

Sunday Morning Resources

Sunday 9 June 2024 - The Second Sunday of Trinity

Lectionary Readings (depending on the kind of service you are leading, you may use one or more of the following readings – however, you **must** use the gospel reading, as this is what the homily is based on)

Genesis 3.8-15; Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 4.13-Chapter 5.1; Mark 3.20-35

Homily

Today's homily has been written by the Revd Peter Leech, Director of Mission and Ministry

The Gospel reading is not comfortable reading. It begins with Jesus' own family thinking that he must be out of his mind. The teachers of the law went further accusing Jesus of being demon-possessed.

Jesus' family had come looking for him in order to take him home. Perhaps both they and the crowd would have expected Jesus to stop his teaching at once in order to meet with them.

But instead, Jesus spoke to the gathered crowd about a loyalty that went far deeper. Jesus uses the opportunity to reach the crowd that the priorities of God's kingdom are different, and this can often create a point of tension or conflict. Jesus tells the gathered crowd that whoever does God's will is closer to him than any of his blood-relatives. It's worth noting that here Jesus highlights the 'doing'. He goes further than simply 'hearing' the will of God and speaks about the need for responding.

We often speak of the church as 'family' and today we see the 'family' as being not only a collection of people who meet together to worship on a Sunday, but a group of disciples who are seeking to do the will of God – being family is something active, not something that is passive or almost accidental. Jesus speaks of the depth of relationship and the strength of the bonds that are created in the family which is the people of God.

This brings its own challenge for us as a church today. A church where divisions and disagreements threaten to fracture the family unity. As with all families, how we remain united and at the same time deal with conflict and disagreement is key if we are to remain together.

Being a family should also provide a safe harbour for those who face ridicule or even persecution because of their faith. Those who are shunned and ostracised by families because of their decision to follow Christ. The church, as a family, provides a place of security and comfort. It reminds us too that the church family can also provide a place of love and support, healing and restoration for those whose earthly families do not provide the conditions where its members can flourish. Those who have faced abuse or loss should be able to find a space full of hope and joy and love.

This passage also speaks of priority. It's not that Jesus ceased to love and care for his mother. But it speaks of the challenge of being a disciple where we are called to make Christ our number one priority – even though that may be challenging at times. Jesus doesn't call us to separate ourselves from our family, but rather to inhabit that place where we are able to demonstrate the priority that Christ has in our own lives, through what we say, the way we react, the way we live, how we choose to spend our time.

Ways to Engage all Generations

When different generations are gathered together in worship there is an opportunity to build relationships and to encounter God in our conversations as we build relationships and learn from each other no matter what our ages, stage of life or faith and for all present to feel included. Adding some wondering questions to the service at an appropriate moment can help to do this.

Wondering Questions: Some wondering questions that may help to engage all generations to ponder and explore during the talk, service or during the week may include (three or so) of the following style of questions:

- I wonder what your favourite part of the story/passage is? I wonder why that is?
- I wonder how Mary and Jesus' brothers felt?
- I wonder how you feel about families?
- I wonder where you are in this story?
- I wonder why Jesus said here are my mother and my brothers?
- I wonder what we can learn about God in this story?

Suggested intercessions

We pray for strength to follow Jesus.
Saviour, we hear your call.

Help us to follow.

Jesus said: 'Whoever wishes to be great among you
must be your servant.'

Saviour, we hear your call.

Help us to follow.

Jesus said: 'Unless you change
and become humble like little children,
you can never enter the kingdom of heaven.'

Saviour, we hear your call.

Help us to follow.

Jesus said: 'Happy are the humble;
they will receive what God has promised.'

Saviour, we hear your call.

Help us to follow.

Jesus said: 'Be merciful as your Father is merciful;
love your enemies and do good to them.'
Saviour, we hear your call.

Help us to follow.

Jesus said: 'Love one another, as I love you;
there is no greater love than this,
to lay down your life for your friends.'
Saviour, we hear your call.

Help us to follow.

Jesus said: 'Go to people everywhere
and make them my disciples,
and I will be with you always, to the end of time.'
Saviour, we hear your call.

Help us to follow.

God of mercy,
**you know us and love us
and hear our prayer:
keep us in the eternal fellowship of
Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.**

Taken from New Patterns for Worship

Suggested hymns/songs

Brother, Sister let me serve you

God of Grace and God of Glory

O God of every nation

Sing aloud, loud, loud

Behold the lamb of God

Activities to accompany the service:

If you are looking for resources to accompany the service for engaging younger children, then there are lots of online resources. The following free to access/download resources may be useful starting points:

- <https://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/>
- <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/MessyChurchBRF/>
- <https://www.faithinkids.org/>
- [reflectionary.org](https://www.reflectionary.org/) – lectionary-based resources
- [engageworship](https://www.engageworship.com/) – in particular 'Area 52' for lectionary-based material

- <https://www.bdeducation.org.uk/product-category/primary-age-5-11/>
(weekly@lectionary resource)