

Morning Prayer: Second Sunday after Trinity

The 5 Marks of Mission – Teach

Preparation

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you

All and also with you.

Cf 1 Timothy 1,2

O Lord open our lips

All and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Your word is a lantern to our feet

All and a light upon our path.

Hymn NEH 377: 'Immortal, invisible, God only wise'

1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessèd, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
Thy justice, like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

3 To all life thou givest--to both great and small;
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
Then wither and perish--but naught changeth thee.

4 Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

Confession

All O King enthroned on high,
filling the earth with your glory:
holy is your name,
Lord God almighty.
In our sinfulness we cry to you
to take our guilt away,
and to cleanse our lips to speak your word,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw *us* to himself,
and cleanse *us* from all *our* sins
that we may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Blessed are you, Lord our God.
How sweet are your words to the taste,
sweeter than honey to the mouth.
How precious are your commands for our life,
more than the finest gold in our hands.
How marvellous is your will for the world,

unending is your love for the nations.
Our voices shall sing of your promises
and our lips declare your praise.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All Blessed be God for ever.

The Word of God

A Song of the Word of the Lord

1 Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
2 Let the wicked abandon their ways,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
3 Return to the Lord, who will have mercy;
to our God, who will richly pardon.
4 'For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,' says the Lord.
5 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
6 'As the rain and the snow come down from above,
and return not again but water the earth,
7 'Bringing forth life and giving growth,
seed for sowing and bread to eat,
8 'So is my word that goes forth from my mouth;
it will not return to me fruitless,
9 'But it will accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the task I gave it.' *Isaiah 55.6-11*

**All 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.**

Let us limit our Christian meditation to verses 4 & 5. How do you react when you glimpse the vastness of God's thoughts and ways? In what ways do you experience this contrast between your wishes, and the direction God may be leading you?

The Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-13. Read by John Barker

¹I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

⁷ But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it is said, 'When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.'

⁹(When it says, 'He ascended', what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) ¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

The Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

Sermon on audio: by The Reverend Paul Garnell

Second mark of mission: Teach, baptise and nurture new believers.

Last week, Jane Mclarty in the opening part of her reflection on the first mark of mission to 'proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom', described a situation I recall very well from during my time on ceremonial duties in central London. A street preacher bellowing familiar lines from the bible – often to do with a lot of repentance, a good helping of forgiveness, and a sprinkling of love. The location many of you will have heard of, perhaps visited and less likely been one of them...stood on a box proclaiming whatever it is you want a crowd of folk to listen to. The place is called 'Speaker's Corner' in Hyde Park. It was on the route I would often take whilst exercising the horses, be that a charger or the two great Clydesdale Drum Horses', Horatius and Constantine – riding one whilst leading the other. As with all notable places in London there is a back story. In this instance a rather macabre one...not far from speaker's corner was the infamous Tyburn Gallows or Tyburn Tree,

where many a petty and hardened crook was executed by hanging. One such character of notoriety who met his end there was Jack Shepherd and from whom we get the naughty boy phrase, 'Jack the lad'. A hero villain with an aptitude for escaping prison – four times in all. As with those before and after him, condemned to die, they were given the opportunity to make a final speech. Likely in the hope they would confess their wrongdoing and reduce their purgatorial sentence by a little less than eternity! Hence, 'Speaker's Corner'.

Now the reason for my providing you with such an introduction is because I want you to remember the content. And this is mostly achieved through story telling. I am fairly confident to make the claim that a number of you after reading or hearing this will go off to look-up Jack Shepherd and/or Speaker's Corner. I know I would. It is an interesting snippet of information – just enough to intrigue your imagination that you will want to learn more. And this is essentially the role of a teacher; to pass on, to impart, to share information.

Teaching the faith and the making of disciples is an integral component of our witness as Christians. Firstly, as successors of the apostles and saints who have gone before us, we too are called to teach, baptise and nurture new believers – to inspire those across the generations, the young, middle-agers and golden-agers using the spiritual gifts (Ephesians 4:11) given us for the building up of the body of Christ. Secondly, how did we get to this point if it wasn't for our parent(s), a family member, friend, teacher or colleague who encouraged us to take that first step and perhaps continue to support, to journey alongside us with the Holy Spirit through the trials and tribulations of life.

Now, of course, for those of you familiar with the tradition of the Church, the general understanding is that bishops, priests, and deacons are set apart – called and ordained to fulfil the Great Commission of Jesus as described in Matt 28:19, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:48 and Luke’s sequel Acts 1:8, and John 20:21. It is their responsibility to plod the beat on their respective patches, to be visible and generous people of Jesus Christ – after all, that is part of the job description – the teaching and the nurturing of new believers, and especially the sacramental nature of baptism. And you are not necessarily wrong in thinking, assuming or expecting this. However, now is my and your opportunity to adopt a change of mindset... and it is a rather serious one for the future life of the church, for we can no longer just carry on as we have done for however long - explaining away our reluctance and shyness in proclaiming the good news under the cultural caveat that it is not the British way. Our Christian faith and witness to others should be treated as importantly as we would a remedy for ours or someone else’s physical health and wellbeing. A former Padre of mine in the British Army on hearing the Garrison Sergeant Major, the late Perry Mason, bellow “drill is a pill that should be taken three times daily!” retorted, “as with prayer, the eucharist and bible teaching – Garrison Sergeant Major, Sir!” A light-hearted anecdote but the sentiment stands.

It is in this being fed that we can in turn feed others. Most of us when we hear the word teach or teacher may associate these words understandably with professional accreditation and so feel unqualified or under-qualified to teach the faith to others. And this is why story telling is a crucial tool we can all deploy from our mission bag – no professional

qualification required. It was one method Jesus himself used to make truths memorable. He turned them into stories.

Teach through stories. Your story of faith.

Some time back now, Alison and I committed a number of Sundays to exploring 'Frontline Sundays' a resource provided by the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity or LICC for short, to encourage all of us to think about each day as a mission opportunity. It was the first time I had ever come across their material and was really impressed and convinced by what they were saying. The 6 percent of people in the UK who go to church each month is a small but significant number when scattered Monday through to Saturday on their various 'frontlines'. Places of work, at the school gate, community groups, at the gym and so on. With this perspective in mind, we could begin to think about where our frontlines are each week and what opportunities they could present for sharing the Christian faith with family, friends, or colleagues.

And now as many of us return to work, social events – interacting once again, let us take these occasions to tell our stories, share our experiences of faith and pray for those we encounter will come to know the living God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

So, your mission should you choose to accept it... learn, tell, teach. And remember:

Just as the Father sent me,
so I'm sending you out to be
my witnesses throughout the world,
the whole world
Don't worry what you have to say,

don't worry because on that day
God's Spirit will speak in your heart,
will speak in your heart.

Prayer

Lord, Jesus Christ, you called your disciples,
Baptised them and encouraged them along the way.
Grant us clarity in our teaching,
openness in our learning
and commitment in our responding to your call. Amen

The Responsory

The Word of life which was from the beginning
All we proclaim to you.
The darkness is passing away
and the true light is already shining;
All the Word of life which was from the beginning.
That which we heard, which we saw with our eyes,
and touched with our hands,
All we proclaim to you.
For our fellowship is with the Father,
and with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
**All The Word of life which was from the beginning
we proclaim to you.** *from 1 John 1*

Affirmation of faith

**All I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

born of the **Virgin Mary**,
suffered under **Pontius Pilate**,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the **Father**,
and he will come to judge the living and the
dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Prayers

Intercessions are offered. Led by Rick Nelms

Lord Jesus, we thank you for the Second mark of mission –
To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
Saviour, we hear your call. **Help us to follow.**

Lord Jesus we thank you for the many blessings that you
bring us. We thank you that through you all things were
made and all things are held together. We thank you
that you loved us first and love us so much that you came to
live among us, fully God and fully man, to save the world and
not to condemn it, that you came in light and in love, to die
for our sins on the cross, to be resurrected so that we can
be certain that death is overcome. Thank you for promising

that you will be with us until the end of the age, and through you is given the Holy Spirit, bringer of gifts and of fruits. Saviour, we hear your call. **Help us to follow.**

Lord Jesus, we thank you for shelter, for food, for warmth, for love, for positivity, for family, for friends, for neighbours and for freedom to meet in your name without persecution. Thank you those who meet our needs, and the needs of billions of people across the world. Thank you for the fragile beauty of this little blue pearl on which we all live, Saviour, we hear your call. **Help us to follow.**

Lord Jesus, through your love and the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit help each one of us to lead a life worthy of the calling to which we have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Help us to grasp the truth that there is one body and one Spirit, just as we were called to the one hope of our calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. Saviour, we hear your call. **Help us to follow.**

Lord Jesus, we pray for your Church. You said 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.' You said 'Go and teach people of all nations to obey everything that I have commanded you.' You said 'Go and baptise people of all nations in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.' Saviour, we hear your call. **Help us to follow.**

You told us to grow as Christians and to nurture new believers. You said 'Go and make disciples of people of all nations.' You said 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' You said "Be merciful as your Father is merciful; love your enemies and do good to them.' You said 'If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'"
Saviour, we hear your call. **Help us to follow.**

Lord Jesus, we pray for the world and its leaders. You said 'Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant.' You said 'Unless you change and become humble like little children, you can never enter the kingdom of heaven.' You said 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.' We pray for your light to shine into the decision making of all of the world's leaders and into the negotiations between our nation and the EU.
Saviour, we hear your call. **Help us to follow.**

Lord Jesus, we pray for all people who are sick in body, mind or spirit. During your time with disciples, you reached out and touched people who were untouchable, you healed extravagantly for the glory of God and never counted the cost. You said 'I have come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.' For all those who struggle with physical and mental illness, and those people whose distress is spiritual, from following false gods or none; through your Holy Spirit fill them and those who care for

them with your lavish fullness of love, joy, peace and strength for spirit, soul, mind and body. In silence we bring before you those known to us...

silence

Saviour, we hear your call. **Help us to follow.**

Lord Jesus, we pray for those who are dying and we weep with those who mourn and pray for them to have a sense of your closeness, your arms around them. We ask for the wisdom to come alongside those who are dying and those who are grieving and provide whatever is needed for as long as their need lasts. In silence we bring before you those known to us...

silence

Saviour, we hear your call. **Help us to follow.**

Lord Jesus, my Lord and my God; O God of unchangeable power and eternal light, look favourably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred congregation, and by the tranquil operation of your perpetual providence carry out the work of our salvation: and let the whole world feel and see that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are returning to perfection, through him from whom they took their origin, even Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Collect

Lord Jesus Christ, you called your disciples, Baptised them, and encouraged them along the way. Grant us clarity in our teaching, Openness in our learning, And commitment in our responding to your call.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Hymn NEH 408 'Love divine, all loves excelling.'

1 Love Divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

2 Come, almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.

3 Finish, then thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation,
Perfectly restored in thee,
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

The Conclusion

**Almighty God,
we thank you for the gift of your holy word.
May it be a lantern to our feet,
a light to our paths,
and a strength to our lives.
Take us and use us
to love and serve
in the power of the Holy Spirit
and in the name of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.**

And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be among us and remain with us always.

All Amen.

Let us bless the Lord:

**All thanks be to God.
Blessing, honour and glory be yours,
here and everywhere,
now and for ever.
Amen.**