

The Parish Church of St Matthew  
Northampton

The  
Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

Evening Prayer

*according to  
The Book of Common Prayer*

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020

5.30 pm



## ¶ Keeping everyone safe at St Matthew's

***If you have any of the recognised Covid-related symptoms, please self-isolate immediately and seek a test.***

*For all others, and in accordance with Government guidance and local decision,  
we respectfully request and require you to:*

**Go directly to a chair where there is an order of service booklet, and remain there.** Please fill up the available chairs in the centre of the nave and transepts first. Do not move from chair to chair, or remove a booklet from another chair. (NB - some chairs in the side aisles have a restricted view).

**Please do not move the chairs**, or handle any other furniture. Soft furnishings such as church kneelers (hassocks) cannot be used.

You are required to **wear a face covering throughout** unless you belong to one of the medically exempted groups. This must cover both your mouth and your nose. (Plastic visors do not protect others).

**At communion** - you are asked to ensure that your face covering is in place until the words of administration have been spoken by the priest and you have responded by saying 'Amen'.

**After the service** - you may wish to light a candle. Please departed via the north door. A monetary offering for your booklet, candle, and towards parish funds may be made there. Please sanitise your hands as you leave.

\* \* \* \* \*

# Order of Service

*At the sound of the bell, **please stand.** The procession enters*

*The Officiant welcomes the congregation*

## ¶ Introduction

*Officiant* † In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Ghost.

*All*           **Amen.**

God is Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit  
and in truth.

I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

## Invitation to Confession

Beloved, we are come together in the presence of almighty God and  
of the whole company of heaven to offer unto him through our Lord  
Jesus Christ our worship and praise and thanksgiving; to make  
confession of our sins; to pray, as well for others as for ourselves,  
that we may know more truly the greatness of God's love and shew  
forth in our lives the fruits of his grace; and to ask on behalf of all  
men such things as their well-being doth require.

Wherefore let us sit in silence, and remember God's presence with  
us now.

***Please be seated***

## Confession

**All**      **Almighty and most merciful Father,**  
**we have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep.**  
**We have followed too much the devices and desires**  
          **of our own hearts.**  
**We have offended against thy holy laws.**  
**We have left undone those things**  
          **which we ought to have done;**  
**and we have done those things**  
          **which we ought not to have done;**  
**and there is no health in us.**  
**But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders.**  
**Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults.**  
**Restore thou them that are penitent;**  
**according to thy promises declared unto mankind**  
          **in Christ Jesu our Lord.**  
**And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,**  
**that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,**  
**to the glory of thy holy name.**  
**Amen.**

## Absolution

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who desireth not the death of a sinner,  
but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live;  
and hath given power, and commandment, to his ministers  
to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent,  
the absolution and remission of their sins:  
he pardoneth † and absolveth all them that truly repent  
and unfeignedly believe his holy gospel.  
Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance,  
and his Holy Spirit,  
that those things may please him which we do at this present;  
and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy;  
so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All**      **Amen.**

**Our Father, which art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done,  
in 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.**

## **¶ Evening Prayer**

**All**      O Lord, open thou our lips.  
**and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.**

**All**      O God, make speed to save us.  
**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

*Please stand*

**All**      Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen.**

**All**      Praise ye the Lord.  
**The Lord's name be praised.**

**All**

O LORD, thy word :  
 endureth for ever in heaven.  
 Thy truth also remaineth from one generation to another :  
 thou hast laid the foundation of the earth, and it abideth.  
 They continue this day according to thine ordinance :  
 for all things serve thee.  
 If my delight had not been in thy law :  
 I should have perished in my trouble.  
 I will never forget thy commandments :  
 for with them thou hast quickened me.  
 I am thine, O save me :  
 for I have sought thy commandments.  
 The ungodly laid wait for me to destroy me :  
 but I will consider thy testimonies.  
 I see that all things come to an end :  
 but thy commandment is exceeding broad.  
 LORD, what love have I unto thy law :  
 all the day long is my study in it.  
 Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser  
 than mine enemies:  
 for they are ever with me.  
 I have more understanding than my teachers :  
 for thy testimonies are my study.  
 I am wiser than the aged :  
 because I keep thy commandments.  
 I have refrained my feet from every evil way :  
 that I may keep thy word.  
 I have not shrunk from thy judgements :  
 for thou teachest me.  
 O how sweet are thy words unto my throat :  
 yea, sweeter than honey unto my mouth.  
 Through thy commandments I get understanding :  
 therefore I hate all evil ways.

***Please stand***

Glory be to the Father and to the Son :  
 and to the Holy Ghost.  
 As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be :  
 world without end. Amen.

***All sit***

*Reader* A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes.

Send out your bread upon the waters,  
for after many days you will get it back.  
Divide your means seven ways, or even eight,  
for you do not know what disaster may happen on earth.  
When clouds are full,  
they empty rain on the earth;  
whether a tree falls to the south or to the north,  
in the place where the tree falls, there it will lie.  
Whoever observes the wind will not sow;  
and whoever regards the clouds will not reap.

Just as you do not know how the breath comes to the bones in the mother's womb,  
so you do not know the work of God, who makes everything.

In the morning sow your seed, and at evening do not let your hands be idle; for you  
do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good.

Light is sweet, and it is pleasant for the eyes to see the sun.

Even those who live for many years should rejoice in them all; yet let them  
remember that the days of darkness will be many. All that comes is vanity.

Rejoice, young man, while you are young, and let your heart cheer you in the days  
of your youth. Follow the inclination of your heart and the desire of your eyes, but  
know that for all these things God will bring you into judgement.

Banish anxiety from your mind, and put away pain from your body; for youth and  
the dawn of life are vanity.

Remember your creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come,  
and the years draw near when you will say, 'I have no pleasure in them'; before the  
sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return  
with the rain; on the day when the guards of the house tremble, and the strong men  
are bent, and the women who grind cease working because they are few, and those  
who look through the windows see dimly; when the doors on the street are shut,  
and the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all  
the daughters of song are brought low; when one is afraid of heights, and terrors



are in the road; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along and desire fails; because all must go to their eternal home, and the mourners will go about the streets; before the silver cord is snapped, and the golden bowl is broken, and the pitcher is broken at the fountain, and the wheel broken at the cistern, and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the breath returns to God who gave it. Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher; all is vanity.

Besides being wise, the Teacher also taught the people knowledge, weighing and studying and arranging many proverbs. The Teacher sought to find pleasing words, and he wrote words of truth plainly.

The sayings of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings that are given by one shepherd. Of anything beyond these, my child, beware. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God, and keep his commandments; for that is the whole duty of everyone. For God will bring every deed into judgement, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.

Here ends the First Reading.

## Magnificat *(The Song of Mary)*

**All stand**

**All** † My soul doth magnify the Lord :  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.  
For he hath regarded :  
the lowliness of his handmaiden.  
For behold, from henceforth :  
all generations shall call me blessed.  
For he that is mighty hath magnified me :  
and holy is his Name.  
And his mercy is on them that fear him :  
throughout all generations.  
He hath shewed strength with his arm :  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
He hath put down the mighty from their seat :  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.  
He hath filled the hungry with good things :  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :  
as he promised to our forefathers,  
Abraham and his seed for ever. *Luke 1:46-55*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :  
world without end. Amen.

**All sit**

## New Testament Reading 2 Timothy 2:1-7

*Reader* A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy.

You then, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus; and what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well. Share in suffering like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving in the army gets entangled in everyday affairs; the soldier's aim is to please the enlisting officer. And in the case of an athlete, no one is crowned without competing according to the rules. It is the farmer who does the work who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in all things.

Here ends the Second Reading.

**All stand**

## Nunc Dimittis *(The Song of Simeon)*

**All** Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :  
according to thy word.  
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation.  
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles :  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel. *Luke 2:29-32*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :  
world without end. Amen.

*All face the high altar*

## The Apostles' Creed

**All** I believe in **God the Father almighty,**  
maker of heaven and earth:  
and in **Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,**  
who was conceived by the **Holy Ghost,**  
born of the **Virgin Mary,**  
suffered under **Pontius Pilate,**  
was crucified, dead, and buried.  
**He descended into hell;**  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of **God the Father almighty;**  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the **Holy Ghost;**  
the holy catholic **Church;**  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
**Amen.**

## The Lesser Litany

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

**All** **And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.

**All sit**

**All** Lord, have mercy upon us.  
**Christ, have mercy upon us.**  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Officant*  
**All**

Our Father,  
**which art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done,  
in 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.  
Amen.**

**All**

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.  
**And grant us thy salvation.**

**All**

O Lord, save the Queen.  
**And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**

**All**

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.  
**And make thy chosen people joyful.**

**All**

O Lord, save thy people.  
**And bless thine inheritance.**

**All**

Give peace in our time, O Lord.  
**Because there is none other that fighteth for us,  
but only thou, O God.**

**All**

O God, make clean our hearts within us.  
**And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

## The Collect of the Day

*Officiant* O Almighty and most merciful God,  
of thy bountiful goodness keeps us,  
we beseech thee,  
from all things that may hurt us;  
that we, being ready both in body and soul,  
may cheerfully accomplish those things  
that thou wouldest have done;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All** **Amen.**

## The Collect for Peace

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels,  
and all just works do proceed;  
give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give;  
that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments,  
and also that, by thee,  
we being defended from the fear of our enemies  
may pass our time in rest and quietness;  
through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**All** **Amen.**

## The Collect for Aid against all Perils

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord;  
and by thy great mercy defend us  
from all perils and dangers of this night;  
for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**All** **Amen.**

## The Prayers

**All kneel or sit**

# The Blessing

**All stand**

The God of all grace,  
who called us to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus,  
establish, strengthen and settle us in the faith:

and (may) the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son †, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon us and remain with us always.

**All**

**Amen.**

Please take this booklet home with you

You are welcome to light a votive candle,  
we suggest a donation of 20p.

Please leave church via the north door.  
A monetary offering may be made there

You are most welcome to join us on the green  
at the east end of the church  
in physically distanced groups of up to six.



*A suggested donation towards the production of this booklet*

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