



Sunday Service

Sunday 22nd November 2020

The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Trinity Wisdom for living in a mixed up world (8) Remember your Creator

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the Word of God and the wisdom that it contains. Help us to be willing to learn all the lessons it has to offer and not to go chasing after the wind, so that we may live our lives wisely... to Your praise and glory. Thank You that even though there are times when we stray from Your side and seek after the things of this world... that in Your grace You draw us back into Your loving arms. We pray that our lives from this day forward may be lives that are given to You... and that our eyes remain fixed upon Jesus, in Whose name we pray, Amen.

Bible reading

¹Remember your Creator

in the days of your youth,

before the days of trouble come

and the years approach when you will say,

'I find no pleasure in them'—

²before the sun and the light

and the moon and the stars grow dark,

and the clouds return after the rain;

³when the keepers of the house tremble,

and the strong men stoop,

when the grinders cease because they are few,

and those looking through the windows grow dim;

⁴when the doors to the street are closed

and the sound of grinding fades;

when people rise up at the sound of birds,

but all their songs grow faint;

⁵when people are afraid of heights

and of dangers in the streets;

when the almond tree blossoms

and the grasshopper drags itself along

and desire no longer is stirred.

Then people go to their eternal home

and mourners go about the streets.

⁶Remember him – before the silver cord is severed,

and the golden bowl is broken;

before the pitcher is shattered at the spring,

and the wheel broken at the well,

⁷and the dust returns to the ground it came from,

and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

⁸'Meaningless! Meaningless!' says the Teacher.

'Everything is meaningless!'

The conclusion of the matter

⁹Not only was the Teacher wise, but also he imparted knowledge to the people. He pondered and searched out and set in order many proverbs. ¹⁰The Teacher searched to find just the right words, and what he wrote was upright and true.

¹¹The words of the wise are like goads, their collected sayings like firmly embedded nails – given by one shepherd.

¹²Be warned, my son, of anything in addition to them.

Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body.

¹³Now all has been heard;
here is the conclusion of the matter:
fear God and keep his commandments,
for this is the duty of all mankind.

¹⁴For God will bring every deed into judgment,
including every hidden thing,
whether it is good or evil.

Ecclesiastes 12 : 1 - 14

Reflection : Remember your Creator

- Enjoy Your Life (11 :9 - 10)
- Start with God Early (12 : 1 - 10)
- Pay Attention to These Teachings (12 : 11)
- Ignore Worldly Wisdom (12 : 12)
- The Meaning of Life (12 : 13 - 14)

Prayers for the nation

God of hope,
in these times of change,
unite our nation
and guide our leaders with your wisdom.
Give us courage to overcome our fears,
and help us to build a future
in which all may prosper and share;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, who has revealed yourself as love,
and taught us by your word that whoever lives in love lives in you;
in times of trouble and uncertainty renew our hope in this promise;
help us to receive afresh your gift of love,
that with generosity we may share it in the service of others
to promote the common good;
through him who is the perfect expression of love,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Heavenly Father, thank You for this honest assessment of living life in this fallen world, without Christ. Keep us from chasing after any of the vain things that this world offers, knowing that there is nothing on earth that has lasting value except to know You and the Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Saviour. May we place You in the centre of our lives knowing that the whole duty and delight of man is to worship and praise You for Your goodness and grace to us and to all men. Amen.

Final Blessing

May the love of Jesus Christ bring us wholeness, the grace of God the Father grants us peace, the breath of Holy Spirit instils passion and the unity between them give us strength for this and every day. And now may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us all, now and for ever more. Amen