, Lord,
bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord,
bind us together Lord, bind us together in love.*

There is only one God,
there is only one King.
There is only one Body,
that is why we sing:

Fit for the glory of God,
purchased by his precious Blood,
born with the right to be free:
Jesus the victory has won.

We are the family of God,
we are his promise divine,
we are his chosen desire,
we are the glorious new wine.

A Closing Prayer and Blessing

Lord, you were with us when we arrived,
and you have stayed with us during this time together.
**Go with us now, that we may be always in your presence
and follow in your paths. Amen.**

May our words bring others together,
may our actions inspire others to live well,
and may we know the love and friendship
of Jesus, as we journey through the week
with our family and friends:
and may the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ.

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