



Holy Communion Service 25th October 2020

The Twentieth/Last Sunday after Trinity

Service with Bishop Trevor Musonda Mwamba

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

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

**Blessèd Jesus, at your Word (Liebster Jesu)**

Blessèd Jesus, at your word  
we are gathered all to hear you;  
let our hearts and minds be stirred  
now to seek and love and fear you;  
by your gospel pure and holy  
teach us, Lord, to love you solely.

All our knowledge, sense and sight  
lie in deepest darkness shrouded,  
till your Spirit breaks our night  
with your beams of truth unclouded;  
you alone to God can win us,  
only you work good within us.

Glorious Lord, yourself impart,  
light of light from God proceeding;

open lips and ears and heart,  
help us by your Spirit's leading;  
hear the cry your church now raises;  
Lord, accept our prayers and praises.

CCLI Song # 314094  
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**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.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:  
The first commandment is this:  
'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.  
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your soul, with all your mind,  
and with all your strength.'  
The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'  
There is no other commandment greater than these.  
On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

The Collect

Blessed Lord,  
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our  
learning:  
help us so to hear them,  
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them  
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,  
we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of  
everlasting life,  
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

The reading is taken from Isaiah 55.1-11

Let us prepare ourselves for the word of God

**Our hearts and our minds are open**

Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
    come to the waters;  
and you that have no money,  
    come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
    without money and without price.  
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
    and your labour for that which does not satisfy?  
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
    and delight yourselves in rich food.  
Incline your ear, and come to me;  
    listen, so that you may live.  
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
    my steadfast, sure love for David.  
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
    a leader and commander for the peoples.  
See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
    and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
    for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near;  
let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on  
them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.  
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.  
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The reading is taken from Matthew 24:30-35

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to  
Matthew

**Glory to you, O Lord**

Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see “the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven” with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.  
‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, O Christ.

### Sermon

When Sir Walter Scott the great Scottish historical novelist, playwright and poet was dying, he asked his son-in-law to read to him. The son-in-law, Lockhart, who knew that Sir Walter had written so many books, and acquired so many more for his magnificent library, asked him - from which book? He said, ' Need you ask - there is but one.' The Bible.

Perhaps we may not realise that the Bible underlies almost all the great works of Western literature in history. Western legal jurisprudence. The great works of architecture, the great paintings, the great musical compositions - Handel's Messiah for example.

Lord Denning was a great English judge. For many years he was president of the Lawyers' Christian Fellowship. The most tattered book in his Chambers was the Bible because he used it often when writing judgments.

The Bible is not like any other book. One way to describe it, written by many different people over a period of three thousand years and more, is that it is a disorderly collection of sixty- six books of very different stories. Some exciting, some boring, some difficult, some brutal, some contradictory and inconsistent, some inspirational.

The Bible portrays a complex mix of life. It mirrors life as it really is. Its about us humans who at the best of times are complex. We contain within ourselves many selves. To borrow words from Shakespeare's play As You Like It:

All the world's a stage,  
And all the men and women merely players;  
They have their exits and their entrances;  
And one man in his time plays many parts,  
His acts being seven ages.

We are many selves and parts. We can be both believing and unbelieving, innocent and guilty, saints and crooks, full

of hope and full of despair. So the Bible portrays us well. The Bible stories are our stories.

Our stories with God. The God we believe in or if we don't the God we don't believe in. The Bible in a long story volume after volume focuses on our relationship with God or lack of.

The Bible reveals different images and descriptions of God. God who walks and talks with Adam and Eve in the garden. God who is like a mother hen gathering her brood under her wings.

God who is jealous, just, merciful. God who is love.

The Bible teaches God is named and experienced in endless ways. As revealed through many lives in their relationship with God. The Bible sums up the relationships in two ways, 'Asa did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord...' 1 Kings 15:11; or Nabab..'..did evil in the sight of the Lord...' 1 Kings 15:26

Contingent on their relationship with God choices were made. The Bible teaches us to listen to our lives in order to make the right choices. Often we approach the Bible seeking answers and forget that often the Bible also asks us questions!

The first question God asked Adam was 'Where are you'? Genesis 3:9.

The Bible makes us think. So we can see beyond the surface of a fact, a situation, a person, to 'the deep roots of things, into their holy ground'.

It makes us think and experience God within us and beyond. We do so by listening to our lives and paying attention to what happens to us.

In his inspiring books the American Presbyterian minister and theologian Frederick Buechner advises us to pay attention to who we see, what we say, what people say. Pay attention to what the day feels like. Observe. That wonderful phrase "religious observances" means, among other things, just what it says. Observe religiously. Observe deeply. Don't just get through your life, as all of us are inclined to do, on automatic pilot, not noticing anything.

But observe and reflect meditatively and deeply on all holy scripture written for our learning; to help us, to hear them, to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, through patience, and the comfort of God's holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which God give us in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

The Bible is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The Bible takes us in the mind of God whose thoughts are not our thoughts, or our ways God's ways. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are God's ways higher than our ways and God's thoughts than our thoughts.

The Bible living and powerful takes us into the mystery of life where like fairytales God makes amazing things happen to people and to us too. It's pulls apart the curtains of this world to reveal what Henry Vaughan, the great Welsh poet described as '...a country afar beyond the stars...', where One, who never changes, our God, our life, our cure awaits.

The Bible guides us to this country afar beyond the stars...

That's why Sir Walter Scott wanted his son-in-law to read from it... so the Bible could guide him in his dying moments to this country afar beyond the stars.

*The Creed*

***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 from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.  
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.***

Prayers of Intercession (by Judith)

Loving God, we pray for your church here in Freiburg and around the world. We pray for all church leaders, for Bishop David and Bishop Robert, for Archdeacon Leslie Nathaniel and Area Dean John Newsome. We give you thanks for Bishop Trevor, for his teachings and the new impulses he has given us. We ask for your wisdom and guidance for those who are part of the process of appointing new ministers for Freiburg and Basel. We pray for the applicants. May they incline their ears to you and hear your calling. We pray they will be filled with your Holy Spirit to guide and lead us into a promising future, breathing new life into our churches and communities and igniting growth; so that we



Preparation of the Table  
Taking of the Bread and Wine

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right,

it is our duty and our joy,

at all times and in all places

to give you thanks and praise,

holy Father, heavenly King,

almighty and eternal God,

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For he is your living Word;

through him you have created all things from the beginning,

and formed us in your own image.

Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin,

giving him to be born of a woman and to die upon the cross;

you raised him from the dead

and exalted him to your right hand on high.

Through him you have sent upon us

your holy and life-giving Spirit,

and made us a people for your own possession.

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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,

through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,

and as we follow his example and obey his command,

grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit

these gifts of bread and wine

may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,

took bread and gave you thanks;

he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of  
sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father,  
we remember his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;  
we look for the coming of your kingdom,  
and with this bread and this cup  
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

**Christ has died:**  
**Christ is risen:**  
**Christ will come again.**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray  
**Our Father in heaven,**  
.....

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.  
**Though we are many, we are one body,**  
**because we all share in one bread.**

God's holy gifts  
for God's holy people.  
**Jesus Christ is holy,**  
**Jesus Christ is Lord,**  
**to the glory of God the Father.**

***We do not presume***  
***to come to this 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 our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body  
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,  
and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.  
Amen.*

The president and people receive communion.  
(Songs may be sung during the distribution of communion)

**Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out  
in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work  
to your praise and glory.  
Amen.**

**Lord, your word abiding (Ravenshaw)**

Lord, your word abiding,  
and our footsteps guiding,  
gives us joy for ever,  
binds us all together.

Who can tell the pleasure,  
who recount the treasure,  
by your word imparted  
to the simple-hearted.

Word of mercy, giving  
nourishment for living:  
word of life, supplying

comfort for the dying.

O that we, discerning  
its most holy learning,  
Lord, may love and fear you,  
evermore be near you.

CCLI Song # 1039172

Henry Williams Baker | Michael Weisse | William Henry Monk

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### 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.**

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