

Welcome to a short time of prayer and reflection for the last Sunday after Trinity which we are keeping as Bible Sunday. 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

Since Trinity Sunday we have been listening to Biblical readings that bring us Jesus' teaching, guiding us in our life together as the church that was brought into being at Pentecost, acclaiming as Lord the one whose life we have followed from the Christmas season through to Holy Week and Easter. Next week, we enter into Kingdom season when we remember those who have gone before us in faith and look in hope towards the fulfilment of the Kingdom Jesus calls us to share. Today, we pause to reflect on the gift of the text which from generation to generation holds before us the story of faith we journey through year by year. In addition to listening to the gospel passage, you may like to read the Old Testament reading for yourself today (Nehemiah 8:1-12)

Through the Trinity season we have heard Jesus' word: "Listen" again and again. As we come to worship let us call to mind all the times when we have heard God at work in our lives – giving thanks for that.

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:

Merciful God, teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty, that trusting in your word and obeying your will, we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

We listen to a reading from the Gospel of Matthew 24: 30-35

The Gospel of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon : see additional attachment

Let us pray:

Gracious God,

We thank you for the life of your Church and the gift of your Word. We pray for all who help others discover its gift in their lives: for teachers and preachers, Bible scholars and translators, for artists and musicians that their work may deepen our understanding of how you speak in our world.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

We pray for our world: for your words of peace, of justice, of true bread and of love may be heard anew to transform the hearts of all bent on war, oppression, greed and self- advancement.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all those with whom we share our lives, asking your blessing on our families and friends. We ask that good neighbourliness may shape all our dealings with one another: our care for those who feel isolated and anxious, our care in public places and our care in all that we decide to do or not to do at this time

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Tender God, we bring our prayers for all who suffer. We raise to you in our own hearts any who we know to be ill, injured in distress, at home, in hospital or in a hospice. We pray for all whose mental health is being undermined by the anxiety or restrictions of this time. Bless with the comfort of your presence and such healing that is according to your will all we name in our hearts, and those we cannot name because their 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