



## Sunday Service

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2020

### The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity Wisdom for living in a mixed up world (1) Lost in the Smoke

#### Opening Prayer

Almighty God, you have made us in love to bring our praise and prayers to you. Equip us with your Holy Spirit, that through Jesus our Lord and Saviour, we would find your peace and purpose for our lives, today and for evermore. Amen.

#### Bible reading

<sup>1</sup>The words of the Teacher, son of David, king of Jerusalem:

<sup>2</sup>'Meaningless! Meaningless!'  
says the Teacher.

'Utterly meaningless!  
Everything is meaningless.'

<sup>3</sup>What do people gain from all their labours  
at which they toil under the sun?

<sup>4</sup>Generations come and generations go,  
but the earth remains for ever.

<sup>5</sup>The sun rises and the sun sets,  
and hurries back to where it rises.

<sup>6</sup>The wind blows to the south  
and turns to the north;  
round and round it goes,  
ever returning on its course.

<sup>7</sup>All streams flow into the sea,  
yet the sea is never full.  
To the place the streams come from,  
there they return again.

<sup>8</sup>All things are wearisome,  
more than one can say.  
The eye never has enough of seeing,  
nor the ear its fill of hearing.

<sup>9</sup>What has been will be again,  
what has been done will be done again;  
there is nothing new under the sun.

<sup>10</sup>Is there anything of which one can say,  
'Look! This is something new'?  
It was here already, long ago;  
it was here before our time.

<sup>11</sup>No one remembers the former generations,  
and even those yet to come  
will not be remembered  
by those who follow them.

**Reflection : Lost in the Smoke**

- A mixed up world – now and in the days of the writer of Ecclesiastes
- Who is the teacher? (v 1)
- Addressing the issue of meaning (v 2 – 11)
  - I can't find no satisfaction!
  - Smoke gets in your eyes
  - Self-fulfilment is futile
  - Everything is not meaningless when we have a heavenly perspective (v 13 and 14)
  - Living a God-centred life – How?
- Do we have the right expectations about life?

**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**

Dear Lord, we pray that your grace may always go before us, so that our eyes may see you, and we may be committed to walk in your ways every day of our lives for the glory of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. 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.