



Sunday Service

Sunday 16th August 2020
The Tenth Sunday after Trinity

Opening Prayer

Lord of heaven and earth, as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer, and joyful in praise, give us patience, courage and boldness never to lose hope, but to always bring our prayers and praise to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bible reading

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

Acts 6 : 1 - 7

Reflection : Godly use of our gifts

- Satan's three strategies : Persecution, Hypocrisy and Distraction
- Faithfully living together (Acts 6 : 1 – 7)
 - The problem : Too much to do (v 1)
 - The solution : Recognise the issue and the resources (v 2 – 6)
 - The result : New growth (v 7)
- Important principle for us today
 - God calls and equips all his people to minister in different ways. All ministries are necessary.

Let us live for Jesus as one united, serving, ministering people every day.

A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus

Keep us good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy.

Sustain and support the anxious, be with all those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;

that we may find comfort knowing nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Final prayer

Almighty and eternal God, your awesome majesty is beyond our imagination, and your Lordship is over all; help us in the confusions of this world to trust you and to share your grace filled love without fear, today and for ever more. Through Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

Blessing

God our Saviour, help us to turn to you, to hold on to your promises, and to live each day guided by your Holy Spirit.

And may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us all, now and for ever more. Amen.