



Third Sunday after Trinity

The Anglican Church in Freiburg

Prelude -

Said quietly in Church as a meditation once you are ready.

Almighty God,

we praise you for the many blessings you have given to those who worship you in this house of prayer: and we pray that all who seek you in this place may find you, and, being filled with the Holy Spirit, may become a living temple acceptable to you; 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.

Preparation:

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God,

set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever.

All Amen.

Opening Song ACF 65 Inspired by love and anger

Inspired by love and anger, disturbed by need and pain,

Informed of God's own bias, we ask him once again:

"How long must some folk suffer? How long can few folk mind?

How long dare vain self-interest turn prayer and pity blind?"

From those forever victims of heartless human greed,

Their cruel plight composes a litany of need:

"Where are the fruits of justice? Where are the signs of peace?

When is the day when prisoners and dreams find their release?"

From those forever shackled to what their wealth can buy,

The fear of lost advantage provoke the bitter cry:

"Don't query our position! Don't criticise our wealth!

Don't mention those exploited by politics and stealth!"

To God, who through the prophets proclaimed a different age,

We offer earth's indifference, its agony and rage:

"When will the wronged be righted? When will the kingdom come?

When will the world be generous to all instead of some?"

God asks, "Who will go for me? Who will extend my reach?

And who, when few will listen, will prophesy and preach?

And who, when few bid welcome, will offer all they know?

And who, when few dare follow, will walk the road I show?"

Amused in someone's kitchen, asleep in someone's boat,
Attuned to what the ancients exposed, proclaimed and wrote,
A saviour without safety, a tradesman without tools
Has come to tip the balance with fishermen and fools.

God the Father forgives us in Christ and heals us
by the Holy Spirit.
Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness,
all slander and malice,
and confess our sins to God our redeemer.

Silence

Forgiveness is offered

Readings:

(Jeremiah 28.5-9; Psalm 89.1-4,15-18*;
Romans 6.12-23; Matthew 10.40-42)

The reading is taken from Jeremiah 28:5-9

Let us prepare ourselves for the word of God
Our hearts and our minds are open

Then the prophet Jeremiah replied to the prophet Hananiah before the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the Lord. He said, "Amen! May the Lord do so! May the Lord fulfill the words you have prophesied by bringing the articles of the Lord's house and all the exiles back to this place from Babylon. Nevertheless, listen to what I have to say in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people: From early times the prophets who preceded you and me have prophesied war, disaster and plague against many countries and great kingdoms. But the prophet who prophesies peace will be recognized as one

truly sent by the Lord only if his prediction comes true.”

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts:
the whole earth is full of his glory.

Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength;
ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name.
The whole earth is full of his glory.

The Lord shall give strength to his people;
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts:
the whole earth is full of his glory.

The reading is taken from Matthew 10:40-42

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord

“Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.



Sermon

Oh, how these passages of Scripture take on new meaning and provide us with new opportunities during a period of transition within the ACF community and beyond in global society.

Jeremiah works with prophesying peace, rather than looking at the plagues and hardships that are seen as harbingers of the end. It did not take long for these same prophetic calls to come out of the mouths of national leaders and other pundits of our own times. But to be a people of peace in the midst of a pandemic is also possible as we have observed the human spirits ability to thrive under adversity. God's people also thrive under the adversity of conquering empires, food shortages, and massive disruption. Remember being short of toilet paper? There were even optimists in that time, too.

However, we also hear about welcome. A significant sign of welcome is known in every culture. Our Lord is also keen on the welcome that is given as it reflects back it seems upon the welcomers as importantly the messenger is as the sender, meaning we represent Christ in our welcome, just as much as we greet the other as the Christ.

I have mentioned before that ACF gives a warm welcome, probably one of the warmest welcomes a church can give. I'm not sure what makes it so special. Maybe it is the empathy felt, that we've all been there. Maybe it is that the welcome is not left up to a few greeters at the door, but it is a whole church effort. I think welcome is special because we all know what it feels like to be unwelcome. All the body language, the smiles, the handshakes, can be there, but there is something that makes you feel unwelcome.

In a time when we must physically distance on another, welcomes are all the more important. For some, this is the day in the week that they feel welcome. Welcome is for all people, not just

Jesus, nor just for prophets. Even a glass of water to one of my little ones is an important welcome. As a community, not just here, but in our neighbourhood communities, we welcome as we were welcoming Christ.

During the sign of the Peace, our bishops have encouraged us to clasp our own hands together in the form of Namaste which is Sanskrit for a peaceful message to the universe in the hopes that it will be received back. In Arabic we hear words that in essence mean the same as what we say in Church, peace be with you...and also with you. No matter how we express that sign of peace, or a sign of welcome, we can recognize the Christ in each person and make it a wholehearted welcome in deed.

There is really no 5 step rule on how to welcome someone. Our two readings stress both welcome and peace, as well as, a simplicity to that message that even a glass of water to one of the littlest ones has a significant reward. In these difficult times where many feel unwelcome simply from their appearance it is tempting to see it all as the beginning of the end, but I beg of you, be a bearer of peace and welcome as Christ welcomed you. We will all see the world changed and the kingdom draw even closer. After all, with these simple words Jesus is drawing close to the end of training the disciples, soon they will go out in Jesus' name. Just as we do now, in peace and welcome. Amen.

Response:

Intercessions

Loving God, teach us how to be disciples of Christ.

We pray for those living out their Christian calling in the political arena:

for those involved in local government, as they guide their communities to new ways of interacting

...

for those involved in national governments as they act to protect the human rights of Palestinians ...

Your kingdom come: your will be done.

Loving God, teach us how to be disciples of Christ.

We pray for those living out their Christian calling in the service of those in need:

for aid workers helping victims of famine or warfare, thinking especially of those in sub-Saharan

Africa and Syria ...

for medical staff, seeking to heal and to alleviate pain, particularly for those working in countries with weak infrastructure for public health ...

for ourselves, as we seek to comfort and encourage the sorrowful, the anxious and the lonely,

remembering now those known to us personally ...

Your kingdom come: your will be done.

Loving God, teach us how to be disciples of Christ.

We pray for those living out their Christian calling by sharing the good news of Jesus:

for ministers, preachers and teachers, praying especially for Christopher and Anke as they prepare to

minister to a new congregation in Canada ...

for broadcasters, musicians and writers, particularly those whose livelihood has been interrupted or

even terminated during the past few months ...

for ourselves, that by our words and our deeds we may invite others to put on the easy yoke of

Christ, realising new opportunities that have arisen during these strange times ...

Your kingdom come: your will be done.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.
Amen.

*Adapted from Companion to the Revised Common Lectionary,
Volume I "Intercessions",*

by Christine Odell.

Collect:

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, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

In the language of our hearts, let us pray as our Saviour taught us...

A sign of Peace:

We are the body of Christ.

In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

(We share a gesture of peace)

The Blessing:

The Lord God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
the holy and undivided Trinity,
guard you, save you,
and bring you to that heavenly city,
where he lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Conclusion

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,
and keep us in eternal life.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Recessional Draw the Circle wide

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.

Let this be our song: no one stands alone.

Standing side by side, draw the circle, draw the circle wide...

God the still-point of the circle

Round you all creation turns

Nothing lost but held forever

in God's gracious arms

Refrain

Let our hearts touch far horizons

So encompass great and small

Let our loving know no borders

Faithful to God's call

Refrain

Let the dreams we dream be larger

Than we've ever dreamed before

Let the dream of Christ be in us

Open every door!

Refrain

Activities

Topic: ACF Worship

Time: Jun 28, 2020 11:30 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76914608468?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76914608468?pwd=QjFtRE5lUFpyZ285ZodXMiNEQkNaQT09)

[pwd=QjFtRE5lUFpyZ285ZodXMiNEQkNaQT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76914608468?pwd=QjFtRE5lUFpyZ285ZodXMiNEQkNaQT09)

Meeting ID: 769 1460 8468

Password: Church

