

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF LAMBTON

Holy Communion 6.9.2020

Processional Hymn **TiS 445**

(Please stand if you are able)

**Jesus, where'er your people meet
there they behold your mercy seat,
where'er they seek you, you are found
and every place is hallowed ground.**

**For you, within no walls confined,
are present in the humble mind;
such ever bring you where they come,
and, going, take you to their home.**

**Dear Shepherd of your chosen few,
your former mercies here renew;
here to our waiting hearts proclaim
the sweetness of your saving name.**

**Here may we prove the power of prayer
to strengthen faith and sweeten care,
to teach our faint desires to rise,
and bring all heaven before our eyes.**

**Lord, we are few, but you are near,
your arm can save, your ear can hear;
O rend the heavens, come quickly down,**

and make a thousand hearts your own.

Later form of melody by William Knapp 1698-1768 William Cowper 1731-1800 *alt.*

Sentence

'Where two or three are gathered in my name,' says the Lord, 'I am there among them.' Matthew 18.20

The Priest greets the people.

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

Let us pray:

Almighty God,

to whom all hearts are open,

all desires known,

and from whom no secrets are hidden:

cleanse the thoughts of our hearts

by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,

that we may perfectly love you,

and worthily magnify your holy name,

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Invitation to Confession

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself'.

Silence may be kept

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, confident in God's forgiveness.

**Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us,
Strengthen us to love and obey you
in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith:
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy.**

**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.**

The Collect

Go before us, O Lord, and further us with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued and ended in you we may glorify your holy name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Ministry of the Word

The Old Testament Reading Exodus 12. 1-14

...For the word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm Reading 149

The New Testament Reading Romans 13. 1-10

...For the word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Hymn TiS 614

**O God of love, whose heart is ever yearning
that fixed on you our wayward thoughts may be,
now grant us grace to live as in your presence,
and help us all our erring ways to see.**

**May love subdue the ill in every nation,
and all to you as subjects bow the knee.**

**O Father God, moved ever by compassion
for children crushed by sorrow's heavy load,
be swift to aid the downcast and the cheerless,
lift up the fallen on life's thorny road.
Give calm and strength to overcome with patience,
and safely bring them to your blest abode.**

**O God of peace, whose Son with our sins laden
died to secure from bondage our release,
help us to banish hate between the nations,
to live as neighbours, and make wars to cease.
Bring in the reign of friendship universal,
and in our mercy grant to us your peace.**

From 'Finlandia' by Jean Sibelius 1865-1957 Randall T. Pittman 1882-1972

The Gospel Reading Matthew 18. 10-20

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ...

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

This is the Gospel of the Lord

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Reflection

(See Matt 18.15-17)

How should we as followers of Jesus deal with “differences of opinion”? An African proverb says “two trees that are close together will rub against each other”. In any fellowship there will be issues arising from different perceptions and actions. Some cause hurt. How do you “heal the rift”? Should you pretend that there is no problem? We can refuse to face the facts, swallow our anger or resentment, paper over the cracks, and carry on as if nothing has happened while seething with rage inside. Should you write a letter of complaint to the parish priest? Or post something on social media!

We thought about forgiveness last week. This issue moves us to think about real reconciliation, with a focus on how we as members of the church should be able to attempt to achieve it. Paul’s advice to the Christians in Rome was to

“let love be genuine” (Rom 12.9) and to those in Colossae “above all, clothe yourself in love” (Col 3.14).

How does this work out in the model that Matthew records Jesus giving the disciples?

There seems to be several clear steps.

If we feel that someone has wronged us, we should begin by putting our complaint into words. Brooding over assumed wrong can act like a poison. Putting it into words – facing it – may illustrate how unimportant or trivial the whole thing is.

If we feel someone has wronged us we should go and see them personally. Writing letters can cause more problems as the meaning may not be conveyed properly or misunderstood. Talking to someone can often sort an issue which a letter (or a text) may only exacerbate. There can be blame on both sides. Misunderstandings can be cleared up by questions and answers. This is a joyful ending!

Having someone go along with you – the next step if there is no resolution with the previous attempt – is not meant to be a way of proving the offence. Rather it is to be a means of helping with the process of reconciliation.

Sometimes, because of the tension between the two parties, an opportunity to talk over the issue in the presence of a wise and kindly and gracious person may create a chance that we might be able “to see ourselves as others see us”.

The next step, if previous ones fail, draws not on a legal system, but on the fellowship of believers. It is hoped that in an atmosphere of Christian prayer, Christian love, and Christian fellowship that personal relationships might be righted. This step seeks to judge not on the basis of a book of practice or procedure but in the light of love.

The final step if none of the others bring reconciliation. Does this imply that the person must be abandoned and thought of as irreclaimable? This is hard to accept when Jesus never sets limits to human forgiveness. Jesus’ disciples contained Gentiles and tax collectors. The challenge is for us to establish relationships which have eternal consequences with those we feel wronged by. Paul’s advice to the Christians in Rome rings in our ears (and prompts our conscience)! (See Rom 12.9-21).

Chris Bullock

After the Sermon there may be a time of quiet reflection.

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ has promised that you will hear us when we ask in faith: receive the prayers we offer.

For the nations

We give thanks for those nations cooperating in their efforts to end the corona pandemic; and for the service given by so many caring people across the world and in our own nation.

We pray for those seeking justice and peace for all; for our own leadership in Australia – our Commonwealth and State leaders – give them encouragement, protection and wisdom; for our own stewardship of this nation, especially with the environment.

Guide with your wisdom and power the leaders of the nations, so that everyone may live in peace and mutual trust sharing with justice the resources of the earth. Give the people of this land a spirit of unselfishness, compassion, and fairness in public and private life.

Father, hear our prayer
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For the Church

Across the Anglican Communion we pray for the Anglican Church of South Africa; in Australia, for the Diocese of Bendigo; in Newcastle, for Bishop Peter and those who support him in ministry; Scone Grammar School; the parishes of Bateau Bay and Gosford; Justice Ministries and Chaplaincy; we continue to pray for the ministry in our own parish of Lambton.

We give thanks for all ministries with families – today especially, we give thanks for fathers and pray God’s protection on all families, nuclear and extended. Send out the light and truth of your gospel and bring people everywhere to know and love you. Enable those who minister among us to commend your truth by their example and teaching. May we gladly receive and obey your word.

Father, hear our prayer
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For those in need

We give thanks for all those reaching out to help those in need. We especially pray for and give thanks for all involved in the protection and care of the vulnerable in our community at this time.

We remember those in particular need in our own parish.

We commend to your fatherly care, merciful God, all who are in sorrow, sickness, discouragement or any other trouble. Give them patience and a firm trust in your goodness. Help those who care for them, and bring us all into the joy of your salvation.

Father, hear our prayer
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thanksgiving for the faithful departed

We give thanks for the life and work of those who have served God faithfully in this parish. May we be good stewards of the heritage entrusted to us.

We praise you for all your servants whose lives have honoured Christ. Encourage us by their example, so that we may run with perseverance the race that lies before us, and share with them the fullness of joy in your kingdom.

Father, hear our prayer

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.**

Whenever you stand praying forgive, if you have anything against any one; so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. Mark 11.25

Let us pray.

**We do not presume to come to your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold
and great mercies.**

**We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs
under your table.**

**But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have
mercy.**

**Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of
your dear Son Jesus Christ,
and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us. Amen.**

Greeting of Peace

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Hymn TiS 233

A thanksgiving offertory collection is received for the work of the Church.

**1. I will sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me,
how he left the realms of glory
for the cross on Calvary.**

*Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me,
sing it with his saints in glory,
gathered by the crystal sea.*

**2. I was lost: but Jesus found me,
found the sheep that went astray,
raised me up and gently led me
back into the narrow way.**

**3. Faint was I, and fears possessed me,
bruised was I from many a fall,
hope was gone, and shame distressed me:
but his love has pardoned all.**

**4. Days of darkness still may meet me,
sorrow's paths I oft may tread;
but his presence still is with me,
by his guiding hand I'm led.**

5. He will keep me till the river

**rolls its waters at my feet:
then he'll bear me safely over,
where the loved ones I shall meet.**

Melody by Rowland Huw Prichard 1811-87 Francis Harold Rowley 1854-1952

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
And for the service of your kingdom.
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.
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 the one 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 our 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 forever. Amen**

The Breaking of the Bread and the Communion

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body,
For we all share in the one bread.

Agnus Dei

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.

Draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in your hearts with thanksgiving.

Reflection Hymn TiS 477

**Jesus calls us here to meet him
as, through word and song and prayer,
we affirm God's promised presence
where his people live and care.
Praise the God who keeps his promise;
praise the Son who calls us friends;
praise the Spirit who, among us,
to our hopes and fears attends.**

**Jesus calls us to confess him
Word of Life and Lord of All,
sharer of our flesh and frailness
saving all who fail or fall.
Tell his holy human story;
tell his tales that all may hear;
tell the world that Christ in glory
came to earth to meet us here.**

**Jesus calls us to each other:
found in him are no divides.
Race and class and sex and language
such are barriers he derides.
Join the hand of friend and stranger;
join the hands of age and youth;
join the faithful and the doubter
in their common search for truth.**

Gaelic air adapted John Bell. John L. Bell 1949- and Graham Maule

1958-

Prayer after Communion

Father of all

we give you thanks and praise

that when we were still far off

you met us in your Son and brought us home.

Dying and living, he declared your love,

gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.

May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;

we who drink his cup bring life to others;

we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.

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.

Notices

The Blessing

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;

and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Recessional Hymn TiS 420

**Holy Spirit, go before us,
every mind and heart prepare
for good news of life in Jesus,
for the joyful hope we share.
Gently lead the lost to safety,
gently teach them Wisdom's way,
till they come to seek you gladly,
till we find the words to say.**

**Holy Spirit, come and help us,
give us words to speak of Christ.
Teach us how to tell all people:
deepest darkness can be light!
Help us tell how faithful God is,
and how Jesus sets us free;
take our words, and make them gospel,
so that many may believe.**

**Holy Spirit, stay to show us
how to serve as Christ served us.
May our words of love be grounded
in love's actions, first and last.
Your good news is news of justice,
and the strong befriend the weak
in your service, till compassion
builds the peace the nations seek.**

Hal H. Hopson 1933- Elizabeth J. Smith 1956-

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen

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