

The Home Sunday Worship Supplement

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, 12th July 2020

Dear Parishioners,

The result from my survey is that 70% of us voted to continue with Home Sunday Worship. So, we will not be re-commencing Sunday worship at this stage. Sunday Supplements will continue.

However, on Wednesday at 9:30 am, we recommenced the Wednesday Bible Study and Communion in Holy Trinity. If anyone else would like to join us for the Holy Communion, please come along.

We celebrated the re-opening of Holy Trinity (albeit not fully) using a special liturgy for an Acclamation and Affirmation of the Christian Way provided by the Church of England Liturgical Commission for the re-opening of a building for public worship.

I have been notified that Bishop Murray will be making a pastoral visit to the Parish on Sunday 16th August. I will hope that we can hear him preach, and then share a morning tea in the garden with him (weather permitting) so that you have a chance to chat with him.

This means that I am hoping that we will have recommenced Sunday worship in Holy Trinity before the Bishop visits – possibly 2nd or 9th August. I will update you on this as we get closer to the date.

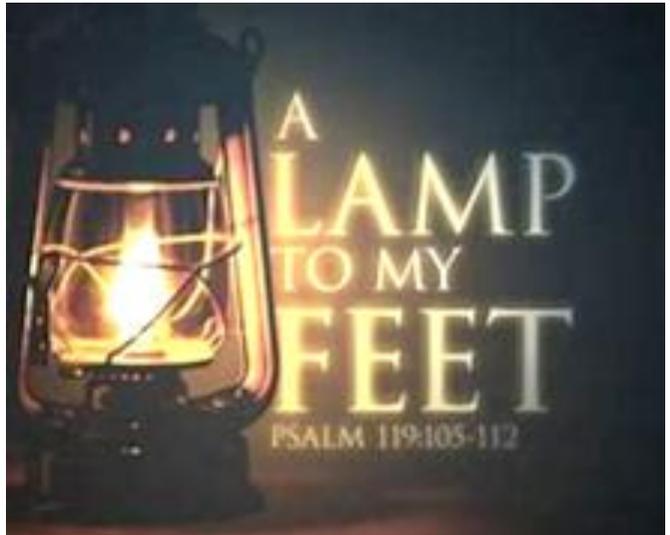
Thank you to Pamela for providing another thought-provoking reflection for today.

Rev Clyde



Psalm 119.105-112

- ¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lantern to my feet:
and a light to my path.
- ¹⁰⁶ I have vowed and sworn an oath:
to keep your righteous judgements.
- ¹⁰⁷ I have been afflicted beyond measure:
Lord, give me life according to your word.
- ¹⁰⁸ Accept, O Lord, the freewill offerings of my mouth:
and teach me your judgements.
- ¹⁰⁹ I take my life in my hands continually:
yet I do not forget your law.
- ¹¹⁰ The wicked have laid a snare for me:
but I have not strayed from your precepts.
- ¹¹¹ Your commands are my inheritance for ever:
they are the joy of my heart.
- ¹¹² I have set my heart to fulfil your statutes:
always, even to the end.



Matt 13:1-9, 18-23

The Parable of the Sower



¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ² Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat

and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³ Then he told them many things in parables, saying: ‘A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop – a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear.’ ¹⁸ ‘Listen then to what the parable of the sower means : ¹⁹ when anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰ The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ²² The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²³ But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.’

Reflection on Matt 13:1-9, 18-23 (Pamela)

I love parables, Jesus taught in parables. They take a hard to understand concept like the Kingdom of God and lay down alongside it something that is easily relatable from real life.

As children of God we are invited to take what we learn from Jesus and to mould it into something that is good and life giving.

In today's lesson a sower went out to sow. Who is the sower? God? Yes. Jesus? Yes.

God is always sowing God's life in ours. We are created in the image of God according to God's likeness (Gen 1.26). The Kingdom of God is within you Luke tells us. (Luke 17.21)

But might you and I be sowers of seed?

We usually judge ourselves as one of the four types of ground: the beaten path, the rocky ground, thorny terrain or good soil. Put that out of your mind and think of yourself as the sower.



You've probably had the experience of someone saying to you "you remember when you said or did? How did you know that was exactly what I needed." And you have no recollection of that event. You didn't plan or intend it, you were just sowing the seeds of your life.

It's not really what you did or what you said but who you were. You were a sower to that person.

All our lives we are sowing seeds and we don't even know.

The sower sows because that's who he or she is. We sow because we are sowers. We are sowers because we sow. Sowing is simply our way of being and living, the way we engage the world and relate to others.

Seeds we sow reflect what is going on within us and who we are. We can only sow seeds that were first sown and cultivated within us. Sowing is an interior practise before it is an exterior action.

Jesus sows in us "the word of the Kingdom". That word is love, peace, hope, joy, forgiveness, mercy, compassion, beauty, wisdom, presence, encouragement, perseverance, courage, gentleness, wholeness, healing, reconciliation, integrity, authenticity.

Those are the seeds Jesus sows within us, seeds that we are to cultivate within ourselves and sow in our relationships and the world. They are the kind of things that once we experience them cannot be kept to ourselves. They sprout and grow within us and we seed the world.

If those seed are about an interior quality, so is the soil on which they fall.

Jesus is not just describing different types of soil or circumstances of life, he is describing our inner geography. These are various landscapes of the human heart.

In my life there have been times when all I could do was move from point A to point B. There was no room or energy for anything else. Nothing was growing or flowering. The seeds of opportunity were

lost or ignored, unrecognised or snatched away. Have you ever felt that way? Have you ever lived on the path?

Sometimes life can feel pretty rocky. Fear, envy, anger, or hardheartedness fertilise the soil of our lives. New life cannot take root. There's no depth - we live at the surface. Our land needs attention, it needs to be cleared. There is work to be done. What rock fills the soil of your life?

At other times the thorns of guilt, shame, self pity or regret choke out the possibility of something new. Our life is constricted, strangled from the past. We feel the barbs of our own inconsistencies and contradictions. What needs weeding from your life?

Then there are those times when our life is fertile, open, receptive, flowering, flourishing and fruitful.

All four types of ground need attention and care whether it be ploughing to a new depth, clearing the land, weeding, watering or fertilising. All four describe parts of ourselves.

The condition of the soil however does not stop the sower. All is sown. The sower sows with recklessness and generosity. The sower sows here, there, everywhere without regard to where seed might land. The sower sows not because of who or what the ground is but because of who the sower is.

Where and with whom do we sow? In what ways have we withheld seed because we deemed the ground unworthy?

What would it take for us to be as generous as the sower in today's gospel?

The sower does not worry about the harvest or how much it will yield, he sows everywhere and anywhere. He simply sows.

What has God sown in your life? Are you tending and cultivating new growth? Where and what are you sowing?

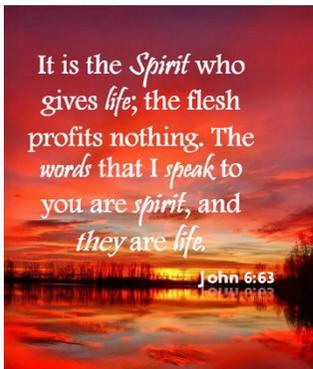
Given the right conditions, apple seeds become apples, peach seeds become peaches. God seeds becomeGod.

How does your garden grow?

Amen

Collect

Bountiful God,
 we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word:
 by your Holy Spirit,
 help us to receive it with joy, and to live according to it,
 that we may grow in faith and hope and love;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy
 Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



The words you have spoken are spirit and life, O Lord; you have the words of eternal life. John 6.63, 68

The next Home Supplement

Will be Sunday 19th July – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost.

Keep an eye on your email on Thursday.

What all Ministers and Parishioners need to do

Stay home if you are sick, even if your symptoms are minor.

Avoid touching your mouth, eyes, and nose with unwashed (or gloved) hands.

Regularly clean your hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds using soap and water, or alcohol based hand rub.

When you cough and sneeze cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or a flexed elbow. Put tissues in a bin.

Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms.

Stay 1.5 metres away from others (two arms-length).

Seek medical advice if you have a fever, cough, sore throat or shortness of breath (call your doctor or healthdirect on 1800 022 222).