

Morning Prayer 23<sup>th</sup> August 2020

The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

Service with Nigel Spencer



Personal preparation before the service begins.  
Please take time to remember where you are, and why  
you are here. Give thanks and become still in the  
presence of God

Prelude

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you.

**And also with you.**

This is the day that the Lord has made.

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**



ACF 5 All I once held dear

All I once held dear, built my life upon,  
All this world reveres and wars to own;  
All I once thought gain I have counted loss,  
Spent and worthless now compared to this.

CHORUS:

Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You  
There is no greater thing.  
You're my all, You're the best,  
You're my joy, my righteousness,  
And I love You Lord.

Now my heart's desire is to know You more,  
To be found in You and know as Yours,

To possess by faith what I could not earn  
All surpassing gift of righteousness.

CHORUS:

Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You  
There is no greater thing.  
You're my all, You're the best,  
You're my joy, my righteousness,  
And I love You Lord,  
Love you Lord

CCLI: 1045238

Let us pray with words from Psalm 138

(Of David.)

I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart;  
**before the “gods” I will sing your praise.**  
I will bow down toward your holy temple  
**and will praise your name**  
**for your unfailing love and your faithfulness,**  
for you have so exalted your solemn decree  
**that it surpasses your fame.**  
When I called, you answered me;  
**you greatly emboldened me.**

May all the kings of the earth praise you, Lord,  
**when they hear what you have decreed.**  
May they sing of the ways of the Lord,  
**for the glory of the Lord is great.**

Though the Lord is exalted, he looks kindly on the  
lowly;  
**though lofty, he sees them from afar.**  
Though I walk in the midst of trouble,  
**you preserve my life.**  
You stretch out your hand against the anger of my  
foes;  
**with your right hand you save me.**  
The Lord will vindicate me;  
**your love, Lord, endures forever—**  
**do not abandon the works of your hands.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
**As it was in the beginning,  
is now and shall be for ever.**

The Collect for today, the 11th Sunday after Trinity.

God of glory,  
the end of our searching,  
help us to lay aside  
all that prevents us from seeking your kingdom,  
and to give all that we have  
to gain the pearl beyond all price,  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

The first reading is taken from Romans 12:1-8

Let us prepare ourselves for the word of God  
**Our hearts and our minds are open**

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give

encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The reading is taken from Matthew 16:13-20

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

**Glory to you, O Lord**

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Homily in Thoughts

### **A tested confession**

#### Confusing times for the disciples

- Background - what had been happening prior to this event?

- The Feeding of the 5,000 (Matthew 14:13 ff, Mark 6, Luke 9, John 6)

- Walking on the water (Matthew 14:22 ff)

- Many people leave Jesus after He claims to be the Bread of Life and invites them to drink His blood.

*John 6:53 Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. 55 For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. 56 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them.*

- Jesus deliberately offends Pharisees and teachers of the Law from Jerusalem in Capernaum (Matt 15:1-20)

- Meets faith in the Caananite woman (Matthew 15:21 ff)

- Feeding of the 4,000 (Matthew 15:29 ff)

- Bethsaida - Jesus heals the blind man as an object lesson for the disciples (Mark 8:22 ff)

- Jesus challenges the religious authorities AGAIN! He does it every time they meet!

- Jesus refuses to be acclaimed as ruler, the common perception of the Messiah among the Jews of His day. (John 6:14-15)

◦ The disciples must have been getting really confused by now! And now Jesus tests their commitment, their faith needs to solidify.

*John 6: 66 From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. 67 "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve 68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God."*

### Peter's Caesarea Philippi Confession

Jesus and His disciples are walking from Bethsaida about 25 miles north towards Caesarea Philippi, a Roma town. Perhaps they stopped for a break along the way. Rabbi Jesus begins asking questions, one of which goes to the heart of the disciples' confused thinking. "Who do people say that I am?"

Peter's response is not a novel confession, as we have seen. His own brother Andrew had recruited him with the confession: "We have found the Messiah!". The difference is it has now been TESTED, and it has held! Has yours?

### Will they pass the test?

#### Corrie Ten Boom The Hiding Place

In the winter of 1975-76, When Helen was expecting our daughter Alexandra, we were in the Netherlands and visited the Hiding Place, where Corrie ten Boom's family hid Jews from the Nazis above their little jeweller's shop. We were thrilled when Corrie walked in to check the visitor's book and we were warmly greeted.

Today's reading reminded me of an incident she recounted in her book, when the family were in hiding, before they were betrayed and arrested. One night, as she huddled in her cold, crowded hiding place, shaking with fear, she heard her father's footsteps coming up the stairs.

*"Father sat down on the edge of the narrow bed.  
"Corrie," he began gently, "when you and I go to  
Amsterdam-when do I give you your ticket?"  
I sniffed a few times, considering this.  
"Why, just before we get on the train."  
"Exactly. And our wise Father in heaven knows when  
we're going to need things, too. Don't run out ahead of  
Him, Corrie. When the time comes that some of us will  
have to die, you will look into your heart and find the  
strength you need-just in time."*



ACF 81 Light of the world

Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness,  
opened my eyes, let me see  
beauty that made this heart adore you  
hope of a life spent with you.

So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,  
here I am to say that you're my God  
and you're altogether lovely, altogether worthy  
altogether wonderful to me

Kings of all days, oh so highly exalted,  
glorious in heaven above;  
humbly you came to the earth you created,  
all for love's sake became poor.

So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,  
here I am to say that you're my God  
and you're altogether lovely, altogether worthy  
altogether wonderful to me

Bridge:

I'll never know, how much it cost  
to see my sin upon the cross  
I'll never know, how much it cost  
to see my sin upon the cross  
I'll never know, how much it cost  
to see my sin upon the cross

So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,  
here I am to say that you're my God  
and you're altogether lovely, altogether worthy  
altogether wonderful to me  
(Repeat 1 x)

Here I am to worship  
CCLI: 3266032

Intercessions (by Lauren)

Father, we pray for the needs of the world, especially at  
this time of global pandemic,  
for those who are sick and for all medical personnel  
and caregivers,  
for research workers and scientists who are working  
hard to develop a vaccine,  
for all who have returned to work and those who have  
been working, that they be kept safe from harm,  
for those who are particularly vulnerable to this virus,  
for those who are isolated,  
for those who are anxious,  
and for our parish family in this time of social isolation.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Jesus, we pray that our community would bear witness  
to Peter's profession of faith; that you are indeed the  
Christ, the Son of the living God.

We pray that all believers, during these continued times  
of uncertainty and chaos, may persevere with God's  
grace and love. Help us to be a beacon of light to the  
world in troubled times.

We pray for our Archbishop Justin Welby and all  
Christian leaders, including the locums that come to  
serve us during this time of interim, that they be the  
unifying force that draws us into communion with each  
other as we grow in faith and love for Christ and His  
church.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

And we lift the country of Lebanon to you at this time. Send sufficient aid for the rebuilding of the city and for the care of the injured, may corruption be overcome by compassion and bring new leadership in the government.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Today we pray particularly for our church in Freiburg as we experience this period without a minister. We thank you that you have already begun to give us new vision, that already we sense your presence among us, so that we may go gladly and confidently on our way with hope for whatever is still unsolved and the work still to be done. May all this live in our hearts and fill us with thanksgiving.

May we all take part as workers in your vineyard for the sake of your kingdom. May the light you have given us continue to shine in us and burn ever more brightly, as you have promised.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

In the language of our hearts, let us pray as our Saviour taught us .....

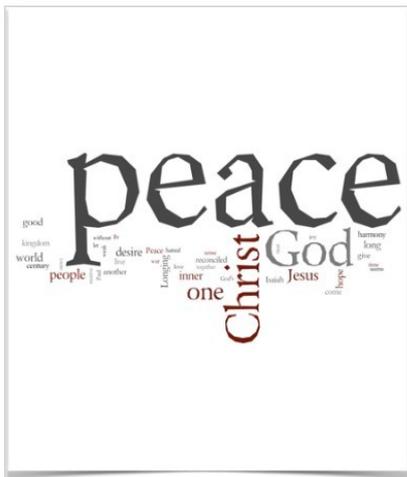
A sign of peace

We are the body of Christ.

In the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you**





ACF 109 Soon and very soon

Soon and very soon  
We are going to see the king (3x)  
Alleluia, alleluia, we're going to see the king

No more cryin' there  
We are going to see the king (3 x)  
Alleluia, alleluia, we're going to see the king

No more dyin' there  
We are going to see the king (3 x)  
Alleluia, alleluia, we're going to see the King  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

CCLI: 11249

The Blessing



The Lord bless you and watch over you,  
the Lord make his face shine upon you  
and be gracious to you,  
the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace;  
and the blessing  
of God Almighty, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
be with you now and always.

**Amen.**

The Conclusion

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,  
and keep us in eternal life.

**Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Postlude