

Sunday 24 July 2022 – 6th after Trinity, proper 12C

Call to Worship

Words from Psalm 85:

(8) Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

(9) Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

Hymn O praise ye the Lord

Prayers of Approach, Adoration and Confession

Holy Lord, we come into your presence to praise you.

We give you thanks, because you love us and you are always ready to hear our prayers.

You know what we need, and give it even before we ask.

But you love to have a right relationship with us, and so you want us to share with you whatever we are feeling.

We praise you for your love, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

But we confess to you that we do not show love to you and to our neighbours as we should. We do not pray to you for our own needs or for the needs of others as often as we should, and we do not find out what they need and offer it to them. Lord, have mercy on us, and forgive our hardness of heart, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

From Psalm 85:

(1) LORD, you were favourable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

(2) You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin.

(3) You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.

(4) Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us.

(5) Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

(6) Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you?

(7) Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

Hear what Jesus says to all who turn to him: Your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Theme Introduction

Today we will be thinking about prayer. What is it for, why should we pray, how should we pray?

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray
and to give more than either we desire or deserve:
pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid
and giving us those good things
which we are not worthy to ask
but through the merits and mediation
of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Reading from Scripture Genesis 18:20-32

Hymn Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us

Reading from Scripture Luke 11:1-13

Hymn Abba, Father, let me be

Sermon

Hymn What a friend we have in Jesus

Affirmation of Faith

We stand to affirm our faith.

Christ is the image of the unseen God, the first-born of all creation,
for in him all things were made, in heaven and on earth.

Through him and for him all things were made;
he exists before all things, and holds them in unity.

The Church is his body, and he is its head;
he is the beginning, the first-born from the dead.

**God made all his fulness to dwell in him,
to reconcile through him all creation to himself,**

everything on earth and everything in heaven,
when he made peace by his death on the cross.

From Colossians 1:15-20 (Rejoice and Sing 752)

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Lord, we thank you that we are able to call you Father. We look forward to the fulfilment of all you plan for us, and the coming of your kingdom. We pray for this Church, for its future and the changes that are coming, and for all those who seek to do your will.

A few days ago I saw this sign beside the River Kennet, showing the pilgrim way to the shrine of St James at Compostela. We remember that tomorrow is his feast day, and that he was the patron saint of Reading Abbey, and we thank you for his witness and for all those whose life is a pilgrimage.

We pray that your kingdom of justice and peace may be established throughout the world. Bring peace especially in Ukraine, Sri Lanka, Yemen, and other countries where there is war and conflict. Give us leaders who will seek righteousness and justice, and serve your people both in this country and throughout the world.

We know that you will provide all that we need. Help us not to ask for luxury and excess, not to grab what other people need more than us, not to exploit the world unsustainably and bring about climate change. Feed us also with your living Word, your Son, Jesus.

We do not always get things right. Help us to be patient and generous with people who do things we dislike, to acknowledge our own fallibility, and to seek reconciliation with one another and with you.

Lord, sometimes times are hard for us. Be merciful to all who are suffering, especially those whom we know are poor, sick, sorrowful or in trouble. Help us to bear our problems and look forward to a better life.

We ask all this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, the King of Glory.

Amen.

Hymn O Lord, hear my prayer

The Offering

Lord, you give us today and every day our daily bread, and all we need, and you give some of us even more. We offer you these gifts to be used in your service, and in your name to help all those in need. Bless this money, and the money given through the bank, and all our gifts of time and thought and prayer, in Jesus' name.

Amen

Hymn At the name of Jesus

Notices

The Blessing

We bless one another with the Grace:

May 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 for ever. Amen.