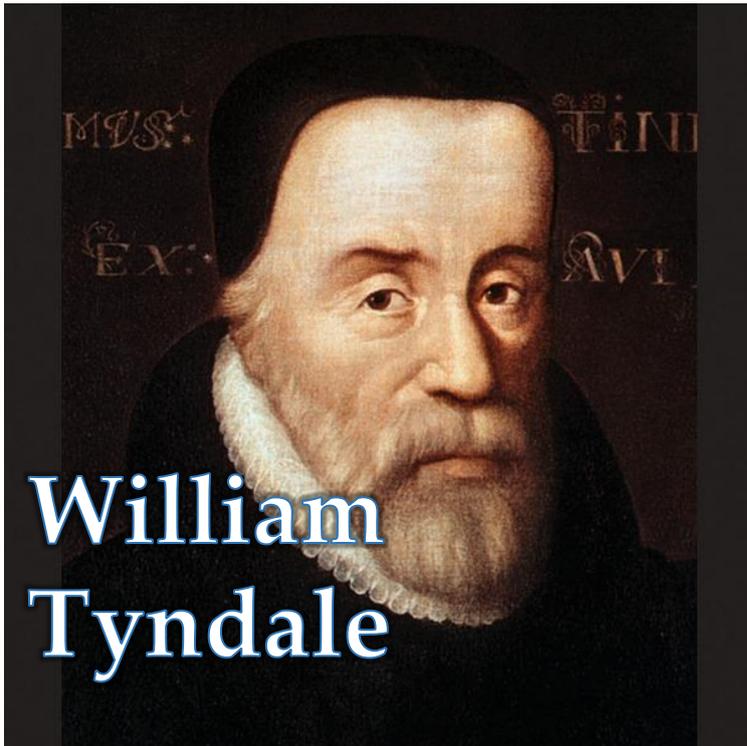


Tuesday 6 October 2020



William Tyndale was born in Gloucestershire in about 1494. He studied first at Magdalen Hall, Oxford then in Cambridge.

William was determined to translate the Scriptures from Greek directly into contemporary English but was hindered by the Bishop of London.

William settled in Hamburg in 1524 and never returned to England. When copies of his translation first arrived in England in 1526, the Church authorities bitterly attacked it as subversive. William spent

the rest of his life revising this work. He also wrote a great many other theological works.

William was finally arrested in 1535 and imprisoned in Brussels on charges of heresy. He was first strangled and then burnt at the stake on this day in 1536. His last words were, 'Lord, open the King of England's eyes.' The prayer was answered: William Tyndale's life's-work was the basic working text for those who, at the beginning of the following century, produced what became known as the *Authorised Version* of the Bible.

Many parallels connect Tyndale to his great hero, St Paul: both were evangelists; the Holy Scriptures became the centrepiece of their message; both suffered greatly for their mission. Indeed, Tyndale's last letter to his friends is a ghastly and heart-breaking echo of St Paul's [last letter to St Timothy](#).

- All the Bible readings come from the *New Revised Standard Version*.
- The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration have been included at the end rather than in situ because many following the service will be in isolation and unable to celebrate the sacrament.
- The hymns are YouTube links. To hear the hymns please hover the mouse over each link, press Ctrl and then return.

Introduction and welcome

HYMN 1 We have a Gospel to proclaim (click on this link to hear the hymn)

The Welcome

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

All Amen.

The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

The Preparation

**All Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.’

And the second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

All Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Christ calls us to share the heavenly banquet of his love with all the saints in earth and heaven. Therefore, knowing our unworthiness and sin, let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God’s commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Gloria

This Gloria is sung to the tune of 'Cwm Rhondda'. Click [here](#) for the tune.

All Glory be to God in Heaven,
Songs of joy and peace we bring,
Thankful hearts and voices raising,
To creation's Lord we sing.
Lord we thank you, Lord we praise you,
Glory be to God our King:
Glory be to God our King.

Lamb of God, who on our shoulders,
Bore the load of this world's sin;
Only Son of God the Father,
You have brought us peace within.

**Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy,
Now your glorious reign begin:
Now your glorious reign begin.**

**You O Son of God are Holy,
You we praise with one accord.
None in heav'n or earth is like you,
Only you are Christ the Lord.
With the Father and the Spirit,
Ever worshipped and adored:
Ever worshipped and adored.**

The Collect for William Tyndale

Lord, give to your people grace to hear and keep your word that, after the example of your servant William Tyndale, we may not only profess your gospel but also be ready to suffer and die for it, to the honour of your name; 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.

All Amen.

First reading

A reading from the book of Proverbs

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries out: 'To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live. O simple ones, learn prudence; acquire intelligence, you who lack it. Hear, for I will speak noble things, and from my lips will come what is right; for my mouth will utter truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the words of my mouth are righteous; there is nothing twisted or crooked in them. They are all straight to one who understands and right to those who find knowledge. Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold; for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.' *Proverbs 8:1-11*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading

A reading from the Second Letter of St Paul to Timothy

All who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But wicked people and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. *2 Timothy 3:12-17*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN 2 Veni sancta spiritus

[\(click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All Glory to you O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples, 'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one.

'They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.' *John 17:6-8, 14-19*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

The Jewish people wanted to serve God and revered Him. They were extremely pious. As the centuries passed, their view of God developed and transmuted. Their mindset changed so that God became so utterly holy that He could not converse and meet with ordinary people. We say he became 'transcendent', located high above the earth. He was separated from us both to preserve his holiness from us and to protect us from Him purity. But he became unknowable because he was so different.

God becoming so transcendence caused a problem: how is it possible to approach a God who is too holy to allow the approach of ordinary people? How is it possible to know a God who is thereby made unknowable? The gap between us and God became unbridgeable: think of the parable of [Dives and Lazarus](#) in Luke's Gospel.

The Jewish people devised many ways of coping with the tension caused by serving a God who was remote, different and unknown. By the time that Solomon wrote the book of Proverbs (a millennium before Jesus) some aspects of God's personality had developed to become distinct and separate characters. Wisdom was thought to act as an intermediary with God: a go-between, like the angels.

Wisdom was described as operating almost independently. We see this way of looking at Wisdom in the first reading. She talks, argues and tries to influence us.

By the time of Jesus, the character of Wisdom had developed further. She now lived *inside* Godly people. She acted almost like the connector inside a computer or TV, allowing God to livestream from heaven directly into a person's soul. The person of Wisdom is the conduit through which a person downloads God's thoughts. That's why the Gospels want to show Jesus as being wise. He is literally filled with Wisdom: think of his debates with the Pharisees, none of whom can stand against his power of reasoning. We see this idea in the Gospel reading, when Jesus says, 'The words that you gave to me I have given to them'—Wisdom inside his soul is acting just like a lightening rod as it conducts Wisdom from God to Jesus' disciples.

The supreme example of 'downloading the wisdom of God' concerned the Holy Scriptures. Wisdom was said to live inside the souls of the holy human beings who wrote the Old Testament (there was no New Testament at this time). They were so Godly that they wrote by a form of divine dictation. That's why St Paul says that 'all Scripture is God-breathed': Scripture is the breath of God flowing through a human writer and captured on a page. Wisdom is the medium of its transmission.

It goes further. If the Scriptures are the captured breath of God, then we place ourselves in the very presence God each time we read, hear or ponder them.

Christians like William Tyndale then added two links in this chain of thought. They expanded the scope of the Scriptures to include the New Testament and

implies indwelling Wisdom for those who translated the Scriptures into modern language. Christians must therefore treat the Scriptures with extreme reverence because we encounter God and learn from Him every single time we open our Bibles.

The Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
the source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

All We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

All This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Prayers of intercession

Loving Heavenly Father, thank you for loving us and thank you for showing yourself through the Scriptures. Help us to grow through its holy pages.

Lord in your mercy,

All Hear our prayer

Loving merciful Father, we pray for the Church. Inspire your Church to study the Scriptures and thereby equip the Church to bring about the Kingdom.

Lord in your mercy,

All Hear our prayer

Loving redeemer Father, we pray for the world. Inspire people everywhere to seek your and your Kingdom through the Scriptures. Speak to the leaders of the world through its ancient pages.

Lord in your mercy,

All Hear our prayer

Loving joyful Lord, you instruct us to love everyone—neighbours and even our enemies—so we ask that you heal everyone at their point of greatest need

Lord in your mercy,

All Hear our prayer

Loving eternal Lord, we ask your mercy on all those who have died recently. And we especially ask your strength and compassion on those who mourn them.

Lord in your mercy,

All Hear our prayer

Merciful Father,

**All accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The peace

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you,

All And also with you.

HYMN 3 [The Lord's my shepherd](#) (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below

The Dismissal

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,
fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will;
and the blessing of God the Almighty:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with you now and remain with you always.

All Amen.

HYMN 4 [What a friend we have in Jesus](#) (click on this link to hear the hymn)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Eucharistic Prayer (prayer E)

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
And now we give thanks, most gracious God,
surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses
and glorified in the assembly of your saints.
The glorious company of apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.
We, your holy Church, acclaim you.
In communion with angels and archangels,
and with all who served you on earth and worship you now in heaven,
we raise our voice to proclaim your glory,
for ever praising you and saying:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with William Tyndale and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

**All Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

All We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us. Amen.

Communion is distributed.

Prayer after Communion

God,
who gave us this holy meal
in which we have celebrated the glory of the cross
and the victory of your martyr William Tyndale:
by our communion with Christ
in his saving death and resurrection,
give us with all your saints the courage to conquer evil
and so to share the fruit of the tree of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

All Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory. Amen.