



Sunday Service

Sunday 25th October 2020

The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity Wisdom for living in a mixed up world (4) Wealth does not satisfy

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, through your Word and Holy Spirit, teach us to be faithful in a changing and uncertain world. May our praise and prayer demonstrate our trust in Jesus as our Lord, and that our lives may declare obedience to your will. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Bible reading

¹Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong.

²Do not be quick with your mouth,
do not be hasty in your heart
to utter anything before God.

God is in heaven
and you are on earth,
so let your words be few.

³A dream comes when there are many cares,
and many words mark the speech of a fool.

⁴When you make a vow to God, do not delay to fulfil it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfil your vow. ⁵It is better not to make a vow than to make one and not fulfil it. ⁶Do not let your mouth lead you into sin. And do not protest to the temple messenger, 'My vow was a mistake.' Why should God be angry at what you say and destroy the work of your hands? ⁷Much dreaming and many words are meaningless. Therefore fear God.

⁸If you see the poor oppressed in a district, and justice and rights denied, do not be surprised at such things; for one official is eyed by a higher one, and over them both are others higher still. ⁹The increase from the land is taken by all; the king himself profits from the fields.

¹⁰Whoever loves money never has enough;
whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income.
This too is meaningless.

¹¹As goods increase,
so do those who consume them.

And what benefit are they to the owners
except to feast their eyes on them?

¹²The sleep of a labourer is sweet,
whether they eat little or much,
but as for the rich, their abundance
permits them no sleep.

¹³I have seen a grievous evil under the sun:
wealth hoarded to the harm of its owners,

¹⁴or wealth lost through some misfortune,
so that when they have children
there is nothing left for them to inherit.

¹⁵Everyone comes naked from their mother's womb,
and as everyone comes, so they depart.

They take nothing from their toil
that they can carry in their hands.

¹⁶This too is a grievous evil:
as everyone comes, so they depart,
and what do they gain,
since they toil for the wind?

¹⁷ All their days they eat in darkness,
with great frustration, affliction and anger.

¹⁸ This is what I have observed to be good: that it is appropriate for a person to eat, to drink and to find satisfaction in their toilsome labour under the sun during the few days of life God has given them – for this is their lot. ¹⁹ Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil – this is a gift of God. ²⁰ They seldom reflect on the days of their life, because God keeps them occupied with gladness of heart.

Ecclesiastes 5 : 1 – 20

Ordination

In July, Anthony was commissioned by Bishop Keith to serve in this parish to bear faithful witness in Christ, and to continue his work of reconciliation in the world.

Anthony, at your ordination yesterday, Bishop Mark spoke of the meaning of the Diaconate to which you are called; let us hear these words and your commitment to fulfil this ministry with us.

We praise and glorify you, almighty Father, because in your infinite love you have formed throughout the world a holy people for your own possession, a royal priesthood, a universal Church.

We praise and glorify you because you sent your only Son Jesus Christ to take the form of a slave; he humbled himself for our sake, and in obedience accepted death, even death on a cross.

We praise and glorify you because in every age you send your Spirit to fill those whom you have chosen, to equip your holy people for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ.

And now we give you thanks that you have called these your servants whom we ordain in your name, to share as deacons in the ministry of the gospel of Christ, who came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Therefore, Father, through Christ our Lord we pray:

Send down the Holy Spirit on your servant Anthony
for the office and work of a deacon in your Church. **Amen.**

You are called to work with the Bishop and the priests with whom you serve as heralds of Christ's kingdom, and to proclaim the gospel in word and deed, as agents of God's purposes of love.

Will you seek to do this with faith, courage and love?

With the help of God I will.

You are to serve the community here, bringing to the Church the needs and hopes of all the people. You are to work with us in searching out the poor and weak, the sick and the lonely and those who are oppressed and powerless, reaching into the forgotten corners of the world, that the love of God may be made visible.

You are to share in the pastoral ministry of the Church and in leading God's people in worship, in preaching the word and bringing the needs of the world before the Church in intercession.

You are to accompany those searching for faith and bring them to baptism. You are to assist in administering the sacraments, distribute communion and minister to the sick and housebound.

As we heard you are to seek nourishment from the Scriptures and proclaim the gospel in the world. You are to be faithful in prayer, expectant and watchful for the signs of God's presence, as he reveals his kingdom among us.

Brothers and sisters,

Will you therefore continually pray for Anthony?

We will.

Will you uphold and encourage Anthony in his ministry?

We will.

Will you support and share with Anthony in worship and witness, in mission and pastoral care?

We will.

We preach not ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

We welcome you as a fellow servant in the gospel: may Christ dwell in your heart through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love.

God our Father, Lord of all the world, through your Son you have called us into the fellowship of your universal Church: Hear our prayer for your faithful people that in their vocation and ministry each may be an instrument of your love, and give to your servant now ordained the needful gifts of grace; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Reflection : Wealth does not satisfy

Anthony Rigby

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

God of all grace, help us to keep our eyes fixed on you so that we may feed the hungry, comfort the anxious and set the oppressed free; not by relying on our own strength, but with your presence to sustain our lives in joyful praise. In the Name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Blessing

Lord God, hold us firm in our mixed-up world, and help us to know your peace and your presence, no matter what life throws at us.

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