

## Traditional Home service Sunday 1st November Trinity 21

### OPENING PRAYER

Grant, we beseech you, merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### PRAYER OF PENITENCE

Lord Jesus Christ, we confess we have failed you as did your first disciples. We ask for your mercy and your help.

Our selfishness betrays you:  
Lord, forgive us.

**All Christ have mercy.**

We fail to share the pain of your suffering:

Lord, forgive us.

**All Christ have mercy.**

We run away from those who abuse you:  
Lord, forgive us.

**All Christ have mercy.**

We are afraid of being known to belong to you:

Lord, forgive us.

**All Christ have mercy.**

### PRAISE

Let everything be said and done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through Jesus Christ. Sing psalms, hymns and sacred songs:

Let us sing to God with thankful hearts.

Open our lips, Lord:

**and we shall praise your name.**

HYMN 1 (*see page 2*)

READINGS - Revelation 7:9-17  
1 John 3:1-3  
Matthew 5:1-12

### TALK

### CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

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 will come to judge the living and the dead.

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.

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Spend some time praying for our nation, our community and our families.*

### 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.

HYMN 2 (*see page 2*)

### CONCLUSION

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.

## HYMNS TO USE

44 Fanny J. Crosby.

**BLESSED ASSURANCE**, Jesus is mine:  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God;  
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

*This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Saviour all the day long.  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Saviour all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
Visions of rapture burst on my sight;  
Angels descending bring from above  
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Saviour am happy and blessed;  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

109 W. W. How.

**FOR ALL THE SAINTS**, who from their  
labours rest,  
Who Thee by faith before the world  
confessed,  
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Thou wast their Rock, their fortress, and their  
might;  
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought  
fight;  
Thou in the darkness drear their one true  
light.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

O may Thy soldiers, faithful, true and bold,  
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,  
And win, with them, the victor's crown of  
gold!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare  
long,  
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,  
And hearts are brave again, and arms are  
strong.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

The golden evening brightens in the west;  
Soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest;  
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;  
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;  
The King of glory passes on His way.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's  
farthest coast,  
Through gates of pearl streams in the  
countless host,  
Singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Sunday 1st Nov - Nigel Clent  
Mission Possible

Your mission should you choose to accept it, is this.

Go make disciples of all nations. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere in Jerusalem throughout Judea and to the ends of the earth.

This message will not destruct in 30 seconds. In fact it has been the same message for every person for the last 2000 years, but we like the drama.

Our mission ,is the great commission. Here are a few more clues.

Christ changed us from enemies into friends and gave us the task of making others his friends also, and some more from 2 Corinthians, We have been sent to speak for Christ.

God has given us the privilege urging everyone to come into his favour and be reconciled to him.

We work for Jesus, he took us in when he saved us, he then gave us a new family, he gave us a purpose which completely changed our life and now we need to tell others that storey. That's your gospel. I am now a Jesus rep. We are all reps for Christ, or as Paul puts it, far more eloquently. God uses us to persuade men and women, to drop their differences and enter into Gods work of making things right between them. We're speaking for Christ now.

The word mission comes from the Latin word sending, so, being Christian involves being sent. As well as coming to Christ we are also sent out by Christ as in Johns gospel; as the father sent me, I am sending you.

After Jesus went about his father's business, he then went to the cross said it is finished. It then became our job to carry on that work and keep on delivering that message. As Christians we work for the Jesus corporation, we want the business to do well because we are part of it, we have shares in it. But we need to increase our work force. People need to know what a great employer Christ is. The benefits, the pension scheme, that It has the greatest care package. The retirement plan is out of this world and of course flexible working hours.

Who on earth would not want to work there.

You have an employer who never stops giving, he has giving you a new life because of his love and generosity, he has made you a better person which also effects all the people around you.

You feel rich blessed and loved.

All you have to do is tell people what has happened to you. What a great job, what an easy job

They should be queuing round the block to get in. but they are not.

My thoughts and ideas on this I will come back to in a minute. Let me tell you first where this all has come from and why I started thinking about it all.

I recently watched a film called come Sunday. It's a true storey about a pastor evangelist in America in the early eighties. He was a popular pastor who drew in big crowds, very charismatic who would burst into song at the end of his sermons and everyone loved him. This pastor is always on the go, going to different towns doing shows, and one night after a show he is slumped in front of the tv when a advertisement comes on, asking for aid to help the children in Africa. We have all seen these heart wrenching adverts. This really bothers him, so much so he starts to have doubts about his faith. On stage in front of a crowd he asks is god a monster. Why are these children suffering and then being sent to hell for eternity just because they haven't received the word. As it says very clearly by Jesus that there is no other way to the father except through me. If you don't know me, you are not having an eternity with the father. This pastor is convinced he has heard from God, that everyone is saved, that no one is going to hell, that because of Jesus there is inclusion for everyone.

As you can imagine it went down like a led balloon and he ended up losing his followers and his church. I will let you watch the end to see what happens.

This film and its ideologies has bothered me, very much so. To think I may be responsible in some way for the people not receiving Christ's message, and they are suffering because of my lack of enthusiasm or my fear. That I may have got too comfortable in my Jesus bubble and kept it amongst family and friends and not took it further afield and done all I can.

I cannot believe God is a monster. We have all seen the good he does, the miracles, we have all felt his love. We know he is a fair and just God.

But just to compound matters I found this, in Ezekiel 3:18 it says You must warn them so they may live, if you don't speak out to stop the wicked of their evil ways, they will die in their sin. But I will hold you responsible for their death.

I have read this in a few translations and commentaries and as yet I am unable to come up with any satisfactory answers.

Although its warnings are specific to wicked people stopping their evil ways, and not to innocents, but who is to say what is wicked and what is evil and also it is being a part of the old covenant, so is it still relevant or not. I don't know, I have no definitive answer. I will let you mull it over for yourselves, and you can draw your own conclusions.

What it has done, is make me ask questions of myself and what I can do differently and better. If I can say or do something that may bring someone into the kingdom, then I have to do it. As Christians, that's our duty.

If you had a cure for this virus at the moment you would tell people. We don't want people to get sick or die. We as Christians, or as decent human beings do not want to see people suffering.

What we have in Jesus, is a cure for life, it would be selfish and morally wrong not to share it. People will still have their trials as we all do, but they would go through it with Jesus, not on their own and that's something completely different. There is always hope with Jesus,

Jesus saves life's, end of story.

We have been commissioned by Christ to share it.

How is this possible, we are not all given the gift of evangelism, we all have different gifts. Whether its artwork and painting, baking preaching making the tea, listening, whatever it is you can reach out with that particular gift.

Before I became a Christian, actually it was two weeks before we came to St Marys. Jayne and I was out for the day in London, something we like to do in the summer. On this very hot day we decided to take a break and go for a cup of tea and of course a slice or two of cake. We was in Southwark, next to the cathedral. Deciding this would be a nice place to stop we went in. We couldn't figure out how to get to the tea room without going through the cathedral, so we went through, then a vicar appeared and asked if he

could help us. No, we said, we are just trying to get to the tea rooms. Oh, he said you have come the wrong way, I will show you the way, follow me.

Now that doesn't sound that great, but it was the way he did it.

He had a smile from ear to ear, he was so polite, considering this probably happens quite a lot, people interrupting his day because they can't read a sign. He was extremely humble, and he couldn't of done anymore for us, except to maybe purchase our tea and cake. He exuded kindness and patience and warmth. I can't put into words the manner of this man or why it meant so much to me, especially considering the type of person I was then, but he had a profound effect on me.

When he had finished putting us on the right path I said to Jayne, what a lovely man, I don't think I will ever be able to be that nice, to which Jayne replied with a chuckle, no, you won't.

I believe my journey with Christ started that day.

I don't know who he is, he doesn't know me, or the effect he had on me. He was just doing what he does best, to the best of his ability.

It's the same for all of us, whether we are making a cup of tea, listening to somebody, talking, cooking, however we are serving we should be doing it to the best of our ability, with a loving heart and a smile on our face. Because you just don't know what effect you are going to have on people. You could of already brought people to Christ and not know it. What a wonderful thought, that in a few years from now, somebody may come up to you in the street and say thank you, you changed my life. I know that if I ever meet that vicar again I will tell him.

Why can't we tell others, what is it that when the word evangelism is mentioned everyone freezes, or runs the other way. We may not all be wired to stand on a platform and preach to others but we can at least from time to time or when prompted tell one person.

This feels very scary because we feel that we don't know enough, you have to be some sort of church theologian to have a conversation about Jesus. You worry about what questions they are going to ask you, that you won't know the answers and look stupid.

None of this is true, we don't have to teach them the bible, we need to tell them our gospel. The

gospel according to nigel. We just bring them to the door and let Jesus do the rest. Your gospel is your storey, your testimony, they cannot argue with that, and you know your storey better than anybody, you are the authority of your life. They want to listen, they are interested, in fact they would rather listen to you than the vicar, as the vicar, they think, isn't going to give them an unbiased view, whereas as you probably will.

Excuse me vicar is this Jesus character all he is cracked up to be. Well he has his moments, you know how it is, none of us are perfect. I don't think so. Whereas you have already brought from the vicar, he has already sold it to you. Its like going to john Lewis and asking them how good their products are, they are not going to tell you they are rubbish, so we go on the reviews and see what everyone else is saying to get a better description.

People that have already brought it.

You are a satisfied customer.

How many stars as Jesus got, 5 stars!! I'll buy it.

I have, in my taxi over the last five years tried so many ways to speak about Jesus and the whole church thing, I've picked up a few do's and don'ts that I try to adhere to.

Don't use church language, when they hear the word Jesus, bible, or in this chapter it say's, they switch off. They roll their eyes, ohh here we go, you're one of them. Keep it a language they understand, they have a lifetime to learn all that.

Also a good way in is when people are either remorseful about something that they have done, or angry about something, because all you have to say at this point is, I used to be like that, or that used to really irritate me as well. How did you get over it. Well. I just started going to church and it all stopped, not too sure really.

I was a very angry person amongst other things, started church and all that stuff just slipped away from me. Haven't thought about it too much really, I'm just enjoying it.

You can see the cogs turning, then they want you to tell them more. They try and work it out for you. They usually ask you more questions, but I just answer using my own experiences, never with scripture.

The worst that can happen is them telling you that they are not interested.

The seed has been sown, whether they are interested or not.

This church St Marys, is such a spirit filled place with wonderfully gifted people ready to do anything for anybody.

When we come together as a church we can do anything.

Its friendly, compassionate, caring, sympathetic, encouraging and supporting. Not to mention good humoured, with the most amazing family feeling. It's a place you want to be at. Why can't we reach out to Jerusalem, Judea and all nations or at least Wollaston Wellingborough and Northamptonshire.

I think, our mission is possible

Amen