

**TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY  
(25.10.2020)**

**GREETING**

Life is a journey on many different roads  
**but God is always with us.**

Sometimes we lift our faces to the sun  
**and God is with us.**

But then there is the hard journey  
through pathways of pain  
and fears in dark places.  
**But God is with us.**  
**Nothing can separate us**  
**from the love of God in Christ Jesus.**

**WELCOME**

**WHO WE ARE ON THE JOURNEY**

O God who travels with us in the shadows,  
you know who we are.  
We long for life which is full and free.  
We long to know the truth  
and we want to leave behind us  
all the things which hold us back.

*Silent reflection*

We want to move forward in faith  
but the way seems so dangerous  
and we stand in helpless fear  
before that which is hidden in our past  
and in our future.

*Silent reflection*

Stand beside us, gentle Christ.  
**Walk before us, brave Jesus.**  
**Call us on into life, Holy Spirit.**  
**Amen.**

*Silent reflection*

O God, if in the face of these troubling times  
we have failed to offer the best of ourselves in love to others  
and have been irritable or selfish or rude;  
if, in our anxiousness and fear  
we have failed to place our hope and trust in you  
and have given in to panic and despair;  
**forgive us, O God,**  
**and lead us into life. Amen.**

## **WE ARE NOT ALONE**

Hear the word to us in Jesus Christ:  
You are forgiven!  
I will never leave you nor forsake you,  
even to the end of time.  
I will walk with you down the pathways of death  
and lead you to eternal life. Amen. **Amen.**

## **COLLECT**

God, our light and our salvation:  
illuminate our lives,  
that we may see your goodness in the land of the living,  
and looking on your beauty  
may be changed into the likeness of Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **READINGS**

*1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8*

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully maltreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit

or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

### *Matthew 22: 34-46*

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him.

‘Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?’

He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.’

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ‘What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?’ They said to him, ‘The son of David.’ He said to them, ‘How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

“The Lord said to my Lord,

‘Sit at my right hand,

until I put your enemies under your feet”’?

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?’ No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

## **REFLECTION**

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Let us affirm our faith together:

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

God of all,  
we pray for your world and its people.

For those who face hardship and struggle:  
***strengthen* them in heart and soul and mind.**

For those who feel that their lives are bearing no fruit:  
***encourage* them in heart and soul and mind.**

For those divided among themselves:  
***unite* them in heart and soul and mind.**

For those facing great change:  
***support* them in heart and soul and mind.**

For those looking for fresh new ways  
to reach out to others in their community:  
***inspire* them in heart and soul and mind.**

Upon all your people, Lord:  
**pour out your heart, your soul and your mind  
through the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

Let love be genuine. Never pay back evil for evil.  
As far as it lies with you, live at peace with everyone.

*Romans 12.9,17,18*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

As our Saviour taught his disciples, so we pray:

**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.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,  
wherever he may send you.  
May he guide you through the wilderness,  
protect you through the storm.  
May he bring you home rejoicing  
at the wonders he has shown you.  
May he bring you home rejoicing  
once again into our doors. **Amen.**

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## NOTICES

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