

Sunday 6th November 2022

All Saints

Introit - Be Still for the Presence of the Lord- tMt video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-yBLNgQkvY&list=PL5dbbdzyKBag-mEd9qTgdyYNQLIsLD2rC&index=5>

Welcome

May the worship be a blessing to you



Acknowledgement

We acknowledge those who were here before us, the first inhabitants of this place
We honour them for their custodianship of the land on which we gather today.

Call to Worship

Lord, you call us
To follow you
Lord, you call us
We will go
Lord, you call us
We will follow you

Prayers of Adoration, Invocation and Confession

Lord our God
You love us with an everlasting love as your beloved children.
You have made us and delight in us.
You have given each one of us a divine purpose.
You value and accept us and are always present with us on the journey.
You call us to be Saints
Ordinary people like us
Doing our best to love others as ourselves

We give you our thanks and praise

Jesus our Lord
 You came for us
 You taught us how to love
 You called us to follow you
 You showed us how to live out your love command
 You taught us the golden rule
 Do to others as you would have them do to you
 Lord, you showed us how to love

We give you our thanks and praise

Holy Spirit,
 You guide us on the journey
 You pour God's love into our hearts
 so we may know God and follow Jesus
 so we may love God and others as ourselves

We give you our thanks and praise

Come upon us today Holy Spirit
Come Holy Spirit Come

Lord, forgive us if we haven't lived out your love command
 Where we have hurt someone
 Lord, transform our hearts as
 we come before you now in this moment of silence
 With all that troubles our hearts

Silence

Hear then Christ's words of grace to us
"Your sins are forgiven"
THANKS BE TO GOD

YouTube Hymn 655: O let the Son of God enfold you 2021

Orchard enterprises and Oasis Worship
 Music and lyrics by John Wimber
 From Heart of Worship Vol 3
 2020 Classic Fox records
<https://youtu.be/kLqTNhxwzKI>



Readings

Ephesians 1:11-23

¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance,^[a] having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this^[b] is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love^[c] towards all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God^[d] put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Luke 6:20-31

²⁰Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹'Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

'Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

²²'Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you^[a] on account of the Son of Man. ²³Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴'But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

²⁵'Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

'Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶'Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

²⁷'But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.

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Hymn: 135 All things Bright and Beautiful – original version. Mkariobangi 2013

<https://youtu.be/IPMA5I3-0Jw>

Young at Heart



Image from Revised Common Lectionary

I invite you to ponder about the following questions: What is a Saint?

How does a saint live their life?

What does "do to others as you would have them do to you" mean?

Sermon - Saints are ordinary people – Rev Tina
In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, amen



Images Tina Lyndon

Once again Jesus is changing the status quo.

At this time the rich thought they were blessed, and the poor thought they were cursed. Jesus' teachings about blessings and woes would have jolted people into a new reality. His teachings would have created conflict and division. His teachings speaks to all those who are downtrodden and oppressed, undervalued, and persecuted. Jesus overturns assumptions about who is of value in the kingdom of God. What he says empowers people and transforms their minds. He speaks of a new world order where the old world is about people power and the new world is about God's power.

In the gospel twenty percent or so of the population were wealthy, the ruler, the governing class, priests, pharisees, merchants, and even artisans. Eighty percent or so were down the bottom of the pecking order, day labourers, unclean, degraded, slaves, expendables.

So, who is Jesus speaking to? The disciples. All disciples throughout the ages.

He is transforming their minds, to prepare them for leadership.

The poor are blessed. They are dependent on God, whereas the rich do not need God.

Perhaps Jesus is saying the hungry will be filled with something more valuable than mere food. The rich fill themselves with food but are starving spiritually.

Those who were Christians were treated badly, hated, and persecuted. The promise to them is they will be comforted and filled with the deepest joy for they will receive eternal life in heaven. Those who are laughing and filled with food at others' expense will weep.

Blessings and woes are outlined then Jesus speaks about how to live in a world where Christians were persecuted and oppressed. A world where the Romans were in control. But Jesus' teachings are not about submission to the system. They are about passive resistance to it. Loving your enemies means not behaving like them and loving them sets people free from their power over them. You can't hate if you love.

In many ways when you pray for your enemies, you hand them over to God and you are set free from anger, bitterness, and revenge. Jesus speaks of Blessing your enemies, where disciples do not respond with the same kind of treatment, they hand out to them.

In many ways when someone hates you, and you do good things for them, they do not triumph over you. Perhaps you will open their hearts to redemption by God.

Forgiving doesn't mean condoning bad behaviour. Forgiveness is for the person forgiving and may set them free.

Jesus teaches his disciples how to live under Roman rule. If a Roman soldier struck a person, it would be on the right cheek. Offering the left cheek means they strike with a backhander. This shames them. It is shameful behaviour.

Jesus suggests if someone takes a person's outer cloak, offering the thin cotton undercoat leaves them naked. This shames the person who has taken their cloak and inner garment. If someone steals your goods let them go and don't try to get them back. I wonder if this is an invitation to hold possessions lightly and not put them first, but to put your wellbeing and soul first.

Then we have the bottom line in the gospel. The golden rule. *"Do to others as you would have them do to you."*

I wonder, how do you like to be treated by others?

With love?

Gently?

With respect?

Included?

With compassion?

Listened to?

Welcomed?

Cared for?

How do you like to be treated?

This brings me to Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus – a Roman resort on the Turkish coast. A playground for the rich and most likely a living hell for labourers and slaves. Paul writes to the church encouraging them in their faith and love for others, their love for the saints. He gives thanks for them. They are ordinary people, saints who do their best to live like the body of Christ. People of all ages were welcomed to the church. No one was excluded, rich or poor.

So, what is a saint?

How does a saint live their life?

Saints are us. We are called to live our lives as Jesus taught us.

Saints are not perfect. No one is perfect. Only God is perfect.

Saints are rough around the edges and do their best to live with faith and love.

The golden rule is the saint's motto. *"Do unto others as you want others to do unto you"*

Treat others as you want to be treated by them. As a saint we are called to live this way, as best as we can.

The Lord be with you

Quiet time of Reflection



Offering prayer

(about offering up ourselves and giving thanks to God for all we have)

Lord and giver of every good thing we bring to you our lives and gifts for your kingdom all for transformation through your grace and love made known in Jesus Christ our Saviour, amen

Prayers of the People – Tim Joyce

God of everlasting love we pray for all people:

- When money becomes a prison:
- When income determines worth:
- When economies deepen injustice:
- where consumption replaces compassion:
- free us to choose life

That our responses and our actions will be guided by love,

Almighty God, We pray that as your Church we may demonstrate a living, vibrant faith, courageous and true to your Word. We pray for our Whitehorse cluster of churches. Grant us strength, wisdom and purpose as we make our way forward. We pray for our ministers and our leaders, for our programs and our ministries. Bless them and bless us. That we might look out as well as looking in, that we might serve you, our community, our world

We pray too Lord for other churches and agencies

For the work and ministry of New Hope Baptist Church, Blackburn North and for the Uniting Church congregation in Surrey Hills. We pray for their witness and their work, for their ministries and their programs. That people may come to know you through their efforts.

And we pray for Uniting AgeWell – for the many community services that they provide. Bless their work and, in particular, those who coordinate programs through their Head Office. Grant them purpose and energy to do your work.

Lord, We pray this morning for – the islands of Oceania: American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia (Maohi Nui), Kanaky, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

We are thankful for:

- the amazing diversity of people and cultures living on the islands of Oceania
- the magnificent natural scenery and sea life
- the strong, faithful presence of churches in these lands
- the stories and bold witness to the impact of climate change, reminding the rest of the world that we are all in the same 'boat' on this planet, 70 percent of which is covered by the ocean.

We **pray** for:

- efforts to preserve these island nations in the midst of rising seas
- those adversely affected by earthquakes, volcanoes and cyclones
- those dealing with the legacy of past nuclear weapons testing and with garbage dumping today
- good governance – especially in preserving indigenous cultures –which effectively serves those who are impoverished, hungry, lacking education or unable to make a living.

Merciful God. We pray for the poor, neglected and marginalised in our own community. For indigenous people. For the displaced. For the unemployed, for the lonely. Surround those who are suffering with your love, O Lord. We pray for compassionate and generous responses to need – by individuals, churches and governments. We pray for justice. We pray for peace – in our world and in our hearts

Merciful Lord - We pray for those in special need at this time and we entrust these people to your care
 Lord equip us to be agents of Your love in the world. We pray all these things through Jesus Christ our crucified and risen Lord who taught us to pray

Our Father in heaven
 Hallowed be Your name
 Your kingdom come
 Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven
 Give us today our daily bread and 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.



Candle Prayers

A time of remembering and naming our loved ones who have died

Prayer (all say this prayer)
We bless you, O God
for all the saints who have departed this life
in the faith of Christ especially those who, we remember today with love.
And we pray that we may lead faithful and godly lives
in this world and finally share with all the saints in everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymn 455 - For all the Saints
Performed by the Choir of King's College Cambridge
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1OaBgaMcOvM>



Communion

The Spirit of the Lord be with you **And also with you**
 Lift up your hearts **We lift them to the Lord**
 Let us give thanks to the Lord **It is right to give our thanks and Praise**

Archangels sound the trumpets
 Angels teach us their song
 Saints pull us into your presence
 And this is our song:

Holy, Holy, Holy God
Our life, our mercy, our might
Heaven and Earth are full of your Glory
Save us, we pray, you beyond all
Blest is the one who comes in your name
Save us we pray, you beyond all

Holy God, we remember your son, His life with the humble
 His death among the wretched His resurrection for us all
 Your wisdom, our guide
 Your justice, our strength, your grace, our path to rebirth

And so we cry, Mercy:

Mercy!

And so we cry, Glory:

Glory!

And so we cry, Blessing!

Blessing!

Holy God we beg for your spirit,
 Enliven this bread, awaken this body
 Pour us out for each other, transfigure our minds
 Ignite your church, nourish the life of the earth
 Make us though broken, whole. Make us, despite death, alive

And so we cry, Come, Holy Spirit:

Come, Holy Spirit!

And so the church shouts, Come, Holy Spirit:

Come, Holy Spirit!

And so the earth pleads, Come, Holy Spirit:

Come, Holy Spirit!

Praise now - Praise tomorrow - Praise forever

And so we cry, Amen

Amen!

Life-giver, pain-bearer, love maker.

Source of all life that is and shall be

Father and mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by all peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done

By all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom

Sustain our hope and come on earth!

With the bread we need for today, **Feed us**

In the hurts we absorb from one another, **Forgive us**

In times of temptation and test, **Strengthen us**

From trials too great to endure, **Spare us**

From the grip of all that is evil, **Free us**

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever, **Amen**

Christ is the bread of joy

Who shares food with sinners

Christ is the cup of life

Who revives the faint hearted

Let us receive what we are

Let us become what we receive

THE BODY OF CHRIST

Invitation

This is the table of the Lord

It is an open table where all are welcome

These are the Gifts of God for all the People of God

May we who Share these gifts be found in Christ and Christ in us

We have the bread and wine together

The body of Christ keep us in eternal life - **Amen**

Pause

The blood of Christ keep us in eternal life - **Amen**

Prayer after Communion

Blessed be God who calls us together

Praise to God who makes us one people

Blessed be God who has forgiven our sin

Praise to God who gives hope and freedom

Blessed be God whose word is proclaimed

Praise to God who is revealed as lover

Blessed be God who alone has called us

Therefore, we offer all that we are and all that we shall become

Accept, O God, our sacrifice of praise

Amen.

Accept our thanks for all that we are.
Our hands were empty and you filled them.

Hymn 531 Sent Forth by God's Blessing
Mary Munson 2021

<https://youtu.be/8BVuHxtW6OU>

Blessing

We go in Peace in the love of God in the Power of the Spirit
May the Lord Bless and Guard us
May the Lord make His face shine upon us and be gracious unto us
As we bring Christ's love and peace to the world. Amen

Hymn 779 May the Feet of God – tmt video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YhiG-Vj8CGU&list=PL5dbbdzyKBag-mEd9qTgdyYNQLsLD2rC&index=40>

Pastoral Care tips – Rev Tina



Often children speak into our hearts in a way that adults cannot. Perhaps it's because they speak to the child in us who longs to be free. After all Jesus taught us we must be like a child to enter the kingdom of God.

Perhaps many of us are carrying hidden burdens. Perhaps the adults in our lives as a child spoke words that were critical and diminished us in some way.

It is said that children stop loving themselves when constantly criticised. That when a child is loved and spoken to in a loving way, they learn to love themselves. Some people are wounded as children. Try to speak to the child in yourself and love them. Listen to the child in another and love them. Be set free.

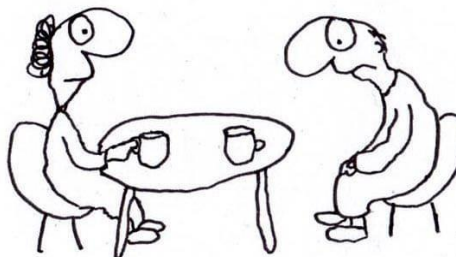
YouTube –Peace in Christ

5-year-old Claire Ryann Crosby and dad
The Crosbys 2018

<https://youtu.be/Waitmz6C100>

Inspiring stories - Andrea Bocelli talks about his strong faith in God. EWTN News In-Depth 2021

https://youtu.be/oN_FVhfZEPw



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