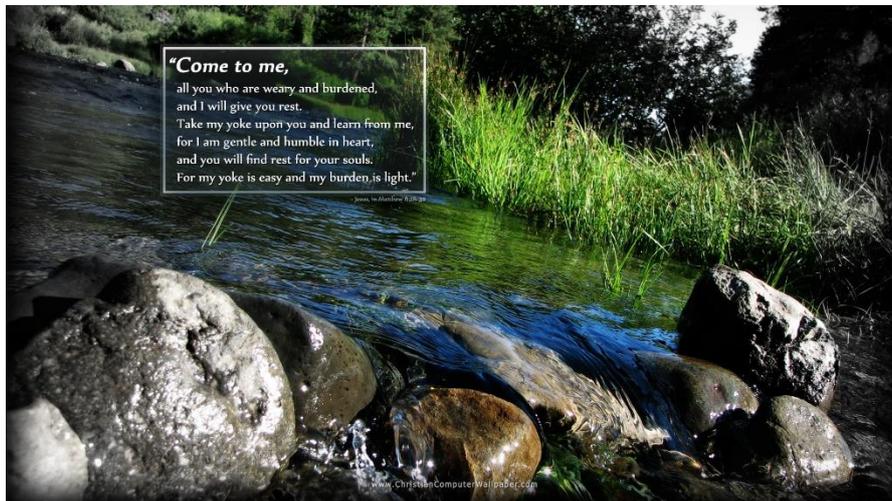


FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 2020
ALL SAINTS WITLEY: LITURGY OF THE WORD



Let us worship God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you

and also with you.

This is the day that the Lord has made.

We will rejoice and be glad in it.

HYMN

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does his successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.

To him shall endless prayer be made,
and praises throng to crown his head;
his name like incense shall arise
with every morning sacrifice.

Let every creature rise and bring
peculiar honours to our King;
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud Amen.

COLLECT

Gracious Father, by the obedience of Jesus you brought salvation to our wayward world: draw us into harmony with your will, that we may find all things restored in him, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

CONFESSION

God our Father, we come to you in sorrow for our sins.

For turning away from you,
and ignoring your will for our lives;
Father, we are sorry,
forgive us our sins.

For behaving just as we wish,
without thinking of you;
Father, we are sorry,
forgive us our sins.

For failing you by what we do
and think and say;
Father, we are sorry,
forgive us our sins.

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you
by temptations in the world about us;
Father, we are sorry,
forgive us our sins.

ABSOLUTION

May the Father of all mercies
cleans you from your sins,
and restore you in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

READINGS

New Testament: Romans 7. 15–25

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!.

Gospel: Matthew 11. 16–19, 25–30

‘But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another,

“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.”

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, “He has a demon”; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, “Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!” Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.’

At that time Jesus said, ‘I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’

SERMON Rev Ann Fraser and team

HYMN

You laid aside your majesty, gave up everything for me.
Suffered at the hands of those you had created.
You took all my guilt and shame, when you died and rose again;
now today you reign
in heaven and earth exalted.
*I really want to worship you, my Lord,
you have won my heart and I am yours.
For ever and ever I will love you.
You are the only one who died for me,
Gave your life to set me free,
So I lift my voice to you in adoration.*

PRAYERS

Dear Father God, your Son, Jesus Christ, promised rest for the weary and relief to those with heavy loads, hear our prayers today.

Dear Lord, we pray for places in the world where people live in fear of war and fighting, bring them peace.

We pray for households where there is no fresh water, not much food, and no means of earning money because of the pandemic. May they soon be able to work and enjoy their lives again.

Lord of all the world

Hear our prayer today.

Dear Father in heaven, we thank you for our families and friends, for our community, our shops and schools. We thank you for our teachers and pray that their work-load will become lighter. We pray for children who are finding new ways of learning very difficult. May all the schools be open again for all children next term.

Lord of all the world

Hear our prayer today.

Dear Lord, we pray for our government, our local councillors and all in authority, that as they make important decisions, they will be guided by your Holy Spirit to seek the common good.

Lord of all the world

Hear our prayer today.

Loving Father we bring before you all those bearing heavy loads of worry, loneliness or ill health. Lighten their anxiety, brighten their loneliness and soothe their hurt, that they may have your hope and peace in their lives. We pray too for those who are mourning a loved one who has died.

Lord of all the world

Hear our prayer today.

Father of all, as we pray for all these people, help us to remember to share our lives with you, and to bring your love to all whom we meet, day by day.

Amen.

THE PEACE

Jesus said; 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest'.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

HYMN

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth;
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

*Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,
but they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me.

I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came with me and the Dance went on:
Dance, then, wherever you may be ...

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone;
but I am the Dance and I still go on:
Dance, then, wherever you may be ...

They cut me down and I leapt up high;
I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me:
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he:
Dance, then, wherever you may be ...

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

NOTICES

BLESSING

May the God of all creation, fill us with joy,
strengthen our hope
and give us his peace;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

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

Piano Voluntary

