

THE BOURNE VALLEY BENEFICE

A SERVICE OF NIGHT PRAYER

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY – 7TH JULY 2024

WELCOME AND OPENING RESPONSES

Welcome to this service of Night Prayer for the sixth Sunday after Trinity.

Please join in with the words printed in bold type, and sing along with the hymns.

Opening Responses

Be swift, O God, to save us.

Come quickly, Lord, to help us.

Your loving-kindness is better than life itself

and so our lips shall praise you.

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.

Opening Hymn – Jesu, lover of my soul

[Charles Wesley(1707-1788)]

Jesu, lover of my soul,

let me to thy bosom fly,

while the nearer waters roll,

while the tempest still is high;

hide me, O my Saviour, hide,

till the storm of life be past;

safe into the haven guide,

O receive my soul at last!

Other refuge have I none;

hangs my helpless soul on thee;

leave, ah! leave me not alone,

still support and comfort me.

All my trust on thee is stayed,

all my help from thee I bring;

cover my defenceless head
with the shadow of thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, art all I want,
more than all in thee I find:
raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just, and holy is thy name,
I am all unrighteousness,
false, and full of sin I am,
thou art full of truth, and grace.
Plenteous grace with thee is found,
grace to cover all my sin;
let the healing streams abound;
make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art;
freely let me take of thee;
spring thou up within my heart,
rise to all eternity.

REFLECTION, CONFESSION and RECONCILIATION

**Most merciful God,
we confess to you before the whole company of heaven
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,
and in what we have failed to do.
Forgive us our sins,
heal us by your Spirit
and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.**

God is merciful and just:
If we say sorry for our mistakes, He will forgive us;
If we acknowledge our failings, He will heal our weaknesses;
If we turn our lives to Him, we will find the kingdom of heaven.
Amen. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 100

O be joyful in the Lord, all the earth;
serve the Lord with gladness;
and come before his presence with a song.

Know that the Lord is God;
it is he that has made us and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and bless his name.

For the Lord is gracious; his steadfast love is everlasting,
and his faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

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.

PSALM 63

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;
my soul is athirst for you.

**My flesh also faints for you,
as in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.**

So would I gaze upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory.

**Your loving-kindness is better than life itself
and so my lips shall praise you.**

I will bless you as long as I live
and lift up my hands in your name.

**My soul shall be satisfied, as with marrow and fatness,
and my mouth shall praise you with joyful lips,**

When I remember you upon my bed
and meditate on you in the watches of the night.

**For you have been my helper
and under the shadow of your wings will I rejoice.**

My soul clings to you;
your right hand shall hold me fast.

**But those who seek my soul to destroy it
shall go down to the depths of the earth;**

Let them fall by the edge of the sword
and become a portion for jackals.

**But the king shall rejoice in God;
all those who swear by him shall be glad,
for the mouth of those who speak lies shall be stopped.**

**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.**

READINGS

Romans 14.1-17

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must

not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written,

‘As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.’

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Let us therefore no longer pass judgement on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling-block or hindrance in the way of another. I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. If your brother or sister is being injured by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. Do not let what you eat cause the ruin of one for whom Christ died. So do not let your good be spoken of as evil. For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

A short silence is kept for reflection.

GOSPEL READING Luke 10.1-11, 16

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out

labourers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you.

Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you." But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, "Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near."

'Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.'

A longer silence is kept for reflection. You may want to reflect on how you handle disagreement and how God calls you to handle disagreement. Or you may want to think about the broadness of Christ's commission what does that mean for us, and for you, in today's context. Or something else in the scriptures may speak to you. Or you may wish to attend on the presence of God without words and wait for his voice in your hearts.

My soul shall be satisfied
when I meditate on you in the watches of the night.
For you have been my helper
and under the shadow of your wings will I rejoice.
Amen

OFFERTORY

Please support your local church through the Parish Giving Scheme or with a one-off donation – your church treasurer will be able to help you to do this.

Offertory Hymn – Brother, sister, let me serve you

[Richard Gillard (b. 1953)]

Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;

pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christlight for you
in the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

Offertory blessing

Generous Creator,
you have given us riches beyond measure.
We ask that you will bless our offerings and service
that they may be used to build your kingdom
and for your glory. **Amen.**

PRAYERS

Collect

**Creator God, you made us all in your image:
may we discern you in all that we see,
and serve you in all that we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen**

A Prayer offered by Bishop Andrew

**Gracious God, we thank you for calling us into the fellowship of your Son;
Empower us by your Spirit to seek your Kingdom, here and now,
that we might make Jesus known in every place, for your name's sake, Amen**

Intercessions

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 them that 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**

CONCLUSION

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

**Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:
your word has been fulfilled.**

**My own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of every people:
a light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.**

**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.**

Closing Hymn – Lord, your church on earth is seeking

[Hugh Sherlock (1905-1998)]

Lord, your church on earth is seeking
power and wisdom from above:
teach us all the art of speaking
with the accents of your love.
We will heed your great commission
sending us to every place-
'Go, baptize, fulfil my mission;
serve with love and share my grace!'

You release us from our bondage,
lift the burdens caused by sin;
give new hope, new strength and courage,
grant release from fears within.
Light for darkness, joy for sorrow,
love for hatred, peace for strife-
these and countless blessings follow
as the Spirit gives new life.

In the streets of every city
where the bruised and lonely live,

we will show the saviour's pity
and his longing to forgive.

In all lands and with all races
we will serve, and seek to bring
all the world to render praises
Christ, to you, redeemer king.

Closing Prayer and Responses

Lord our God,
at the ending of this day,
and in the darkness and silence of this night,
cover us with healing and forgiveness,
that we may take our rest in peace
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Abide with us, Lord Jesus,
for the night is at hand and the day is now past.

We will lie down in peace and take our rest;
for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.

**THE grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen**