

Reflection for 6th Sunday after Trinity

I challenge you to write a Collect! As you will know from the Collects which we say each week, they are short prayers with a set structure, which often sum up (or collect) our thoughts about the theme for the service. I'll use today's Collect as an example (*in italics*).

They start by addressing God (***Merciful God***) and then acknowledge the quality or characteristic of God which relates to the request we are about to make (***you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding***). If we were writing a Collect for Harvest Festival we might reference God's generous provision. Next follows our request (***pour into our hearts such love towards you***) and our hope, aspiration or outcome (***that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire***). Finally, we make clear that our plea is expressed through Jesus our Saviour and the Holy Spirit (***through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever***).

It is a prayer which is centred on God; who God is and how God loves to give beyond our wildest expectations and beyond anything we could possibly deserve.

Rev. Sarah

Even if you cannot join the service by telephone or video on Sunday, it would be good to try to say our prayers in some form **at 10.30** that morning, and to be intentionally holding each other up to God, and praying for the wider community of St Thomas.

NEXT SUNDAY 26.07.20 Trinity 7

SERVICES 12 noon Mass



READINGS

OT 1 Kings 3.5-12

NT Romans 8.26-39

GOSPEL Matthew 13.31-33,44-52

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St Thomas, Exeter

Sunday 19th July 2020

6th Sunday after Trinity

Here's the plan! We are going to continue with the Zoom services at 10.30 on Sundays because they have a wide reach and offer flexibility in what we do, so keep an eye out for different formats, presentations and/or activities. We also hope to open this service up more widely so that we might attract those who have not yet worshipped with us in this way. At the same time, there will be a simple 12 noon Mass similar to the one we had for St Thomas Day—observing physical distancing and other requirements. This plan is not set in stone, but it's a start as we move forward. Those receiving a mailshot will continue to be able to be part of the St Thomas community in that way.

Sunday worship by Zoom this week The telephone numbers are the same: 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196, bearing in mind that's it's worth trying a second one if the first isn't very good. The meeting number is 846 4638 6622 and the access code/password 425499. *Fr David*



Collect

Merciful God,
you have prepared for those who love you such
good things as pass our understanding:
pour into our hearts such love toward you that we,
loving you in all things and above all things, may
obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can
desire;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is
alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Isaiah 44.6–8

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:
I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.
Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,
let them declare and set it forth before me.
Who has announced from of old the things to
come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.
Do not fear, or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

Romans 8.12–25

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to
the flesh, to live according to the flesh— for if you
live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the
Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you
will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are
children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of
slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received
a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it
is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that
we are children of God, and if children, then heirs,
heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact,
we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified
with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time
are not worth comparing with the glory about to be
revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager
longing for the revealing of the children of God; for
the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own
will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in
hope that the creation itself will be set free from its
bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of
the glory of the children of God. We know that the
whole creation has been groaning in labour pains
until now; and not only the creation, but we our-
selves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan
inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemp-
tion of our bodies. For in hope we were saved.
Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes
for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do
not see, we wait for it with patience.

Matthew 13.24–30 & 36–43

Jesus put before them another parable: 'The king-
dom of heaven may be compared to someone
who sowed good seed in his field; but while every-
body was asleep, an enemy came and sowed
weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So
when the plants came up and bore grain, then the
weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the
householder came and said to him, "Master, did
you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then,
did these weeds come from?" He answered, "An
enemy has done this." The slaves said to him,
"Then do you want us to go and gather them?"
But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds
you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let
both of them grow together until the harvest; and
at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the
weeds first and bind them in bundles to be
burned, but gather the wheat into my barn."'
Then he left the crowds and went into the house.
And his disciples approached him, saying,
'Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the
field.' He answered, 'The one who sows the good
seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and
the good seed are the children of the kingdom;
the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the
enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest

is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.
Just as the weeds are collected and burned up
with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The
Son of Man will send his angels, and they will col-
lect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all
evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace
of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing
of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun
in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with
ears listen!

Post-Communion Prayer

God of our pilgrimage,
you have led us to the living water:
refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

NOTICES

Knit & Natter A reminder that this group is meet-
ing on Thursdays 10.30—1 in the Pleasure
Ground. Please ring Jenny Tuckett on 01392
498725 for more details.

Community Larder: Many thanks to all those who
have contributed to this vital project, your generos-
ity is amazing and humbling. The needs it is meet-
ing (helping up to 150 people a week) haven't
gone away, so please continue with your support.

