

**Sunday 22 September 2024**

# Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity



**Sermon** © the Revd Matt Sanderson.

**Prayers of intercession** © Vanderbilt Library (adapted).

**Liturgy** © 2000 The Archbishops' Council.

**Bible readings** © the publishers of the NRSV translation.

**Image** © Revd Dr Paul Monk.

The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration are included at the end.

The hymn can be accessed via a YouTube link. Please click on the links.

To see service transcripts from previous weeks, please visit the page,  
<http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm>

## Introduction and welcome

**HYMN 1** [All the power of Jesus' name](#) (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.**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life. Therefore, 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**

**All** Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

### **The Collect for the Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity**

Almighty God,  
you have made us for yourself,  
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you:  
pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself,  
and so bring us at last to your heavenly city  
where we shall see you face to face;  
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 the Prophet Jeremiah

It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds. But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!" But you, O Lord of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

*Jeremiah 11:18-20*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**



## Second reading

A reading from the Letter of St James

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. *James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN 2 I dream of a Church**

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

## Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

**All Glory to you O Lord.**

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, 'The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?' But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the

twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.' Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.' *Mark 9:30-37*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**All      Praise to you O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

In the Bible, Jesus says, 'I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.' The phrase 'abundant life' could refer to a life filled with joy, promise, strength, and fulfilment, free from feelings of emptiness, dissatisfaction, need, and want. Often, we pray for the satisfaction of meeting our next mortgage payment, rent, gas bill, or food shop, or for the ability to buy a new car or go on holiday. Looking at the weather outside, we could all do with a few hours of vitamin-D therapy.

But what does this abundance look like in the community where we live and work? Do our friends, colleagues, brothers, sisters, and neighbours experience this abundant life when the bailiffs are knocking on the door, when they are struggling to find rent money, or when they are attending food banks? Does this mean we are not living the abundant life, or does it mean that God is not blessing us?

I often talk about God's topsy-turvy world, where up is down and down is up. Today is no different. Jesus clearly shows us that welcoming a child, rather than the most prominent member at the table, means welcoming Jesus and God himself into our lives. Moreover, to be first is to be last and a servant of all.

When we look towards our Gospel reading today it's not too dissimilar to what the Disciples were arguing about, we don't hear the full discussion but that they were arguing about who was the greatest. Jesus picks up on this and, in a way we can all learn from, adjusts their attitude telling them 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all'.

So what on earth is going on? And here we see that the message from James the half-brother of Jesus may be able to point us in the right direction. You see James points us in the direction of God, so already it's off to a good start. He points us to the wisdom of God so that we may, may, just change our line of thinking to be on par with the thoughts of God.

This is so important to our prayer lives and to the way in which we treat all those who with whom we come into contact. The wisdom from God is pure, peace, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy, without partiality. The wisdom of God teaches, nurtures, develops. However, the wisdom of humankind has selfish ambition, envy, is boastful and does not hold to truth.

Doesn't one side look like a parent nurturing their child and the other climbing the social or employment ladder? It certainly does to me! Our prayer life isn't a sermon to God, it isn't a Christmas list of what we think we need, but it can become like that if we pray without the wisdom from God, and you know where that gets us ... nowhere. But sometimes he gives us what we want, to show us that we never needed it!

I remember one Christmas my daughter was asking for a Hatchimal toy. It was the toy that everybody wanted that year. It was all that was being talked about at school, by the parents in the playground; it was even on the news. I had a look at this toy that was the number one on Father Christmases list and wondered what all the fuss was about. It was a toy that broke out of an egg and that was it, but it cost a fortune. I remember thinking that this was a toy that was going to just lie in the toybox till the next cull of toys and would be lucky to be played with after the new year. Luckily my daughter was one of the lucky ones that Christmas, and Father Christmas left a *Hatchimal* under the Christmas tree.

That toy didn't even last past Boxing Day before it was consigned to the toy box. As a father, I knew this toy wouldn't fulfil all of Amy's desires; it was just a passing fad. I'm just a man, but I know my children. How much more does God, our Father, know what we need and desire, even if our own heads—or those around us—tell us to want something else?

Our Gospel reading today alongside the teaching from James must cause us to think differently about how to align our own wisdom with the wisdom of God. Similarly our understanding of abundant life needs to change. That's not to say we have to live in fear of constantly being poor, afraid of the next letter through the letterbox, looking for where the next meal comes from. But our perspective needs to accept the help that is offered at that time, to be willing to learn from others and to move our prayer life in line with Gods wisdom for us in our lives.

God knows what you need better than any earthly father or mother, friend, neighbour, or politician. But as we discussed last week, we do need to evoke change in our lives. Welcoming Jesus into our lives necessitates change. It necessitates aligning our ways with the ways and will of God, maintaining that genuine relationship with our triune God through absolute love. We experience that love, that

journey to abundant life through sacrificing our old ways to his ways, that's what it means to be a living sacrifice.

It's really hard to let go of the desires of this world, the homes, the cars, the social status but your God knows exactly what you need, right in the here and now, and other things may come with time. To live that abundant life full of joy and hope maybe, just maybe it's time to realign our wisdom with that of our Father, I know my prayer life has changed, has evolved, and I challenge you to go on this journey together.

## **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

Friends in Christ,

God invites us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers  
as dear to us as our own needs.

Loving our neighbours as ourselves,  
we offer our thanksgivings and our petitions  
on behalf of the church and the world.

Lord hear us.

**All Lord, graciously hear us.**

Lord God, friend of those in need,  
your Son Jesus has untied our burdens  
and healed our spirits.

We lift up the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened,  
those seeking healing,  
those in need within the church and the world.

Lord hear us.

**All Lord, graciously hear us.**

Creator God,  
you call us to love and serve you  
with body, mind, and spirit  
through loving your creation  
and our sisters and brothers.  
Open our hearts in compassion  
and receive these petitions  
on behalf of the needs of the church and the world.

Lord hear us.

**All Lord, graciously hear us.**

We praise your abiding guidance, O God,  
for you sent us Jesus, our Teacher and Messiah,  
to model for us the way of love for the whole universe.

We offer these prayers of love  
on behalf of ourselves and our neighbours,  
on behalf of your creation and our fellow creatures.

Lord hear us.

**All Lord, graciously hear us.**

God of mercy and healing,  
you who hear the cries of those in need,  
receive these petitions of your people  
that all who are troubled  
may know peace, comfort, and courage.  
Lord hear us.

**All Lord, graciously hear us.**

God of salvation,  
who sent your Son to seek out and save what is lost,  
hear our prayers  
on behalf of those who are lost in our day,  
receiving these petitions and thanksgivings  
with your unending compassion.  
Lord hear us.

**All Lord, graciously hear us.**

Merciful Father,

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

## **The Peace**

The peace to this house from God our heavenly Father.  
The peace to this house from his Son who is our peace.  
The peace to this house from the Holy Spirit, the life-giver.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All And also with you**

**HYMN 3 An upper room did our Lord prepare**

[\(click to hear the hymn\)](#)

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below

## The Dismissal

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you

and give you his peace;

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 And can it be**

**And can it be**

**And can it be**

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

[\(different version\)](#)

[\(another version\)](#)

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.**

Father, you made the world and love your creation.  
You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.  
His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death.  
And so we gladly thank you,  
with saints and angels 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 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**

Lord, we pray that your grace  
may always precede and follow us,  
and make us continually to be given to all good works;  
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.