

Sunday Morning Resources

Sunday 10 August 2025 - The Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Lectionary Readings (depending on the kind of service you are leading, you may use one or more of the following readings – however, you **must** use the gospel reading, as this is what the homily is based on)

Genesis 15.1–6; Psalm 33.12–end [or 33.12–21]; Hebrews 11.1–3, 8–16; Luke 12.32–40

Homily

Today's homily has been written by the Revd Sarah Tan, Chaplain, HMP Littlehey

The Gospel reading set for today talks about two main things. It talks about us being prepared and it talks about where we store our treasures. I think those two things are intrinsically linked to our lives of faith. They are perhaps two sides of the same coin.

Our faith and belief in God is a gift. It is a thing which we should work at, a thing we should pay attention to, a thing we should treasure. Faith feels different for each of us. In the same way that no two people are the same, neither is the experience of faith the same for any two of us. Yet we all believe in one God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We believe in a God who loves us, a God who wants and indeed longs for a relationship with us, a God who knows us better than we know ourselves and also a God who is capable of far more than we can dare to imagine or could possibly understand. Faith in God if we choose to embrace that gift should underpin all that we do. It should inform how we deal with situations, speak to people, it should guide us in how we spend our time, our money, our talents. It should be a thing that we prioritise in our life and make time and space for even when the world might be trying to crowd it out with all the busyness of daily life at 21st century pace.

I wonder how you notice God's hand in your day-to-day life? How do you live your life alert and expectant to the idea that God is indeed working and moving in the world and in your community and in your life. What helps you to notice that? It might be people those who are kind, seeing how someone who is struggling trusts others perhaps to help them to cope. It might be in seeing the determination of a young child to walk or master a new skill and that look of pure joy when they do. It might be the quiet determination of someone dealing with illness either mental or physical and seeing that against the odds they persevere and have some sense of peace. It might be in the wonder of the created world around you. It might be in the comfort you find in a quiet house or your ever dependable feline or canine companion. It might be that you notice God when you pray or read the Bible or worship or play music. It might just be that for someone else you are the reminder of God in their day.

Are you like the servants who are alert for the bridegroom to return home whatever the hour? Are you someone alert to looking for the presence of God always and turning on your radar or your antennae for that? God is everywhere whether we notice or not

whether we welcome the presence or not. There are times when God comes as comfort and sustenance and there are times when God comes as disturbing wave or storm when we are called to be changed and shaken from our comfort zones. There are also times when God simply accompanies us gently holding us as we make our way through the day or the week.

If we live as people alive to God being present in our life then we can't help but be people who put our treasure not in things of this world but in those things which belong to God and of the kingdom yet to be revealed in all its glory. We will be people who value honesty and truth, who are kind and generous, people who include everyone and ignore no one people who value all of humanity equally. We will be people who pray fervently for those many, many places and situations which we cannot control and we feel we can't influence but which we know that God can. We will be people who do what we can for those in need around us, who make decisions that prioritise the planet rather than our convenience and people who trust that no matter what happens to us God is with us in all things. We are never alone, never abandoned and never ever beyond God's redeeming love.

If we can treasure that joy, that faith, that gift in our lives then it cannot help but shape and change us into the people God calls us and knows us to be. And in turn that can shape our small corner of God's world and allow people to see the light and the joy that there is in having the treasure and gift of faith in a wonderful loving God who sees us as treasure.

Ways to Engage all Generations

When different generations are gathered together in worship there is an opportunity to build relationships and to encounter God in our conversations as we build relationships and learn from each other no matter what our ages, stage of life or faith and for all present to feel included. Adding some wondering questions to the service at an appropriate moment can help to do this.

Wondering Questions: Some wondering questions that may help to engage all generations to ponder and explore during the talk, service or during the week may include (three or so) of the following style of questions:

- I wonder what your favourite part of the story/passage is? I wonder why that is?
- I wonder who your favourite character is? I wonder why that is?
- I wonder how _____ felt or I wonder how _____ felt when _____ happened?
- I wonder how you feel about _____?
- I wonder where you are in this story?
- I wonder what part of the story is about you?
- I wonder what the [tree, pearl, coin] could really be?
- I wonder why _____ said _____?
- I wonder what we can learn about God in this story?

Suggested intercessions

Dear Lord,

We pray for the church in this place and throughout the world. Guide those in leadership and authority so that your people may always be focussed on your kingdom. Show us how to be your people to witness to our faith in you in our daily lives.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for your world Lord. We pray for those places where there is war and unrest, where people are persecuted for who they are and where people live daily with fear, starvation and thirst. We pray for aid agencies seeking to bring relief and for leaders of the nations that they would make decisions that prosper all people.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for all those who are experiencing suffering of any kind. We pray for those who are spending today in hospital or a care home or a hospice. We pray for the care givers in our communities, for those who are paid and for those who are unpaid. We pray for healing and comfort for those in need and patience and compassion for those who care for them.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for those who have died and for those who mourn. We ask for your comfort for those who mourn and eternal rest in your kingdom for those whose earthly life is over. We give thanks for those whose faith was a witness to us and we also give thanks for those whose faith was known only to you. We pray that you will make us ready to be kingdom people for eternity.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

In a moment of quiet we offer to God those things which are weighing on our hearts and minds from this past week. We offer them to God knowing that our prayers are heard and entrusting the outcomes to the one who knows all things.

(silence)

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

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

Suggested hymns/songs

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God
Beauty for Brokenness
O God our help in Ages Past
Dear Lord and Father of Mankind
There's a wideness in God's mercy
Immortal Invisible
Will you Come and Follow me
Take my Life and Let it Be
All for Jesus!
Refiners' Fire (Purify my heart)

Activities to accompany the service

If you are looking for resources to accompany the service for engaging younger children, then there are lots of online resources. The following free to access/download resources may be useful starting points:

- <https://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/>
- <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/MessyChurchBRF/>
- <https://www.faithinkids.org/>
- [reflectionary.org](https://www.reflectionary.org/) – lectionary-based resources
- [engageworship](https://www.engageworship.org/) – in particular 'Area 52' for lectionary-based material
- <https://www.bdeducation.org.uk/product-category/primary-age-5-11/>
(weekly@ lectionary resource)