

The Home Sunday Worship Supplement

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, 5th July 2020

Dear Parishioners,

How are you finding this beautiful winter weather? Yes, the nights are chilly, and the mornings are fresh, but the days are glorious.

The Magnolia tree in the Rectory front garden is flowering. It has responded well to some care from Linda. My photo doesn't do it justice, but Linda and her camera weren't available.

Bishop Murray has approved our Plan and Application to reopen Holy Trinity. 😊 So now we just need to determine when we think is the right time to recommence services.

Thank you to those who have responded to my email survey on preferences for either reopening Holy Trinity or continuing Home Worship arrangements. I have 13 responses. The survey is still open.

At this point a small majority wish to continue with the Sunday Home Worship so it looks like Sunday Supplements for Home Worship will be continued, possibly for the remainder of July.

However, a large majority of Wednesday people have opted to recommence the Bible Studies and Communion in the church with social time after at Elk on 38. I am working towards commencing Wednesday 8th July at 9:30 am.



Rev Clyde

Psalm 145:8-14

- ⁸ The Lord is gracious and compassionate:
slow to anger and of great goodness.
- ⁹ The Lord is loving to every one of us:
and his mercy is over all his works.
- ¹⁰ All creation praises you, O Lord:
and your faithful servants bless your name.
- ¹¹ They speak of the glory of your kingdom:
and tell of your great might,
- ¹² That the whole earth may know your mighty acts:
and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.
- ¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom:
and your dominion endures through all generations.
- ¹⁴ The Lord upholds all those who stumble:
and raises up those that are bowed down.



Romans 7:14-25

ROMANS 7:15

I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT I DO.

FOR WHAT I WANT TO DO I DO NOT DO, BUT WHAT I HATE I DO.

BUT WHAT I HATE I DO.

¹⁴ We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. ¹⁵ I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. ¹⁶ And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin

living in me. ¹⁸ For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do – this I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. ²¹ So I find this law at work: although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²² For in my inner being I delight in God's law; ²³ but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. ²⁴ What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

Reflection on Romans 7.14-25

Last week, using an analogy with slavery, the Apostle Paul encouraged us with the knowledge that we are no longer helpless slaves to sin; but, through our identification with Jesus' death and resurrection, have been freed from being helpless sinners.

We are now free to choose holiness, having freely given ourselves to slavery to God and righteousness. We also noted that having given

ourselves to God as slaves to righteousness, we have committed ourselves to live in accordance with God's desire and intention for us.

But sometimes, like the Apostle Paul, we still struggle with the old nature, creating conflict within us. Particularly those who have felt trapped by fear, anger, despair, or addiction understand this anguish.

Paul admits, *'I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.'* (NRSV, v.15)

Like Paul, we sometimes just don't seem to have a choice! It just seems that good and evil are both present within us at the same time, and each is struggling against the other. Much to our anguish, the sinful nature keeps winning the conflict.

The question for our reflection today is to ask ourselves, "How do I respond when I have fallen short of how I should be living as God's righteous and holy child?"

1. Some might respond by letting their weakness drive them away from God.

Perhaps we may feel unworthy. I remember some people who have said to me "I am too much of a sinner to be able to receive God's forgiveness" and have turned away from the Gospel.

Others have stopped attending church, or have chosen to not go forward to receive the bread and wine at the Eucharist. It may be that they believe that they feel that they can only participate if they feel that they are without sin. Perhaps they feel that they might offend God's holiness.

2. A better response is to choose to let our weakness draw us closer to God.

Paul was in great anguish about his weakness. He cried out, *"What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this*

body of death?” But then comes his answer, ‘Thanks be to God - through Jesus Christ our Lord!’ (v.24-25)

In Jesus we have forgiveness and reconciliation with God. In accepting him, we can come into the love, forgiveness and acceptance that is ours through the grace of God.

We know that we don’t have to be without sin to become acceptable to God. In Christ, we are washed clean and are invited into the loving relationship that we see between the three members of the Trinity. Have you noticed how much of the Trinity is involved in the prayers of consecration at the Eucharist? We are all invited to “come” and enter into that shared relationship of love.

Particularly, when we approach God in pain, need or conflict, we are never turned away.

Pray with me: Loving & Merciful Lord, in the moment when I feel weakest and unworthy, help me to give myself to you more fully. Amen.

Rev Clyde



Collect

Almighty God,
your Son Jesus Christ has taught us
that what we do for the least of his brothers and sisters
we do also for him:
give us the will to serve others
as he was the servant of all,
who gave up his life and died for us;
yet lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.



The next Home Supplement

Will be Sunday 12th July – Sixth 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).

Some Spiritual self-care ideas for everyone 😊

Spiritual self-care

- Make time for reflection
- Spend time in nature
- Find spiritual connection or community
- Be open to inspiration
- Cherish your optimism and hope
- Be aware of the non material aspects of life
- Try at times not to be in charge or the expert
- Meditate
- Pray
- Sing
- Contribute to causes in which you believe
- Read inspirational literature

■ Saakvitne & Pearlman; 1996 excerpted