

PARISHES OF TETBURY, BEVERSTON, SHIPTON MOYNE AND LONG NEWNTON

Readings for Sunday 17th September 2023 – Trinity 15

Gathering Prayer

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; through 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.**

Post Communion Prayer

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy; and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Old Testament: Genesis 50.15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, 'What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?' So they approached Joseph, saying, 'Your father gave this instruction before he died, "Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you." Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.' Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, 'We are here as your slaves.' But Joseph said to them, 'Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.' In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Gospel: Matthew 18.21-35

Peter came and said to Jesus, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'

For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,
the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is
your health and salvation:
all ye who hear,
now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration.
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things
so wondrously reigneth;
shieldeth thee gently from harm, or
when fainting sustaineth:
hast thou not seen
how thy heart's wishes have been
granted in what he ordaineth?
3. Praise to the Lord, who will prosper
thy work and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy
shall daily attend thee:
ponder anew
what the Almighty can do,
if to the end he befriend thee.
4. Praise to the Lord! O let all that
is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now
with praises before him.
Let the Amen
sound from his people again;
gladly forever adore him.

Joachim Neander 1650 – 1680
Tr Catherine Winkworth 1827-1878

Be thou my guardian

1. Be thou my guardian and my guide,
and hear me when I call;
let not my slippery footsteps slide,
and hold me lest I fall.
2. The world, the flesh, and Satan dwell
around the path I tread;
O save me from the snares of hell,
thou quickener of the dead.
3. And if I tempted am to sin,
and outward things are strong,
do thou, O Lord, keep watch within,
and save my soul from wrong.
4. Still let me ever watch and pray,
and feel that I am frail;
that if the tempter cross my way,
yet he may not prevail.

Isaac Williams (1802-1865)

A new commandment

A New commandment

I give unto you:

that you love one another

as I have loved you,

that you love one another

as I have loved you.

2. You are my friends
if you do what I command you.
Without my help you can do nothing.
You are my friends
if you do what I command you.
Without my help you can do nothing.
1. By this shall all know
that you are my disciples
if you have love one for another.
By this shall all know
that you are my disciples
if you have love one for another.
3. I am the true vine,
my Father is the gard'ner.
Abide in me: I will be with you.
I am the true vine,
my Father is the gard'ner.
Abide in me: I will be with you.

4. True love is patient,
not arrogant or boastful;
love bears all things,
love is eternal.
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*v. 1: unknown, based on John 13:34-35
vs. 2-4: Aniceto Nazareth, based on John 15 and
1 Corinthians 13*

Father, in whom we live

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| <p>1. Father in whom we live,
in whom we are and move,
the glory, power, and praise receive
of thy creating love.
Let all the angel throng
give thanks to God on high,
while earth repeats the joyful song,
and echoes to the sky.</p> <p>3. Spirit of holiness,
let all thy saints adore
thy sacred energy, and bless
thine heart-renewing power.
Not angel tongues can tell
thy love's ecstatic height,
the glorious joy unspeakable,
the beatific sight.</p> | <p>2. Incarnate Deity,
let all the ransomed race
render in thanks their lives to thee
for thy redeeming grace.
The grace to sinners showed
ye heavenly choirs proclaim,
and cry: 'Salvation to our God,
salvation to the Lamb!'</p> <p>4. Eternal triune Lord!
Let all the hosts above,
let all the sons of men, record
and dwell upon thy love.
When heaven and earth are fled
before thy glorious face,
sing all the saints thy love hath made
thine everlasting praise.
<i>Charles Wesley 1707-1788</i></p> |
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Father, Lord of all creation

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| <p>1. Father, Lord of all creation,
ground of being, life and love;
height and depth beyond description
only life in you can prove:
you are mortal life's dependence:
thought, speech, sight are ours by grace;
yours is every hour's existence,
sovereign Lord of time and space.</p> <p>3. Holy Spirit, rushing, burning
wind and flame of Pentecost,
fire our hearts afresh with yearning
to regain what we have lost.
May your love unite our action,
nevermore to speak alone:
God, in us abolish faction,
God, through us your love make known.</p> | <p>2. Jesus Christ, the Man for Others,
we, your people, make our prayer:
help us love - as sisters, brothers -
all whose burdens we can share.
Where your name binds us together
you, Lord Christ, will surely be;
where no selfishness can sever
there your love the world may see.

<i>Stewart Cross (1928-1989)</i></p> |
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