



Chet Valley Churches



Morning Worship
for the Twelfth Sunday of Trinity
5th September 2022

Greeting and Welcome

We come together to worship and praise God, to ask for forgiveness of our sins and to hear the Good News of Jesus.

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

🎵 **Hymn: *Praise to the Holiest in the Height***

**Praise to the holiest in the height, and in the depth be praise:
In all his words most wonderful, most sure in all his ways.**

**O loving wisdom of our God! When all was sin and shame,
A second Adam to the fight and to the rescue came.**

**O wisest love! That flesh and blood, which did in Adam fail,
Should strive afresh against the foe, should strive and should prevail;**

**And that a higher gift than grace should flesh and blood refine,
God's presence and his very self, and essence all-divine.**

**O generous love! That he, who smote in man for man the foe,
The double agony in man for man should undergo;**

**And in the garden secretly, and on the cross on high,
Should teach his brethren, and inspire to suffer and to die.**

**Praise to the holiest in the height, and in the depth be praise:
In all his words most wonderful, most sure in all his ways.**

🙏 **Prayer of Adoration**

Lord, we lift up our hearts to you in love and adoration and praise you for your greatness. You are the great and mighty king and all glory belongs to you. Words cannot describe how awesome you are. There is no other god which can be compared with you and there is none above you.

You are the creator of heaven and earth and everything belongs to you.

We praise you for your creative word by which the heavens and earth were made. We praise you for making us in your image, able to hear and to answer your call.

We praise you for the word made flesh in the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We adore you, O God and praise your name.

To you, loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

be glory, honour and praise, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Psalm 1

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgement, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.



Confession and Declaration of Forgiveness

Every day we do things that are not pleasing to God, so let us now acknowledge and confess our sins.

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.

May Almighty God, who sent His Son into the world to save sinners, bring us pardon and peace, now and for ever. **Amen.**

God offers us the strength and power to live for Him through his Holy Spirit. So let us hold on firmly to the hope we profess, because we can trust God to keep his promise.



First Reading: *Deuteronomy 30:15-20*

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in

the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

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

Hymn: Take Up Thy Cross, the Saviour Said

**Take up thy cross, the Saviour said, if thou wouldst my disciple be;
Deny thyself, the world forsake, and humbly follow after me.**

**Take up thy cross; let not its weight fill thy weak spirit with alarm;
His strength shall bear thy spirit up,
And brace thy heart, and nerve thine arm.**

**Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame, nor let thy foolish pride rebel;
The Lord for thee the Cross endured,
To save thy soul from death and hell.**

**Take up thy cross then in his strength, and calmly every danger brave;
'Twill guide thee to a better home, and lead to victory o'er the grave.**

**Take up thy cross, and follow Christ, nor think 'til death to lay it down;
For only he who bears the cross may hope to wear the glorious crown.**

**To thee, great Lord, the One in Three, all praise for evermore ascend;
O grant us in our home to see the heavenly life that knows no end.**

Second Reading: Luke 14:25-33

Now large crowds were travelling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, 'Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, "This fellow began to build and was not able to finish." Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand?

If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

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

Talk [Rev David]

I'm not a sailor, yet I have the privilege of being the father and father-in-law of two who are good sailors. The other weekend Nina, my wife, and I were invited to look after our grandchildren whilst their parents took part in a sailing regatta. In between races we went out for a sail. Being instructed on how to gather in or let out the jib depending on the boats direction and where the wind was coming from was as far as we got but even so the choices we made determined how the boat moved—if at all! For those competing, deciding where to head and what to do greatly affected their racing. Choices needed to be made and what happened was determined by those choices.

So many times we are called to make choices—in fact there are many instances when the choice we make radically affects our lives. In my school days the A-levels I chose were subjects that I was interested in, and yes they might subsequently lead to a future career, today it seems that more emphasis is placed on those academic choices than ever before. We are also called to make other choices which might be seen as ethical or moral choices. How might we help to protect the planet or creation by what we buy or how we live.

The choice facing the people of Israel that we hear of in Deuteronomy is one between “life and prosperity” against “death and adversity”. A stark choice but one which God states will be blessed if they choose to honour and follow God’s commandments for that is the way to life. God is saying that the consequence of their choice is life or death. The choice is between being obedient to God or not. The exhortation is to choose life. Now that seems quite obvious. So contrast that with the offer laid before us by Jesus in Luke. Here we are offered choices—how do we live, who do we follow, what do we need to do. In all these we are seem to be asked to take the difficult path, the ones that most would shy away from, yet ultimately these choices also enable us to choose life over death—true life which only Jesus can secure for us. How do we live—as children of God, who do we follow—the ways of Jesus, what do we need to do—turn away from the

consumerism of the world and rely on our heavenly Father. And if we do that then it will enable us to find that our sails will be filled with the wind of the Spirit and that our choice of course is one which will lead to life in all its fullness.

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with His love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

We believe in God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn: O Jesus, I Have Promised

**O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
Be thou for ever near me, my master and my friend:
I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.**

**O let me feel thee near me: the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;
But, Jesus, draw thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.**

**O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still
Above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.**

**O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee,
That where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be;
And, Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end:
O give me grace to follow, my master and my friend.**

Prayers

To focus our prayers today I have four little paper boats, all representing choices—or lack of them.

The first boat is travelling on quite a rough sea. We pray for the world—places near us and those far away. Especially we pray for places where life is tough as a result of political or environmental decisions. We pray for those who are affected, even though they have little or no power or influence.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The second boat isn't really going anywhere—it's been becalmed. We pray for people we know, and for people we've heard about who feel they are going nowhere and lack encouragement. Help us to be brave enough to offer encouragement where we can.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The third boat is sailing along merrily. We pray for people who are happy and fulfilled in what they're doing, and in their lives as followers of Jesus. We pray that we might all share the light and life of Jesus with those around us.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

And what about the last boat? It represents you and me, so it might be bobbing along confidently or it may be searching for wind for its sails. Whichever it is, we pray for one another, that we might be ever closer followers of Jesus.

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

The Lord's Prayer

**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:** *Will You Come and Follow Me*

**Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?**

**Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?**

**Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?**

**Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?**

**Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

Dismissal

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all now and always. **Amen.**

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

