



St John the Divine

Eucharist Service

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday 19th July 2020

Welcome to our live-streamed service, found on the FaceBook page for 'St John the Divine Croydon'.

Today we resume observing the standard lectionary in the Sunday Gospel readings and themes. The focus for these next few Sundays are parables about the Kingdom of God.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

Sentence

You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

Psalm 86.15

Hymn: Praise the One who breaks the darkness

by Rusty Edwards (b.1955) - tune: Nettleton

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- 1. Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light.**
Praise the One who frees the prisoners, turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the gospel, healing every dread disease, calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.
- 2. Praise the One who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word.**
Praise the One who drove out demons with a piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand; from this well comes living water, quenching thirst in every land.
- 3. Praise the one true love incarnate, Christ, who suffered in our place.**
Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory.
Praise the One who makes us one.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

We have too often failed to respond to Christ's call to live his way of sacrificial love, fearing the cost and being blind to the blessing. As we prepare to offer thanks and praise for that love shown to us, let us call to mind our sins.

Silence is kept.

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love: fill us with your Spirit.

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith:

fill us with your Spirit.

Christ have mercy

Christ have mercy

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust: fill us with your Spirit.

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

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

GLORIA AND COLLECT

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father:

receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High

Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Let us pray.

Saving God,

in Jesus Christ you opened for us

a new and living way into your presence:

give us pure hearts and constant wills

to worship you in spirit and in truth;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Today's Gospel reading is the parable of the weeds - about how we respond to others in God's kingdom. The first reading demonstrates this in Paul's graphic description of the sacrifices he has made to respond to others in love.

First reading - from the New Testament

A reading from Paul's second letter to the church in Corinth [6.2-13]

God says,

'At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.'

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours,

sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. In return - I speak as to children - open wide your hearts also.

May your word live in us

And bear much fruit to your glory.

Gospel reading

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?" He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn." '

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.' He answered, 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!'

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

**We believe in one God,
who made and loves all that is.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was born, lived, died and rose again,
and is coming to call all to account.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who calls, equips and sends out God's people,
and brings all things to their true end.**

This is our faith, the faith of the Church:

**We believe in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

Response:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

**Grant that what we have asked in faith
we may by your grace receive,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

We are all one in Christ Jesus.

We belong to him through faith,
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Hymn: Give thanks with a grateful heart

by Henry Smith (b.1952) - tune: Give Thanks

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**1. Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given
Jesus Christ, his Son.**

(repeat)

**And now let the weak say, 'I am strong,'
let the poor say, 'I am rich'**

because of what the Lord has done for us.'

(repeat)

2. *(repeat vs 1)*

Give thanks.

Blessed be God,

by whose grace creation is renewed,

by whose love heaven is opened,

by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.

Blessed be God for ever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary
and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross
and rising to new life,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin,
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

And now we give you thanks
because by the Holy Spirit you lead us into all truth,
and give us power to proclaim your gospel to the
nations

and to serve you as a royal priesthood.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Merciful God, we thank you
for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.'

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,

in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father,
in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us,
we are confident to 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.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

As this broken bread was once many grains
which have been gathered together and made one
bread:

**so may your Church be gathered
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.**

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for
you, preserve your body and soul to everlasting life.
Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for
you, and feed on him in your heart by faith with
thanksgiving. **Amen.**

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for
you, preserve your body and soul to everlasting life.
Drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed
for you, and be thankful. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYERS

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for feeding us
with the spiritual food of the body and blood
of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Thank you for assuring us of your goodness and love,
and that we are living members of Christ's body.

Father,

we offer ourselves to you

as a living sacrifice

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Send us out in the power of your Spirit

to live and work to your praise and glory.

Hymn: Come, ye thankful people, come
by Henry Alford (1810-1871) alt. - tune: St George's Windsor
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1. **Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest-home!
All is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin;
God, our maker doth provide
for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come;
raise the song of harvest-home!**
2. **We ourselves are God's own field,
fruit unto his praise to yield;
wheat and tares together sown,
unto joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear:
grant, O harvest Lord, that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.**
3. **For the Lord our God shall come,
and shall take his harvest home;
from his field shall purge away
all that doth offend, that day;
give his angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store
in his garner evermore.**
4. **Then, thou Church triumphant, come,
raise the song of harvest-home;
all be safely gathered in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there for ever purified
in God's garner to abide:
come, ten thousand angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest-home!**

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

The love of the Lord Jesus
draw you to himself,
the power of the Lord Jesus
strengthen you in his service,
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;
and the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be upon you and those whom you love and pray for,
now and always. **Amen.**

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

NOTICES

We have a few things that we can particularly give thanks for at this time:

Over the last few weeks we have been praying that our bequeathed **Mooroolbark property** would be sold quickly, and with a generous offer. Well, God has indeed been good to us and answered our prayers. It has been sold to a developer for marginally more than we were asking for. This generous offer is offset by settlement only being scheduled for October next year. Apparently this lengthy delay to settlement is typical for properties with plans for development.

The **Parish Network** to ensure all parishioners are regularly kept in contact is not yet fully in place - however, it is reaching completion. We already have nine coordinators in place, and a few more are coming on board. I'm hoping that we can commission the Network team during next Sunday's service.

The physical **Parish Office** has been brought back into existence after an absence of many years, and will make administration of the parish easier. There is still work to be done to make it fully functional, but this should progress more easily now.

Meetings scheduled this week, via Zoom:

- Parish Council, 7.30pm Mon 20 July
- Mission Action Team, 7.30pm Wed 22 July

Offertory: Thank you to all those who are managing to send their offertories to the Parish Office, or directly into the parish bank account:

- 'St John's - general account' BSB: 033044
Account: 251582

Please note the following from the Archbishop's Office:

Annual meetings and parish electoral rolls

We have been asked again about annual parochial meetings and electoral rolls. We encourage generosity in reviewing the parish electoral roll before the annual meeting. We hope that a brief synod meeting on Saturday morning, October 17, will pass legislation enabling annual meetings to be deferred into early next year and potentially to meet online.

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