

Morning Prayer 16th May 2021

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Morning Worship with Christine Ghinn



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: Jesus paid it all

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YmkI0t0FOcw>

And I hear the savior say
Thy strength indeed is small
Child of weakness, watch and pray
Find in me thine all in all

Jesus paid it all, all to him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow

Lord, now indeed I find
Thy pow'r and thine alone
Can change the leper's spots
And melt the heart of stone

Jesus paid it all, all to him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow

And when before the throne
I stand in him complete
Jesus died my soul to save
My lips shall still repeat

Jesus paid it all, all to him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow

Jesus paid it all, all to him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow

He washed it white as snow
He washed it white as snow

Oh, praise the one who paid my debt
And raises life up from the dead
Oh, praise the one who paid my debt
And raises life up from the dead
Oh, praise the one who paid my debt
And raises life up from the dead
Oh, praise the one who paid my debt
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CCLI 4689508

Call to Worship

From comfortable pews, from tricycle seats, from easy chairs in front of TVs:

God gathers us in, giving us the words with which to proclaim the gospel.

At kitchen sinks, at laptops and blackboards, at nursing stations:

Christ calls us to share in serving all creation.

In communities gathered to pray, in memories of those who served, in families relaxing in the backyard:

The Holy Spirit fills us with God's joy.

Let us pray with words from Psalm 1

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,

nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

Their delight is in the law of the Lord,

and they meditate on his law day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;

everything they do shall prosper.

It is not so with the wicked;

they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,

nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,

but the way of the wicked is doomed.

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.

Song: Blessed assurance

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7SSJicZO6_g

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God
Born of his spirit, washed in his blood

This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Saviour, all the day long
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Saviour, all the day long

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture burst on my sight
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Saviour, all the day long

This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Saviour, all the day long

Perfect submission, all is a rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blessed;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Saviour, all the day long
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Saviour, all the day long

(Repeat whole refrain)

CCLI: 22324

The Collect for today, the Seventh Sunday of Lent

O God the King of glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us
and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is
gone before,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The reading is taken from 1 John 5:9-13

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

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God

gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Song: Behüte mich, Gott

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S6-UneKF2l&t=5s>

Behüte mich Gott
Ich vertraue Dir,
Du zeigst mir den Weg zum Leben,
Bei Dir ist Freude, Freude in Fülle

Taizé

The reading is taken from John 17:6-19

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus prayed for his disciples, "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as

we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth."

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

Homily

A ship is caught in a terrifying storm at sea. Water splashes, the wind is howling and all is in a panic. Finally the captain raises his voice and shouts, "Does anyone know how to pray???" A priest raises his hand, "I can pray." "Great!", exclaims the captain with much relief, "Ok, priest, you pray. Everyone else will wear a life jacket. We are short of one."

The time between Ascension Day and Pentecost is traditionally a time of prayer. This year, we as the ACF are marking it by taking part in the global 11-day prayer initiative, Thy Kingdom Come. Each night we meet at 9pm on zoom for 30 minutes of communal prayer. Also, each of us is encouraged to pray for 5 of their friends throughout the day.

In today's gospel reading we also meet a man, deep in prayer. It is Jesus on the evening before his arrest. Sitting around the dinner table, he has just finished giving his disciples the last few words of teaching, when he launches into a prayer of intercession. By recording these words, John lets us listen in on what

Jesus' own prayers sounded like. Well, at least the prayers he spoke before others. My hunch is, that his private conversations with his father in heaven sounded different, just as we ourselves phrase our prayers differently, depending on the situation we are in.

So let's turn to this prayer from the gospel of John, chapter 17, specifically the section in which Jesus prays for his disciples. The deep love that radiates through his words is striking, especially if we consider the situation they were spoken into. Jesus gathers for the last time with his friends around the table. Judas has already left the room, with his teacher knowing full well what he's up to. Jesus is aware of all the times in which his other disciples too have failed to understand, to trust and to do what is right. Yet, he still speaks kindly of them, calls to mind their specialness, praises them for keeping his word and verbalises his concern for their well being. Reading between the lines, we can almost feel his heart breaking, not so much for himself and his impending death, but for his friends and what they will be faced with soon.

Jesus almost sounds a parent, grandparent or mentor faced with their little (or not-so-little) ones embarking into a new phase of their lives. The elder knows that things won't be easy. This knowledge puts everything into perspective, past frustration fade into the distance and what remains is an overflowing, almost painful love and compassion for the other. Within all this, Jesus, the Son of God, is honest about his limitations, his dependency on his Father. He knows that by leaving them, he has less direct influence on his friends. He acknowledges that even the impact and standing he did have with them originated not in his own being, but in God the Father.

Jesus' frankness continues when he speaks about the reality of the world his disciples will have to navigate living in. Our planet and human society is not always a cozy place, yet despite - or perhaps even because - of this, God has send his Son here. And despite - or perhaps even because - of this, Jesus commissions his friends to stay here and carry on the good work he

himself has started. When we hear Jesus talk about the hostility of the world, we might be inclined to fall into a us-versus-them mentality, which, in fact was and still is a widespread way to make sense of reality. The conclusion for some believers and communities is a withdrawal from 'the world'. For others, it is a fight against 'the world'.

But this is not what we hear Jesus say, as he looks out, if you will, of the window of a train that pulls out of the station, waving to his shocked and sad friends on the platform, who will soon witness their teacher & guide fade into the distance. He doesn't shout: "Fight against the world with all your might!" or "You better be terrified of all that's going on in this world!" They don't hear him exclaim, "Build your own remote little utopia!", instead he prays, "As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world." Jesus encourages his loved ones he leaves behind to walk through the station building into the streets of the city and pick up where Jesus has left off: caring for the sick, poor and marginalised, proclaiming the good news, demonstrating non-violent love and kindly looking behind facades, walls and fences. It's not a you-versus-them mentality, that rings through his words, but a radiating you-for-them attitude.

Jesus, like every good guardian, leaves his friends with a parting gift. It's not the obligatory set of household utensils a university student-to-be might get, or a last sentimental selfie, taken just before boarding the train. No, Jesus gifts them some simple short intercessions. Knowing what they will be faced with, he settles on these three items they will need to brave all that's to come: unity, protection and sanctification. There isn't a long list of handy hints or extensive prayers, covering all possible eventualities. Jesus' priorities lie in them sticking together, being kept from evil and becoming a God-honouring, holy people. We hear no request for physical or material well-being, for long lives or impressive careers. For Jesus it all boils down to: a) community, b) safeguarding against wickedness and c) godliness.

In closing I would like to ask two questions: "What is my and our response to this prayer?" and "How can this prayer teach us to pray?"

Conclusion 1: Our Response

The part of the prayer we're thinking about this morning is dedicated to Jesus' disciples. Only later in the chapter does he move on to pray for future believers. But that prayer has it's parallels to today's text, so we shall ponder about what all this means for us. Jesus' tenderness and love for his disciples is also directed at every single one of us today - the people that try to follow him in 2021, flawed and all. Christ's unconditional love and acceptance is almost impossible to wrap our heads and hearts around, yet may we at least try. Also, let us see ourselves as people sent into this sometimes harsh world, just as Jesus was, who prayed for us to live in unity, protected from wickedness on our path to sanctification.

Conclusion 2: Our Intercessions

Jesus prays: "I am asking (...) on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours." We, too, have been entrusted with very specific people: our family, friends, neighbours, colleagues and so on. May each of us keep those who are close to our hearts before God in prayer. They too are sent into this world, and at times it's not easy for us to stand by and watch them live their lives. May we really grasp the reality, that our loved ones are God's already, and thus trust in his care and love for them. Maybe wed like to give Jesus' way of interceding a go: some short and simple requests for unity, protection and sanctification. Because our good Father in heaven already knows the needs of those he has given to us.

Amen.

Song: Lead me, Lord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XLtlylXJ3V4>

Lead me, Lord,
lead me in your righteousness,
make your way plain
be - fore my face

(repeat)

For it is you, Lord,
you Lord only
that make me to dwell
in safety.

CCLI 5667897

Intercessions (WH)

The title of the first song today somehow got to me: *Jesus paid it all*. I mean, have you ever wondered who footed the bill for the last supper? When we think of Jesus, of course we think first and foremost that he paid for us sinners all, and besides that, all comparison seems to pale to the point where all those little domestic trifles become unmentionables. However, let us not forget that for many people, these trifles can become insurmountable obstacles as they struggle to make ends meet.

Lord, help us to keep our eyes open for the little problems, the trivial things that we can do to help within our range and on an everyday basis.

Lord in your mercy –

Hear our prayer

On the next level, what is it we can do to pay the bills for the maintenance of our community? This is not a stewardship intercession, but of course if what you can do most easily is chip in some money, feel free to do so,. What I am thinking of more, however, is this: look around –whom haven't we seen for a while? Whose face has rarely if ever shown up on these tiles? Can you give them a call? Walk by their home, maybe, ring the bell and tell them that they are being missed?

Lord, give us the necessary push to get up and do these things.

Lord in your mercy –

Hear our prayer

And on to more: the pandemic is far from over, the climate disaster looming larger. The longer we wait before decisive action is taken, the larger that bill is going to be. We have mortgaged the world to the spirit of consumerism. Are we really going to leave that bill to our children?

Lord, help us to find ways in which we can be useful.

Lord in your mercy –

Hear our prayer

The sinners are those who try to sneak out of their responsibility without paying their dues, their share. Lord, we thank you for the economics science people who this past week uncovered the system of tricks and evasive tactics by which Jeffy Bezos and amazon manage to avoid paying taxes, and to amass crazy riches. Lord, help them and others working on similar projects to show who the freeloaders and parasites in our societies are –

Lord in your mercy –

Hear our prayer

Lord, a little support often goes a long way. You don't demand the impossible from us. But help us to respect those that give more – the doctors and nurses wearing themselves out in the ICUs, the teachers trying to keep their students provided with care and love, the priests working to tend to their parish communities. And let me end on an intercession from 1937, from a different fight in a different situation, but one that went lost, and necessitated a much bigger and more terrible effort a few years later because those that might have done more chose to abstain:

Mike Quinn. "How Much for Spain?" (1937)

The long collection speech is done

And now the felt hat goes

From hand to hand its solemn way

We will work with each other,
We will work side by side,
We will work with each other,
We will work side by side,
And we'll guard each man's dignity
and save each man's pride

And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love

CCLI 26997

Sending & Benediction



From the comfort of this place,
to the discomfort of discipleship,
we will go to serve your people, Loving God.

Weeding community gardens which feed the hungry,
tutoring children after school,
we will go to wrap others in your grace, Jesus our Brother.

Listening to the stories of the ignored,
learning the language of our newest neighbors,
we will go to discover the truth you share in every moment, Spirit of Wisdom.

And so may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the
love of God and the friendship of the Holy Spirit,
encourage you, empower you and inspire you onwards.
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

Pentecost Sunday

Our Pentecost All Age Worship will be led by Rev Margaret Rittman.

23rd May at 11:30am on zoom

To fully participate, please bring a ballpoint pen or a marker and a (deflated) balloon!

We're looking forward to worship with you!

„Zu Fuß von Frauenfeld nach London“

Online-Bericht über eine ungewöhnliche Pilgerreise
am 20. Mai ab 19.30 Uhr

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Im Sommer 2017 bricht Jörg Niederer zum ersten Mal in seinem Leben zu einer Pilgerreise auf. Der Weg führt den Pfarrer der Evangelisch-methodistischen Kirche zu Fuß vom schweizerischen Frauenfeld durch Deutschland und Frankreich nach London an das Grab von John Wesley.

Auf den insgesamt 1066 Kilometern lernt der Wanderer nicht nur zahlreiche Menschen kennen, er trifft sich auch mit alten Bekannten, die ihm für eine Nacht ein Bett zur Verfügung stellen. Geplagt von Selbstzweifeln und körperlichen Beschwerden kommt der Autor einige Male an seine psychischen und physischen Grenzen. Doch immer wieder schafft er es, weiter voran zu schreiten und sein Ziel nicht aus den Augen zu verlieren.

Nach 46 Pilgertagen trifft er schließlich in London ein. An seinem 8. Pilgertag war Jörg Niederer bei unserem Abendgottesdienst in der Emmauskirche zu Gast. Nun wird er in der Reihe „kreuz & quer“ von dieser Reise erzählen, Bilder zeigen und aus seinem Buch vorlesen.



„Ein Pilger ist ein Wanderer mit einer Bestimmung“

Veranstalterin ist die Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche Freiburg

Kontakt: freiburg@emk.de



Online-Zugang via Zoom:

Meeting-ID: 862 0960 5115, Kenncode: 834823

Wer die Zoom-App nicht installiert hat, kann mit diesem Link auch direkt aus dem Browser heraus teilnehmen:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86209605115?pwd=Yi92L3FkM2wreXc5UzQwOGkxUVlEQT09>

Diesen finden Sie auch hier: <https://www.atlas.emk.de/emk-freiburg/aktuell/>