



MISSION COMMUNITY

Together with God - Together for God

# Fifth Sunday after Trinity

12<sup>th</sup> July 2020

## Email Sunday Service A warm welcome to all who worship with us

### Introduction

Clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

*Ephesians 4.24*

*This Hymn can be sung or said as a poem*

Chorus

**Bind us together, Lord**

Bind us together

With cords that cannot be broken

Bind us together, Lord

Bind us together, Lord

Bind us together with love.

1 There is only one God,  
There is only one King,  
There is only one Body,  
That is why we sing.

Chorus

2 Made for the glory of God,  
Purchased by His precious Son  
Born with the right to be clean  
For Jesus the victory has won.

Chorus

3 You are the family of God  
You are the promise divine  
You are God's chosen desire  
You are the glorious new wine.

Chorus

Bob Gillman © Kingsway's Thankyou Music

THE PARABLE



OF THE SOWER



OR THE PARABLE OF THE FIVE TYPES OF SOIL

### Prayers of Penitence

Jesus said, 'Before you offer your gift, go and be reconciled.'  
As sisters and brothers in God's family,  
we come together to ask our Father for forgiveness.

**Amen.**

### Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,  
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church  
is governed and sanctified:  
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,  
that in their vocation and ministry  
they may serve you in holiness and truth  
to the glory of your name;  
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.**



### The Liturgy of the Word

**Old Testament: Isaiah 55.10-13**

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and

all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

**Psalm: 65.9-13**

**R, To you, O God, shall all flesh come,  
and you will blot out their sins.**

9 You visit the earth and water it abundantly;  
you make it very plenteous;  
the river of God is full of water.

10 You prepare the grain,  
for so you provide for the earth. **R,**

11 You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;  
with heavy rain you soften the ground  
and bless its increase.

12 You crown the year with your goodness,  
and your paths overflow with plenty.

13 May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,  
and the hills be clothed with joy. **R,**

**R, To you, O God, shall all flesh come,  
and you will blot out their sins.**

**New Testament: Romans 8.1-11**

*There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.*

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23**

*That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!" "Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this*

*is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."*

*A short time of Silence may be taken*

## **Homily**

*The* early part of the year is a glorious time for gardeners.

In the cold winter months when much is done for the year and most of the garden is put to bed for the winter, the gardener settles down, cosy in the warmth of their house and flicks through the pages of the seed catalogues for next year, planning meticulously for the new campaign ahead. And suddenly the seasons change, spring is in the air and the gardeners are out in their hoards. Seeds are planted and the new campaign has started.

I love that early part of the year when the first seeds are planted and you wait with bated breath for the new plants to poke out and say hello to the world. So you wait and wait and nothing apart from a few sorry little pieces of greenery appears. 'It must be a bad batch, you think. So you plant some more and again, a poor start. Then you remember that the old compost you are using would need a miracle for anything to grow from that. That's the bag that should have gone back on the compost heap. These new little seeds need loving care as they can be weak and very vulnerable. If planted in poor soil like this, then they come to nothing, but if they have good fresh soil or compost, then they thrive and the gardener has a successful harvest.

So it is with a word. In reading so many different poetry books you get to see the poet skilfully working the words. They are just like building blocks, being manouvered around the pages, being shaped and crafted into paragraphs, sentences and finally the poem that the author is happy with.

A word is a powerful thing. It can teach, inspire, correct, challenge, change lives... or it can come to nothing. It is totally dependant on the hearer and how they conceive it.

Some seed fell on hard ground where it couldn't root. It was seen and eaten by birds.

This is like people with closed minds. Prejudice does this, also pride - those who think they know it all. And fear, in all it's many forms. Some people are just unteachable and it's like trying to break through a brick wall trying to get the message through to them.

Some fell on stony ground. It took root quickly, but soon withered away due to lack of soil and moisture.

Just like when some hear the word and receive it with enthusiasm, but when it becomes difficult to carry it out, the passion of it passes and it leaks away. How many people start a task or a project and then fail to finish it?

Some seed fell onto ground where weeds and thorns already occupied that area. They got started in a small area of earth, but the the weeds crept over and the young seed got smothered.

People pray earnestly and feel the rewards of the prayer as God responds to them. But there are so many things going on in their already busy world that they sometimes don't find the time to pray and listen to God's guidance for them. Their energy for the things of the spirit drains and they lose touch with God.

Finally some seed fell on good soil and it put down good deep roots, found nourishment and became well established, thus blossoming into the intended type of plant that it was.

So there are people who hear the word, understand what God is saying to them and act upon it's message. Their lives become enriched and enhanced.

God's word is what our lives are built upon. It guides and inspires; and it challenges us to do things that we never thought possible.

The sower spread the seed haphazardly and clumsily: it went all over the place. It was on the path, on the rocks, amongst thorns, but some of it did find good ground. It looked as though he was being foolish and wasteful, but you might say that he was being generous - alright, maybe a little too generous - but he wanted to be sure that the seed got at least some chance of coming up.

We can be like that with our lives. We get involved with so many different things, especially in our churches, and somethings just don't work for us. However, some things do. So at least we have produced something from our wayward efforts.

I was watching a program on television recently with the wonderful presenter Dan Snow about the excavation of Tutankhamun's tomb back in the early 1900s, and one thing that they found amongst the

vast amount of treasures unearthed were some seeds. They had been in that place for over 3,000 years, yet when they were planted they grew, just like new seed, both producing new life.

We have to keep believing that the seed of God's word will continue to drop into our human hearts. Once it is in, it never dies.

One of the poets I like was an American poet called Emily Dickinson. She was born in 1830 and died at 55 years old. During her lifetime she only had 10 poems published, Yet she produced over 1,800 of them. These poems lay in waiting to be discovered after her life, and they did! She is regarded among the greatest American writers of all time. One of her poems was called and said these few wise words:

"A word is dead when it is said, some say.  
I say it just begins to live that day".

*Emily Dickinson.*

*A short time of Silence may be taken*

### **Affirmation of Faith**

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**

*These can be formal or improvised and end with:*

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

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.**

*This Hymn can be sung or said as a poem*

You shall go out with joy  
And be led forth with peace,  
And the mountains and the hills  
Shall break forth before you.  
There'll be shouts of joy  
And the trees of the fields  
Will clap, will clap their hands.

And the trees of the fields shall clap their hands,  
And the trees of the fields shall clap their hands,  
And the trees of the fields shall clap their hands,  
While you go out with joy. *(Repeat x 3 getting faster each time)*

*Stuart Dauermann (b. 1944) Based on Isaiah 55.12*

### **Closing Prayers**

Heavenly Father,  
we share together the blessing of your presence.  
Give us in this life knowledge of your truth,  
and in the world to come life everlasting;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

