

The Bride Valley Telephone Service for Sunday 6th June 2021

**Trinity 1
Living by Faith**

Welcome in the name of Christ. God's grace, mercy and peace be with you: **and also with you**

Hymn: Christ whose glory fills the skies

Opening Prayer

Lord God, our maker, you are the source of all our life and strength, the fountain of all that we know and the provider of all that we need; reach out to us in this act of worship, that it may be more than a formal exercise of religious tradition, but rather, a means of grace.

Draw near to us, Lord: **that we may come closer to you.**

Enlarge our understanding to take in some of your greatness; and make our minds sensitive to such light and truth as we can bear. Move us by your Spirit to respond to the mystery of your presence, be our daily companion on the journey of life – for you know the way we should go and only your purposes are of lasting worth.

Draw near to us, Lord: **that we may come closer to you.**

Forgive us when we seek after lesser things and turn away from you and from our neighbours, make us more aware of the needs of others and of your glory in the world around us. Disturb us with inner restlessness which will never be satisfied until we become what you have made us to be.

Draw near to us, Lord: **that we may come closer to you.**

Lord, hear our prayers and help us not only to speak but to listen, and not only to listen, but to obey, and not only to obey, but to love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

From The Electric Bible by Peter Dainty

The Collect

God of truth, help us to keep your law of love and to walk in ways of wisdom, that we may find true life in Jesus Christ your Son. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 3.8-15

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I

ate.' The Lord God said to the serpent,
'Because you have done this,
 cursed are you among all animals
 and among all wild creatures;
upon your belly you shall go,
 and dust you shall eat
 all the days of your life.
I will put enmity between you and the woman,
 and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike your head,
 and you will strike his heel.'

New Testament Reading: Corinthians 4.13 – 5.1

We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;
Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you.
For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.
For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.
For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;
While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Gospel Reading: Mark 3.20-35

And the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

"Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"— for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you." And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

Reflection

Here in these first few chapters of Mark's gospel things are picking up a pace for Jesus and his followers, wherever they go they are being followed by a crowd who want in on the action. Jesus has made enemies out of the local clergy and he is annoying the neighbours at home and getting a bad reputation for his family.

He has just chosen his twelve disciples, those who will be closely linked with Jesus' mission for the rest of their lives. He is going about his Father's business of healing the sick, bringing good news to the poor, giving sight to the blind and letting the captives go free.

People are bewildered by it all, including his family. This is not what they were expecting. They always knew he was something special, but they had not anticipated the kind of effect this was having on their lives.

Jesus has made it perfectly clear he will not be dutifully following all the rules, the scribes are afraid of losing control of large proportions of the population. They see his power and realise that the source must be good or evil.

It can't be God at work because it does not resonate with their scripture so it must be the evil one.

But the reality is: everything Jesus has done is good. It has restored the children of God to their human community. Everywhere he goes, madness, evil and sickness are banished. Those who read God's word should surely be able to see it in action among themselves. The transformational power which Jesus brings into being is not always a comfortable experience, we may be asked to move out of our comfort zone, to step out of the safety of our boat and take risks. But when we are brave enough, when we risk what we have to become followers of Jesus, that's when the reality of our faith hits us, that's when we gain the reassurance and knowledge of having Jesus at the heart of it all. That's when we truly start to live a life in all its fullness. Praise God.

Prayer of Humble Access

Lord, we come to this your table trusting in your love alone, hoping in your mercy, for we have no goodness of our own.

Yet you do not give us only crumbs, which from your table fall; you provide that bread and wine, which is the richest food of all.

Broken bread and broken body, poured out wine and blood you give, we in you and you in us Lord, by this grace forever live.

Though we cannot receive you sacramentally at this time we receive from you spiritually in the nourishment of us you freely give (Adapted from Humble Access – Electric Bible)

And now we join our prayers together in the words of the Lord's Prayer:

**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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

Final Prayer

God of compassion, through your Son Jesus Christ you have reconciled your people to yourself. As we follow his example, may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Final Hymn: Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising

Sources: New Patterns for Worship copyright @ The Archbishop's Council 2002, second edition 2008