

Welcome to a short time of prayer and reflection for the thirteenth Sunday after Trinity. Let us be still and recognise we are in the presence of God: Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen

The Lord be with you

We think that Matthew's gospel was particularly popular with early Christians for the teaching it records from Jesus on how to live together as a Christian community and today's gospel includes just such teaching. Jesus is realistic about the differences that can become problematic in the life of a community but emphasises that the unity of his church is found when two or three remember that they gather in his name.

As his church in this place at this time let's take a moment to hold each other in our hearts before God. Let's take a moment to look over the past week, to give thanks for times of friendship and close understanding with others, and to seek healing and forgiveness in relationships which are difficult as we come to confession:

Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord hear my voice Lord have mercy

If you Lord, were to mark what is done amiss, Lord who could stand? Christ have mercy

But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. Lord have mercy

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits for him: in his word is my hope.

May Almighty God have mercy upon you, forgive you your sins and bring you to everlasting life Amen

Let us pray:

Almighty God,

who called your Church to bear witness

that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself:

help us to proclaim the good news of your love,

that all who hear it may be drawn to you;

through him who was lifted up on the cross,

and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

We listen to a reading from the Gospel of Matthew 18: 15-20  
The Gospel of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon : see additional attachment

Let us pray:

Father, it was Jesus' prayer that all who follow him should be one. Help your church to grow into the full unity that reflects your love that together we may be an effective sign of it in the world. Bless our bishops: Robert, Jackie and Nick as they lead your church in this place and help even our smallest congregations find know your presence in our midst.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Lord we pray for your world, giving thanks for the beauty of the creation of which we are part. Prosper all who have a concern for its preservation and help us play our own part by wise use of the gifts of the earth. Guide all who lead the nations with wisdom and compassion – that healing, equity and peace may be their goals.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all those with whom we share our lives. Make us good neighbours, living peaceably where we can and mending disagreements wisely. We ask your blessing on our families and friends and pray for all who feel isolated and lonely at this time to find connections with others that help. Give us eyes, ears and a heart to notice their needs and respond.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We persevere in prayer for all who are ill, injured or in distress at home, in hospital or being cared for in the hospice. Bless with the comfort of your presence and such healing that is according to your will all those who we know to be suffering at this time, and those whose pain is known only to you.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Eternal God, we commend to your everlasting love all who have died: those we love and see no longer; those who have died recently and those whose anniversary of death falls around now. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We gather all these intercessions in the prayer Jesus gave us:

Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory. Forever and ever, Amen.

Giving thanks for the communion we share through baptism with one another and with God in Christ Jesus our Lord we make an act of spiritual communion in the words of this prayer:

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. As I cannot receive you sacramentally today, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

And we pray for God's blessing on each other and all who we love and pray for:

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