

The Vine at Home
27th Sunday of Ordinary Time – Year B
Sunday 3rd October 2021

Call to worship

Generous God,
We come to you knowing that we need your grace again,
Your generosity again,
Your love again.
We come to you, just as we are, knowing that we are accepted.

Amen.¹

Hymn: 317 STF – At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tmikQy_ipA0

Opening Prayers

O God, we welcome you this day,
Let us worship and praise your name together.

We come with the burdens and worries of this past week,
May we as a community shoulder them together.

And as we gather, we are one family,
We are siblings united by the love of Jesus and called to emulate this love in our daily lives.

Come let us be joyful in the Lord,
Hallelujah,

Amen.²

Let us now say the Lord's Prayer

Readings: Job 1:1, 2:1-10

There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.

Attack on Job's Health

2 One day the heavenly beings^[a] came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan^[b] also came among them to present himself before the Lord. **2** The Lord said to Satan,^[c] "Where have you come from?" Satan^[d] answered the Lord, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." **3** The Lord said to Satan,^[e] "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason." **4** Then Satan^[f] answered the Lord, "Skin for skin! All that people have they will give to save their lives."^[g] **5** But stretch out your

¹ Call to Worship written by Tim Baker

² Opening prayers written by Tim Annan-Hood

hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face.” **6** The Lord said to Satan,^[h] “Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life.”

7 So Satan^[i] went out from the presence of the Lord, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. **8** Job^[i] took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes.

9 Then his wife said to him, “Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse^[k] God, and die.” **10** But he said to her, “You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12 - God Has Spoken by His Son

1 Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, **2** but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son,^[a] whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. **3** He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains^[b] all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, **4** having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Exaltation through Abasement

5 Now God^[a] did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. **6** But someone has testified somewhere,

“What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them?^[c] **7** You have made them for a little while lower^[d] than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honour, **8** subjecting all things under their feet.”

Now in subjecting all things to them, God^[f] left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, **9** but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower^[a] than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God^[h] he might taste death for everyone.

10 It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. **11** For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus^[k] is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, **12** saying, “I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

Mark 10:2-16

2 Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” **3** He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” **4** They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” **5** But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. **6** But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ **7** ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife,^[a] **8** and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. **9** Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

10 Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. **11** He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; **12** and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

Jesus Blesses Little Children

13 People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. **14** But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. **15** Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” **16** And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Reflections on the reading

[In order to read the full reflection from The Vine today, find out if your circuit is subscribed to The Vine resources – email us at thevine@twelvebaskets.co.uk]

What are you being called to?

One reading of Jesus’ ministry and the driving message of the New Testament is to see it all as pointing towards togetherness and unity, seeking to overcome the divisions in human societies.

Two questions for you to consider:

- How can you get involved in Paul’s invitation in Colossians to ‘hold together’ with all of creation?
- In what ways are you a barrier to togetherness (i.e. what of your prejudices, actions or opinions are including others)?

In order to live out the hope that is woven throughout the New Testament, that we can unite in God’s love, we all have a part to play. We all have barriers to break down, prejudices to identify in ourselves and work on, institutions we need to hold to account for maintaining exclusivity and injustice.

Today, we are inviting you to commit to doing one thing. There are lots of things that need doing, but doing nothing is the most dangerous and unhelpful ‘solution’. So today, you are invited simply to think of one thing you could do and/or change to help increase the spirit of togetherness, of community in your life.

You might like to write down your planned action, and stick it somewhere where you will see it everyday.

Let us pray.

God of love, you invite us into your hope for a better, safe, more unified world.

As we celebrate our diversity and our difference, may we find unity in your love for us, and our love for you.

And may we use that unity to make a world, and a church, where all are welcome.

In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Prayers of intercession

Let us open our hearts and be vulnerable before Jesus as we share what is on our hearts.

“I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises.”

Though we are strengthened through Jesus, there are times this past week where we could not sing your praises.

In this world it is hard to be joyful when there are those around us hurting. Those mourning loved ones. Those fighting a daily struggle against an unjust system. Those struggling to put food on the table. Those going through divorce. Those whose families are separated. Those who see images of war, famine and terror and cry “Where are you God!”

In this moment, let us share what is heavy on our hearts.

(Time of silence or a time to share prayer concerns)

When one of us is in pain, we are all in pain, and Jesus weeps with those who weep. As siblings we bring these prayers before you, Jesus, that you may be with them in times of hardship and sorrow.

Let us bring these all before God,

Amen.³

Hymn: 367 STF – There is a new song - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=73JuxCgFEgk>

Blessing

I want to live in a world more like your kingdom,
And less like the kingdom of greed we find ourselves in.
No longer the kingdom of comfort,
But forever, the Kingdom of heaven.

Be at work in me, Lord God, by your Spirit,

Amen.⁴

³ Prayers of intercession written by Tim Annan-Hood

⁴ Additional prayers by Tim Baker

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