



Chet Valley Churches



**Morning Worship for
Fifth Sunday of Trinity**

12th July 2020

Greeting and Welcome

Let us worship God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

This is the day that the Lord has made.

We will rejoice and be glad in it!

♪ **Hymn: *All My Hope on God is Founded***

**All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown, he alone
calls my heart to be his own.**

**Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.**

**God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.**

**Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.**

Prayer of Approach

Lord, direct our thoughts and teach us to pray.
Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silence



**Loving God, we have come to worship you.
Help us to remember
that you are here with us.
May we pray to you in faith
and listen to your word with eagerness;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Prayer of Adoration

Let us praise God.

O come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

**Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

**In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.**

The sea is his, for he made it,
and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

**O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!**

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand. (Psalm 95. 1-7)

Silence

To you, loving God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be all glory, honour and praise
now and for ever. **Amen.**

Prayer of Confession and Declaration of Forgiveness

Let us confess our sins.

Silence

**Loving God,
we have sinned against you
in what we have thought, said and done.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and turn away from what is wrong.
Forgive us for the sake of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Silence

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect, the Prayer of the Day

Almighty God,
send down upon your Church
the riches of your Spirit,
and kindle in all who minister the gospel
your countless gifts of grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

📖 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.

For the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

📖 Epistle: 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.

For the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

♪ **Hymn: And Can It Be**

**And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Saviour's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain?
For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
That thou, my God, should die for me?**

**'Tis mystery all! The immortal dies!
Who can explore his strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries
To sound the depths of love divine!
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.**

**He left his Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite his grace;
Emptied himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race;
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me.**



**Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth and followed thee.**

**No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him is mine!
Alive in him, my living head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.**

 Gospel: *Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23*

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. 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.'

For the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon [*Rev David*]

When the Covid-19 pandemic arrived on our shores and created such chaos to people's lives and livelihoods there was a clear decision about what needed to be done. Whilst not everyone would agree with it nor possibly even abide by the guidance it was still a blanket decision. Several months on we are seeing an easing of the national lockdown—albeit at a different pace in the constituent parts of the United Kingdom—but even bearing that in mind there are now clarion voices all clamouring for the easing to be done this way or that. The church is no different—the guidance which has been given allows for public worship to now take place in church buildings, subject of course to maintaining good and appropriate cleaning and public health requirements. locally we are experimenting over these next few weeks as to how best to achieve a good balance between enabling that to happen without making those that still need or wish to isolate to feel guilty for not attending! So we will be carrying with making acts of worship available online.

Today our gospel reading records a story of Jesus which may well be familiar to many—and if it's not familiar to you then take these moments to think about it now. Sometimes when one knows a story well then the finer points are missed. We don't see the obvious or we skirt over the details.

On the face of it this story of the sower looks a ridiculous. Who in their right mind would be so profligate with their seed that they broadcast it everywhere without apparently any care as to the type of soil into which it falls? Who has so much surplus that it doesn't matter? It was a parable that even those close to Jesus, his disciples, struggled to understand which is why our reading was in two parts. The story, the parable is shared with the crowds, then Matthew tells us something else, the bit that's missing in our reading, before the Disciples asking Jesus what did he mean.

So whilst what it meant is explained to them—the seed is the message of the Kingdom of God, the first seed on the path is a picture of those who just don't (or won't) understand it, the seed on the rocky ground is a depiction of those who listen and take it in but don't let it grow by learning more and therefore fall by the wayside when problems occur, the seed which falls amongst thorns are those who allow the cares of the world to

take over. The seed that grows, that matures and produces fruit are those who understand what the word is saying and grow strong.

How does all this affect us today? Our response to the message God has for us is key. Isaiah long before Jesus's time had already recognised that God's ways are not our ways such that God is exceedingly generous, sharing His very self and sending his Word into the world. Why? So that we can be put right with our Maker despite continually falling short.

We will never know the mind of God, but we can surely experience his love for us and we can demonstrate it to others. As we gradually ease out of lockdown there will be much to do. Changes will need to happen in society and in our personal lives. Some have already discovered a sense of quietness which doesn't want to be lost in the re-emergence of busy-ness; but there will also be a sense of profound loss which needs to be acknowledged and handled with care. Therefore let us recall that the Psalmist tells us that "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

Affirmation of Faith

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

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?

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?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

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



♪ **Hymn: *We Have a Gospel to Proclaim***

**We have a gospel to proclaim
Good news for men in all the earth;
The gospel of a Saviour's name:
We sing His glory, tell His worth.**

**Tell of His birth at Bethlehem,
Not in a royal house or hall
But in a stable dark and dim:
The Word made flesh, a light for all.**

**Tell of His death at Calvary,
Hated by those He came to save;
In lonely suffering on the cross
For all He loved, His life He gave.**

**Tell of that glorious Easter morn:
Empty the tomb, for He was free.
He broke the power of death and hell
That we might share His victory.**

**Tell of His reign at God's right hand,
By all creation glorified;
He sends His Spirit on His Church
To live for Him, the Lamb who died.**

**Now we rejoice to name Him King:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
This gospel message we proclaim:
We sing His glory, tell His worth.**

Prayers of Intercession

Let us offer our prayers with all God's people
through Jesus Christ our Lord

We pray for the needs of the world...

We pray for the Church...

We pray for all in trouble or distress...

We pray for all who make a new beginning today...

**God of compassion and mercy,
listen to our prayer.
May what we ask in Jesus Christ
your Son be done according to his word,
who said, 'Ask, and you will receive,
seek, and you will find,
knock, and the door will be opened to you.'
To you, merciful God, through your Son,
in the life-giving Spirit,
be glory and praise for ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Jesus taught us to call God our Father, and so in faith and trust we say:

**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.**



♪ Hymn: You Shall Go Out With Joy

**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
Shall clap, shall 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,
And you'll go out with joy. [Repeat x2]**

Prayer of Dedication

God of all goodness and grace,
receive all that we offer;
and grant that our whole life
may give you glory and praise;
through Christ our Lord. Amen

The blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be among us and remain with us
and those whom we love, now and always. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen

