Service for the Third Sunday after Trinity

Welcome:

The Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns

**Let us rejoice and short for joy, giving God the glory.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

**As it was in the beginning, is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Faithful God, whose word is life,

And whose love is everlasting:

Come with saving power to free our praise,

Inspire our prayer and shape our lives

For the kingdom of your Son,

Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We have begun a short series exploring some of the promises of God to us. Last week we rejoiced in our Lord’s promise to keep us safe in his hands all our days; that nothing and no-one can separate us from his love. We saw the need for us to fight for joy, to hold fast to God’s promises so that we might enter into eternal life. Today we will explore God’s promise to be with us always.

Opening hymn: Come down, O Love divine

Come down, O Love divine,

Seek Thou this soul of mine

And visit it with Thine own ardour glowing

O comforter, draw near,

Within my heart appear,

And kindle it, Thy holy flame bestowing

O let it freely burn,

Till earthly passions turn

To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;

And let Thy glorious light

Shine ever on my sight,

And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong,

With which the soul will long,

Shall far outpass the power of human telling;

For none can guess its grace,

Till he become the place

Wherein the Holy Spirit makes His dwelling.

Confession:

The gospel calls us to turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

As we offer ourselves to him in penitence and faith,

We renew our confidence and trust in his mercy.

**My God, for love of you**

**I desire to hate and forsake all sins**

**By which I have displeased you;**

**And I resolve by the help of your grace**

**To commit them no more;**

**And to avoid all opportunities of sin.**

**Help me to do this,**

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God,

Who forgives all who truly repent,

Have mercy upon us,

Pardon and deliver us from all our sins,

Confirm and strengthen us in all goodness

And keep us in eternal life;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading: Genesis 28:10-15

Walk with me:

Reading: Isaiah 43:1-13

Address:

Hymn: Lead me home

When my life is full of sorrow

And I feel I can’t go on

One thing I know

He will take me by the hand

And He will lead me home tonight

*May the Saviour always be my guide*

*He will always be right by my side*

*And all my days*

*I’ll bring my praise*

*And He will lead me home tonight*

When the clouds, they keep on coming

And the sun won’t light the day

I look to Him

He’s my shelter from the storm

And He will lead me home tonight.

*Chorus*

I’ll keep on going, I’ll keep on praising

Knowing You are mine

I’ll keep on praying, I’ll keep on saying

May Your glory shine

All my fear and all my sorrows

They will fade each time I hear

My friend and King

Came and gave His life for me

And He will lead me home tonight

*Chorus x2*

Prayers:

Heavenly Father,

we are charged to proclaim your good news throughout the world,

help us to be your hands and feet on earth.

Guide us in our conversations with neighbours and friends

to hear you in them and respond when we are called.

We pray for our church leaders throughout the world,

especially those who proclaim your name in a hostile world,

for those who face persecution for their faith in you.

As we look to the time when we can worship again together,

we pray for our leaders as they work to bring this safely to fruition.

We pray for Sarah Mullally, Bishop of London

and head of the Church of England’s Covid recovery group

that the decisions she makes would be led by you and respected by all.

In our Diocese we pray for Bishop Keith

and for Michael and Ian our Archdeacons.

For all church leaders and lay people

who work tirelessly enabling our parishes to flourish.

We pray for Bishop Mark and his family

as they prepare to move to Chester,

and we thank you for his enthusiasm

and commitment to this Diocese.

Lord in you Mercy, **Hear our prayer**.

Lord of all,

we are called to challenge injustice wherever we see it,

help us to see injustice in our world and give us the courage

to stand with those who fight for equality and equity for all.

We pray for those who suffer violence and prejudice

simply because of their race, gender, nationality or religious beliefs.

This week we pray especially for the Windrush generation,

that there will be a satisfactory resolution to this scandal,

and we would learn from the mistakes of history, so they are not repeated.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Lord of Compassion,

we pray for all those who are sick in body, mind or spirit.

We pray for those who continue to isolate themselves,

that, as restrictions begin to lift;

we would all be mindful of those who fear what this might bring.

Give us patience and understanding for those who do not wish to return

to the world too quickly, who may find the new normal bewildering and strange.

We pray for those who are suffering because of the restrictions,

those unable to see family or friends

and those unable to access the help and support they normally receive.

We pray for all who are unwell, at home, in hospitals,

care homes or hospices and all those who care for them.

NHS workers, care home and hospice staff

and all who bear the responsibility of caring for a loved at home,

especially during this difficult time when respite may be unavailable.

In a moment of quiet we name in our heart those we love and care for.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have suffered

the loss of a loved one over the past few months,

and who may not have been able to say goodbye in the way they wished too.

May they feel your love and support as they grieve

 and help us to know how best to support them.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Collect for Third Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God,

You have broken the tyranny of sin

and have sent the Spirit of your Son

into our hearts whereby we call you Father:

Give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,

that we and all creation may be brought

to the glorious liberty of the children of God;

Through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

in unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Let us commend ourselves and all for whom we pray

to the mercy and protection of God, in the prayer our Saviour 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.**

Closing Hymn: Will you come and follow me

Will you come and follow me
 if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don’t know
and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown,

will you let my name be known,

will you let my life be grown

in you and you in me?

Will you leave your self behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare

should your life attract or scare,

will you let me answer prayer

in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?

Will you love the ‘you’ you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?

Will you use the faith you’ve found

to reshape the world around

through my sight and touch and sound

in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I’ll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I’ll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

Blessing:

You are called and loved by God the Father and kept safe by Jesus Christ

Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance, from God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

 And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

Be with you all this day and for ever more. **Amen.**