

Telephone Service 13June21 (Some verses will be omitted on the telephone)

Welcome to our service on this 2nd Sunday after Trinity **Preparatory Prayer** Lord Jesus, we thank you for the way we can meet you in prayer anywhere and anytime.

As we come to you now in our worship, come to us, we pray, and show us your goodness and your glory **Amen**
God's Word says: *Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive blessing from the LORD, And righteousness from the God of his salvation.*

We begin by **Confessing our sins**

God our Father we confess that we do not always honour you as our God **Lord have mercy**
Jesus our Saviour we confess that we do not always follow you as our Lord **Christ have mercy**
Holy Spirit our Helper we confess that we do not always obey you as our teacher **Lord have mercy**

Absolution May almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to save sinners, by his Spirit bring you his pardon and his peace, now and for ever **Amen**

Song Be still *by David J Edwards*

1 Be still for the presence of the Lord, the holy one is here	2 Be still for the glory of the Lord is shining all around
Come, bow before him now, with reverence and with fear	He burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned
In him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground	How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of Light
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here	Be still for the glory of the Lord is shining all around
3. Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place	
He comes to cleanse and heal, and minister his grace.	
No work too hard for him, in faith receive from him	
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place	

Readings

2Corinthians 5:6 So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord.

7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

9 Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

14 For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died;

15 and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

16 Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer.

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Mark 4 :26 And Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground,
27 "and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how.
28 "For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head.
29 "But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."
30 Then He said, "To what shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what parable shall we picture it?
31 "It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth;
32 "but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade."
33 And with many such parables He spoke the word to them as they were able to hear it.
34 But without a parable He did not speak to them. And when they were alone, He explained all things to His disciples.

Reflection

Do you watch programmes like the Great British Bake Off, The Great British Pottery Throwdown, The Great British Sewing Bee?

For me, half the fun is seeing what people do when things go 'off piste' - when an ingredient is wrong or forgotten, the fired pot has cracked, the sewers have measured or cut the material wrongly, and to see the contestant's reaction I have to measure something three or four times to make sure the measurements are right. Yet despite this I still end up with things going wrong

Isn't it frustrating when you can't get it right or do anything about it

Sometimes you just have to shrug your shoulders and get rid of what's wrong and start all over again. But often in life you often can't do that. The mistake, the error, the fault, is irreversible, is irretractable, it's indelible.

David wrote a song about this in Psalm32 saying *Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity*

The Greek Church in Corinth had a mixed bag of people in it. There were some who were overwhelmed with guilt about their failures; others who were careless & flippant about their sins; some who carried great burdens from the past; others who flouted the rules (secretly or brazenly); There were a number who were arrogantly self centred, and domineering; and some who felt worthless The early Christian church was a real hodge -podge

Paul gives this life changing word, first for the conscience-stricken and then to the careless, in 2Corinthians 5:27 *If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

1st For the conscience-stricken he says: In Christ things are made new

Twice he uses the word 'kainos' new. 'Neos' means fresh, and 'Kai' can be used to mean thoroughly - thoroughly new -

like a new beginning, a new birth!

In Christ (because of him and his death and resurrection) things can be reversed, restored, regenerated

Earlier Paul says *twice Christ died FOR us all*

This word 'For' in Greek is 'hyper' and is a 'superior' word (like a hypermarket is bigger and better than your local store because this hypermarket claims to provide for all our needs) so ...Christ's death provides everything we need!

'Hyper' is also a 'substitutionary' word; it means instead of, in place of. Christ died FOR, instead of us, to provide for us, pardon that anyone can ask for

By means of his death 'in our place' we are forgiven

Praise God, we become cleansed and covered by his sacrifice for us

When we come to Jesus and put our lives into his nail-pierced hands by that act of commitment we become personally and positionally a Christian a 'Christ-in' one

In Christ *the old is over*, the new has come. *We are a new creation*

1st Christ by his death deals with the past, and by his resurrection gives us new life - eternal life All things are NEW

2nd On the other hand there are those who say 'Now I'm a Christian I can do anything - God loves me, he will forgive me, whatever!'

Paul says to these superficial, self centred, careless ones

All things are NEW - *old things have passed away* - the old life and the old way of doing things are over

Not only do we have a new position, we have a new purpose

v9 says *Therefore* (because we are 'In Christ', because 'all things have been made new', because the old way of life is ended) we have a new way of living: *we make it our aim to be well pleasing to Him.*

Not only is the old life of sin dealt with

but the old life of selfishness is over

We are now in the One who said: *Father not what I want but what you will*, and who went out and gave his life for us

v14 says *the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died, then all died*

Because Jesus died FOR our sins when we receive Him into our lives we are changed

In the 1960's my father went into the National Heart Hospital to have the UK's 2nd heart transplant.

Christians have a spiritual heart transplant

The old heart of sin and selfishness is taken out (we die) and we are given a new heart (we live) This new heart is not ruled by sin or self but by sinlessness and selflessness v9 says *NOW we make it our aim not to please self but to please Him*

As the old wrist band says: W W J D - What would Jesus do?

We must ask ourselves: Is my aim to please my Self or please my Saviour?

The Bible says *if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

-here is comfort for the care-weary *All things are new*

-here is challenge for the careless *Old things have passed away*

Song I am a new creation *by Dave Bilborough*

I am a new creation, no more in condemnation, here in the grace of God I stand

My heart is overflowing, my love just keeps on growing, here in the grace of God I stand.

And I will praise you Lord, yes I will praise you Lord, and sing of all that you have done.

A joy that knows no limit, a lightness in my spirit, here in the grace of God I stand

We **proclaim our faith** in the words of the Apostles' Creed by responding to the statement *This is the faith of the Church* with the words **This is our faith**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth

This is the faith of the Church **This is our faith**

I believe in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried, He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven; he is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

This is the faith of the Church **This is our faith**

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

This is the faith of the Church **This is our faith**

Prayers To the call Your Kingdom come we say **Your will be done**

Father we thank you for the wonders of your creation in heaven and on earth. Make us and the members of the G7 mindful of our God-given stewardship for this world into which our Saviour came in human flesh

Your Kingdom come **Your will be done**

Father you are just and true, holy and good in all your works. Give to us and the leaders of our nation a heart like yours to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you all our days. Strengthen us to walk in the selfless ways of Jesus our good shepherd

Your Kingdom come **Your will be done**

Father, we thank you for your mercy to us when we fail. Because Jesus died and rose again, in him we are made a new creation, the old has passed away and all things are made new. Help those burdened by guilt, bound by fear and struggling with temptation to find in Him your grace sufficient for all their needs

Your Kingdom come **Your will be done**

Father, the strength of the burdened, bereaved, and broken we pray for them to know your peace. Help those who are

exhausted in their care for the sick the suffering, and the dying. And make us, your children, to be the ministers of your love in this needy world

Your Kingdom come **Your will be done**

Lord's Prayer (in its modern form)

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 for ever. Amen

Song And can it be *by Charles Wesley*

1. And can it be that I should gain an int'rest in the Saviour's blood? Died he for me, who caused his pain? For me who him to death pursued? Amazing love! How can it be? That thou my God should'st die for me	2 He left his Father's throne above So free, so infinite his grace; Emptied himself of all but love, And bled for Adam's helpless race' 'Tis mercy all, immense and free; For O my God it found out me.
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3. Long my imprisoned spirit lay
fast bound in sin and nature's night;
thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose went forth, and followed thee

4 No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.

And now a **Blessing** from Numbers 6:24 that we can say to one another

The Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us; may he turn his face towards us, and give us peace. Amen

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with us and remain with us, and those whom we love and pray for, this day and for evermore. **Amen**

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