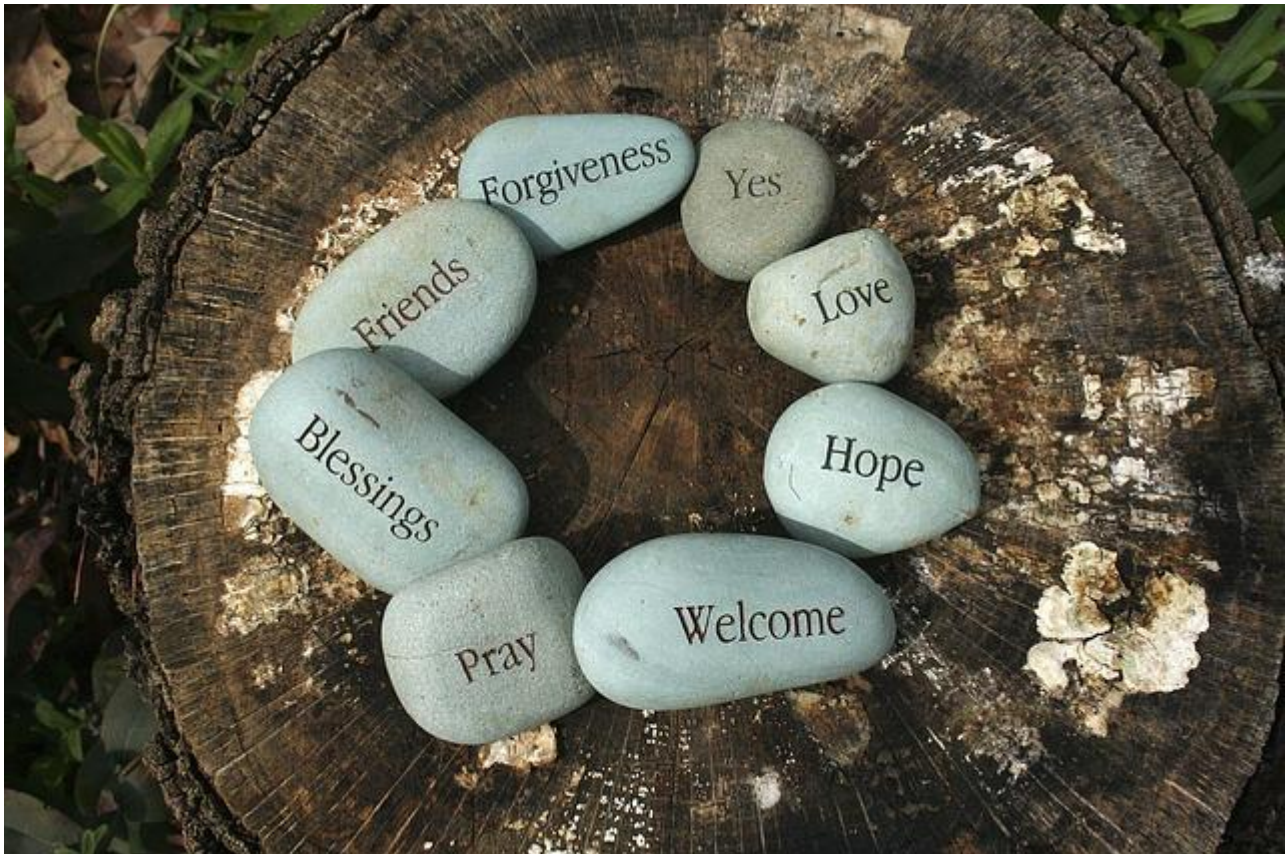


Virtual Service for the Linton Team of Churches

The Third Sunday after Trinity June 28th 2020



Please join us in worshipping together wherever you are this Sunday at 10am. You might like to do this via Zoom. However, if you can't use this material then, you can, of course, use it at any other time. If you are using the service as a group (without the Zoom option) it is quite helpful to designate one person as leader reading the words in normal print with everyone else joining in the text in bold type.

Grace, mercy and peace
From God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ
Be with us all. **Amen**

Hymn

John Raphael Percy (1896-1971) based on Ephesians 5:6-20

Please join in singing or saying this hymn together

1.

Awake, awake: fling off the night
for God has sent his glorious light;
and we who live in Christ's new day
must works of darkness put away.

3.

Let in the light; all sin expose
to Christ, whose life no darkness
knows.
Before his cross for guidance kneel;
His light will judge and, judging, heal.

2

Awake and rise, in Christ renewed,
and with the Spirit's pow'r endued
The light of life in us must glow,
and fruits of truth and goodness show

4.

Awake, and rise up from the dead,
And Christ his light on you will shed.
Its pow'r will wrong desires destroy,
and your whole nature fill with joy.

5.

Then sing for joy, and use each day;
give thanks for everything alway.
Lift up your hearts; with one accord
praise God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer of Preparation

Let us pray:

**Come Holy Spirit,
Fill the Hearts of your people
And kindle in us
The fire of your love.
Amen**

Confession

A time of silence as we call to mind our sins and weaknesses, before we confess them to God.

In the wilderness we find your grace;
you love us with an everlasting love
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

There is none but you to uphold our cause;
our sins cry out and our guilt is great.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Heal us, O Lord, and we shall be healed;
restore us and we shall know your joy.
Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen**

Collect for Trinity 3

God our Saviour,
look on this wounded world
in pity and in power;
hold fast to your promises of peace
won for us by your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

A reading from St Matthew's Gospel Chapter 10: 40-42

Jesus said to his disciples: Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.'

Reflection

Well, there's one word in that Gospel reading, that you really couldn't miss! Jesus is just coming to the end of his very lengthy instructions to the disciples as he sends them out to preach the coming of the Kingdom, and he uses the word "welcome" six times.

He's using it to both encourage and challenge the disciples saying: "Look! You are my ambassadors: if people welcome you, they welcome me and in welcoming me they welcome God." In other words, **how** you are as disciples is important, **the words you speak** are important, **the way you live your lives** is important because through you, people may come to welcome God's love.

"Welcome" is usually used in the context of warmly receiving somebody into your physical space. For me, my mother was the epitome of welcome. She loved having guests and, as soon as she saw someone on the drive, she would be standing at the open front door, a big smile on her face, hands at the ready to draw her visitor into the house for a freshly-cooked scone and a cup of tea. On March 23rd we entered into a new way of life where suddenly something as simple as this....welcoming someone into our home, welcoming into our church, welcoming into our arms,..... is no longer possible.

When Jesus used the word "welcome" to describe a person's response to the disciples, he was speaking about **receiving into the heart and the mind**. And, as he hoped that people would warmly receive the disciples and their message into their hearts and minds, so he also taught **us**, his followers, to have open, welcoming hearts, and open, welcoming minds towards our neighbour, towards other people, often quite different from ourselves.

And during these last three and a half months, there has been a great upsurge of love and compassion all around the world, not only in response to the pandemic but also in response to the killing of George Floyd....people opening their hearts and minds to others, speaking out, doing what they can, giving what they can.

Later in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the judgement of the nations. In it he describes how those who welcomed the stranger are blessed, because as the king says in the parable: "Just as you did it to the least of those who are members of my family, you did it to me."

I like these words about welcomefrom the Celtic Church. They go like this:

We saw a stranger yesterday.
We put food in the eating place,
Drink in the drinking place.
Music in the listening place.

And with the sacred name of the triune God
he blessed us and our house,
our cattle and our dear ones.

As the lark says in her song:
Often, often, often goes Christ
in a stranger's guise.

And so we find a lovely symmetry here: in welcoming us, the
stranger may come to welcome God's love; and in welcoming the
stranger we may come to serve Christ. Amen

Prayers of intercession

If you are following this service with Zoom, Siobhan will now lead our prayers. If you are following the service without Zoom please pray in the way that comes most naturally to you.

We will end with the Lord's Prayer

Traditional

**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.**

Modern

**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.**

Thanksgiving

We give you thanks and praise, Father in heaven,
through Jesus Christ, your only Son, our Lord.
Through him you created the world.
Through his word the universe is sustained.

So we come by that living way,
the new way he opened for us,
to receive mercy and grace,
and to join with angels and archangels
and all the company of heaven, saying:
**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**

Hymn

Sue McClellan(b1951) John Paculabo(b1946) and Keith Rycroft (b1949)

Please join in singing (or saying)

Colours of day dawn into the mind,
the sun has come up, the night is behind.
Go down to city, into the street,
and let's give the message to the people we meet
**refrain: So light up the fire and let the flame burn,
open the door, let Jesus return,
take seeds of his Spirit, let the fruit grow,
tell the people of Jesus, let his love show.**

Go through the park, on into the town;
the sun still shines on; it never goes down.
The light of the world is risen again;
the people in darkness are needing our friend.
refrain

Open your eyes, look into the sky
the darkness has come, the sun came to die.
The evening draws on, the sun disappears,
but Jesus is living, and his Spirit is near.

Refrain

Offering ourselves to God

The Church is not defined by the walls of a building, but by the Body of Christ of which we are members. In making our communion spiritually today, we are joining Christians everywhere to be nourished by the one who tells us: "I am the Bread of Life".

**God be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at mine end, and at my departing.**

Blessing

May Christ, the good Shepherd, who laid down his life for the sheep, draw us and all who hear his voice, to be one flock within one fold; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with us and remain with us always. **Amen**

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