

St Swithun's Church Family

Stir Up Sunday



Worshipping together in Spirit

Sunday 22nd November 2020

*Please use this booklet to **worship with us** – ideally at 10am on Sunday so that we know we are joining our prayers together but any time is good. Use a candle and a cross if you can find them to give your worship a focus.*

The children might like to use the Sunday school resources provided by Izzy.

This is a Service of The Word. It doesn't matter if you are one person or a family together – use the booklet and go through the words – stop and reflect as you need to. We are going to record this service again and add it to the website www.saintswithuns.org.uk There are various prayer resources and other things to look at on the website – if you have any feedback or anything to share please let me know.

Giving - if you usually give your collection on a Sunday morning in cash, and you are able to, please put this aside each week to bring to church when you are next able to. Even better would be to set up your giving online ('Saint Swithun's PCC' ; 60-05-11 ; 16126718 ; NatWest Bank) if you haven't already done this.

You might like to enhance your worship by singing or listening to a hymn or a song at various points – I have a few suggestions below – you tube is a great resource...

O worship the king

<https://youtu.be/YQygFycpvBA>

O Lord my God

<https://youtu.be/EkZN8rInUx0>

All hail the power of Jesus' name

<https://youtu.be/9voJsbicG9M>

Amazing Grace

<https://youtu.be/GYMLMj-SibU>

Crown him with many crowns

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p07cdm0r>

Introduction

Today is Stir Up Sunday – it is also known as Christ the King. It is the last Sunday of the Church's year before we begin the season of Advent next Sunday. Today let us together be stirred up in faith so that we may plenteously bring forth the fruits of our good works.

The Gathering

The Greeting

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you

Opening Prayer

Once again we gather for worship:
with our different dreams and ideas,
with our different values and tastes,
with our different languages and cultures,
with our different abilities and skills,
with our different genders and ages,
We gather to worship together from different homes
and circumstances,
We gather from our isolation into our prayerful community,
We gather knowing we join as one family, children of God.

Let us join our hearts in worship,
let us join our voices in praise,
Let us join our lives as the Body of Christ.
Amen.

Saying sorry - prayers of penitence

As we prepare to say sorry to God let us take a moment of quiet to recall our behaviour, our relationships, our attitude over the past few days – what do we need to repent of? What have we ignored or stayed silent on that we should say sorry for?

Loving God, our maker and our redeemer,
this is your world and we are your people:
come among us and save us.

We have seen the ill-treatment of others
and have not gone to their aid;
Lord in your mercy

Lord in your mercy

We have condoned evil and dishonesty
and failed to strive for justice;
Christ in your mercy

Christ in your mercy

We have not loved you with all our heart,
nor our neighbours as ourselves;
Lord in your mercy

Lord in your mercy

We know that God forgives us when we say sorry

We are forgiven

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us
from our sins,
heal and strengthen us
by the Spirit,
and raise us to new life
in the risen Christ.

Amen.

Glory to God

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to all people on earth.**

Today we will sing All Hail the Power of Jesus' name:

All hail the power of Jesus' name!

**Let angels prostrate fall,
let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him, crown him,
crown him, crown him,
and crown him Lord of all.**

**Crown him, ye martyrs of your God,
who from his altar call,
who from his altar call;
extol the Stem of Jesse's Rod,
and crown him, crown him,
crown him, crown him,
and crown him Lord of all.**

**Let every kindred every tribe
on this terrestrial ball,
on this terrestrial ball,
to him all majesty ascribe,
and crown him, crown him,
crown him, crown him,
and crown him Lord of all.**

**O that with yonder sacred throng
we at his feet may fall,
we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song,
and crown him, crown him,
crown him, crown him,
and crown him Lord of all.**

The Collect

Stir up, O Lord,
the wills of your faithful people;
that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works,
may by you be plenteously rewarded;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

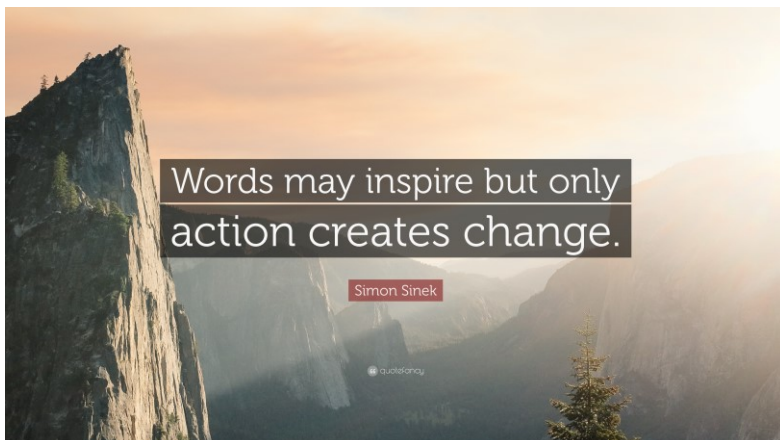
Amen

The Liturgy of the Word

Let every word be the fruit of action and reflection.
Reflection alone without action
or tending towards it is mere theory,
adding its weight when we are overloaded with it already ...
Action alone without reflection is being busy pointlessly.
Honour the Word eternal
and speak to make a new world possible.

adapted Helder Camara, Brazil

**May we be open to the Word eternal,
May we look with wonder and child-like awe,
May we be open to reflect, and inspired to action.
Amen.**



The Gospel Reading

Matthew 25. 31- end

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord.

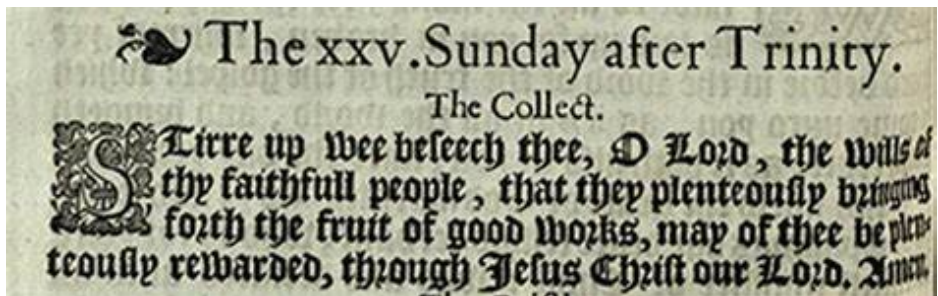
‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” Then he will say to those at his left hand, “You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.” Then they also will answer, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?” Then he will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.” And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon *Mother Juliet*

Today is the last Sunday in the church calendar – we are at the end of the church's year, as next week we begin the season of Advent. The special theme for this Sunday is a celebration of Jesus as King and today is also named a special Sunday after the collect which we use – which is found in the Book of Common Prayer and which we used today - Stir up Sunday. The collect uses the words. 'Stir up O Lord the will of thy faithful people.'

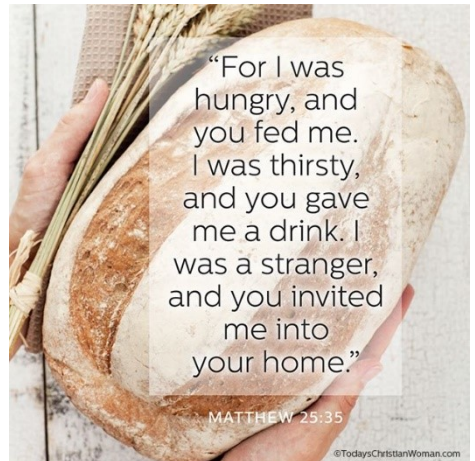


Today is a day when we are meant to encourage each other, when we remind ourselves that Christ is our King. It is a day when we draw close to Advent, that season in which we prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. And as we think of Jesus our King coming at Christmas, so we welcome Christ's love into our own hearts.

It seems to me that today's gospel reading brings these two traditional themes for this Sunday together. In our worship today we ask God to stir up our wills that we might be even more fruitful in God's service and if we want to be more fruitful, what does that mean?

In our reading today, Matthew gives us a pretty good list of what Jesus thinks are important examples of good works.

Practical support and kindness for those who need it. “Come, you that are blessed by my Father...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink...” and so on. Our fruitfulness is depicted in service to others and the wonderful revelation that when we help other people, we are serving Jesus himself.



When we “stir one another up towards love and good deeds” we are expressing our encouragement of each other to love others and to love Jesus the King.

Another reason why “stir up” Sunday is so memorable – and which I have focussed on in our talk for the children and big children - is that it coincides, approximately, with the time that cooks start to stir up the ingredients for Christmas puddings and Christmas cakes, so that they can be made with plenty of time to mature nicely in time for Christmas.

I’m wondering if Patricia or Martin or any others of you are baking today or around this time ready to feed the cakes you make? Do you go for all the traditions – stirring Right to Left to remember the Magi came from the East to the West to visit Jesus – and using 13 ingredients to remember Jesus and the apostles – and this one I used to do every year as a child – every member of the family stirring the cake and making a wish... Like our traditions for our Christmas cakes – our church year has many traditions - today in our church tradition - we prepare to leave the old church year behind and start to turn ourselves to Advent and the

preparation we undertake as we get ready to meet Jesus with joy at Christmas. As with any old year going and a new year coming – it is time to take stock of our lives and our faith.

How has your faith been this year?

Did you feel strong in the love of God during these strange pandemic lockdown days? Or has your faith taken a knock with the changes to church and the way life has had to be?

Have you been able to stay full of hope in the light of Christ? Or have you felt overwhelmed by fear and isolation?

What has been your best learning from this year?

How has your prayer life developed?

Normally when I approach the beginning of January I start to make a list of a few things I need to do to improve my life – generally be more healthy, turn off my social media, read more – you know the thing – those new year resolutions that often last for a few days but are full of good intention... and maybe help us to refocus on things we should be doing all the time...

What list would you create for your faith development – for your faith life as we turn the church year round?

Perhaps as we think about cakes – and why not on Stir up Sunday – it is about looking at the various and different ingredients we need to make something beautiful.

I wonder what areas of your life – of your faith life are going well? What do you have in abundance – and what is perhaps missing – what flavours are needed to make the whole of you even more delicious – to over push the analogy! The ingredients in a Christmas cake are diverse – and individually don't amount to that much – but mix them together and cook them up and they become so much more than the sum of their individual ingredients – like the church – individually we are good but together we are epic ... and the same with us as individuals, we are an interesting mix of many things.



What are the most important ingredients you need to keep your faith good, strong and enjoyable?

So as we hit Advent next Sunday – challenge yourselves.

Will your hearts be as well prepared as our cakes are?

Will you feed your hearts through Advent as we feed our cakes?

Will you make yourselves sweet by allowing yourselves to be full of God's love and care for others? Remembering that what we do or don't do for the least of these we do to Jesus.

Will you be ready to see Christ in all those you meet, and to welcome all who seek God's love?

As we begin Advent and prepare ourselves for Christmas through making our cakes and through our prayers – may we enjoy the good blessings that this season will bring.

Amen

Profession of Faith

Our faith holds us all – whoever we are, however we come to

**God: We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers

Let us pray:

Loving God, as we look back over the year and reflect on what has been, we pray for those whose lives have been impacted by the pandemic. We pray for those in our world whose lives have been torn apart through conflict and violence. We pray for those who have been affected by climate change. We pray especially at the dawning of the new church year as we look towards hope – for the vaccines to be well implemented and to be successful across the world.

Thy kingdom come
Thy will be done

Loving God, as we remember that we are to be stirred up today, that we are to be more fruitful – let us pray for an increase in our faith and the faith of our church. May we all find the right ingredients to add enough substance and spice to our faith lives.

Thy kingdom come
Thy will be done

Loving God, as we remember the many different ingredients for making cakes and puddings may we remember to welcome the diversity in our community with gratitude. Help us to see all those we live and work amongst as made in your image and may we treat all those we meet as if we are meeting Jesus. Help us to be more Christ-like in all that we do.

Thy kingdom come

Thy will be done

Loving God, as we approach the Season of Advent we remember that for many people there is only darkness. We pray for all those whose lives are a struggle, those who are challenged and distressed – today we hold before you any in our hearts and all those who have asked for our prayers - *Kevin, Gwen, Marshall, Susan, Cherine, Karen, Paulette, Maureen and family, Pamela, Neil, Debbie, Elaine and family, Clinton, Francis, Cynthia, Diane, Harold, Ivy, Sean, Taneisha, Talabi, Susan, Sydney, Edith, Vanda, Lorna, Ena and Stephen*. Bring them comfort and hope.

Thy kingdom come

Thy will be done

Loving God, we pray for all those who now reside in your eternal light and love. We remember those who have died recently especially Eleshia and any others in our hearts but who are no longer on this earth.

Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord

And let light perpetual shine upon them

Merciful Father

Accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Prayer Jesus taught us

Rejoicing in God's new creation, we pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

The Peace

God is love and those who live in love live in God
and God lives in them.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Who could you share God's peace with?



Dismissal and Blessing

The Blessing

God the Father,
who has given to the Son the name above every name,
strengthen you to proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord.

Amen.

God the Son,
who is our great high priest passed into the heavens,
plead for you at the right hand of the Father.

Amen.

God the Holy Spirit,
who pours out her abundant gifts upon the Church,
make you faithful servants of Christ our King.

Amen.

And the blessing of God,
Creator, Redeemer and Spirit
Be with us all, now and always

Amen.

The Dismissal

We go from here blessed for the journey that lies before us,
and strengthened for the challenges we may yet face.

Let us go in peace
to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ

Amen



Happy Birthday to all those who have birthdays!



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