

## *Second Sunday of Trinity*

God bless your home and all who dwell in it

Almighty God,  
We come before you in worship  
with all your people in earth and heaven  
lifting up our hearts and voices  
to give praise and honour to you.

Our words can never fully express  
how much we owe to you  
as we wonder at  
the beauty of creation,  
lives full of blessings,  
sustaining friendships,  
church fellowship,  
and above all these  
the generous love and salvation offered to us  
through Jesus Christ your Son.

Accept our worship and praise,  
touch our hearts with the nearness of your presence,  
deepen our faith, strengthen our commitment,  
broaden our vision  
that we may grow as your people  
and play our part in working for your Kingdom  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

### *Hymn*

*Praise my soul the King of Heaven*

<https://youtu.be/mDe0ABw5IHs>

## *Introduction*

Our Lectionary – the rolling three-year series of weekly readings from the Bible – offer us choices from the Old Testament during the season of Trinity. There is a series of ‘continuous’ readings – where a single book of the old testament is covered over a period of weeks. Or another series of ‘related’ readings which are intended as a foil for the Gospel.

As we are following the ‘related’ readings this summer our reading for this week comes from the book of Jeremiah. Jerimiah has never had a very good press. His name gains a place in the Oxford Dictionary as a ‘doleful prophet or denouncer of the times’ and it gives us the term jeremiad – meaning a lamentation or doleful complaint.

He certainly had plenty to be doleful about. God had picked on him to be the announcer of bad news to Judea – and he didn’t like that one bit. He tried to wriggle out of it by claiming he was too young, but that didn’t work and so he complained bitterly to God that the message he had to give was destroying his friendships and turning his family against him. Finally, he fell back to the only route open to his peace of mind – ‘let me see your retribution on them’.

But why should he be so anxious and reluctant? What was it about the role of the Old Testament Prophet that was so difficult?

The work of a Prophet wasn’t telling the future. At its simplest it, was enlightening people about God’s opinion of their behaviour and warning them of the consequences. It became a difficult task when the consequences of those behavioural lapses were revealed. To tell people who were feeling rather self-satisfied, comfortable and religious – that God was angry with their abuses under the law was not an easy task or that he was prepared to see them defeated by an alien army and taken into captivity. With that sort of message, the prophet was inevitably swimming against the tide public opinion. He was just not in tune with the zeitgeist. Which is why this Prophet has been chosen as the related Old Testament Book for today’s Gospel passage – Jesus is being misrepresented as we shall see later

## *Thanksgiving and confession*

Loving God,  
we bring you our praise.  
Gladly and reverently we offer you our worship,  
we declare your greatness  
and acknowledge your faithfulness.  
We rejoice in your goodness  
and marvel at your holiness.  
Astounded by your generosity  
we offer you our praise and thanksgiving.

You are ever at work in our world  
striving to help and strengthen  
heal and comfort,  
forgive and restore,  
undo wrongs and establish rights.

Loving God,  
Forgive us  
when we lose sight of your great love for all humankind,  
forgive us  
our indifference to the suffering of others  
forgive us  
our failure to appreciate all that we have  
to count our blessings  
to value your gifts to us  
We know that we have often failed you,  
we have not maintained your kingdom values  
the values of love for you and for our neighbour as ourselves,  
we have turned away from the stranger  
we have shut our ears to the cry of the bereft  
and have not lived as your people  
For all our faults forgive us Lord.

### *Absolution*

May our God of love and power  
forgive us and free us from our sins  
heal and strengthen us by his spirit  
and raise us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### *Hymn*

Lord for the years

<https://youtu.be/MkTrFQLy6js>

### *Collect for Trinity 2*

Faithful Creator,  
Whose mercy never fails;  
deepen our faithfulness to you  
and to your living Word,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### *First Reading*

Jeremiah 20; 7-13

<sup>7</sup> O Lord, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughing-stock all day long; everyone mocks me.<sup>8</sup> For whenever I speak, I must cry out I must shout, 'Violence and destruction! For the word of the Lord has become for me a reproach and derision all day long.'<sup>9</sup> If I say, 'I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name', then within

me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. <sup>10</sup>For I hear many whispering, 'Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!' All my close friends are watching for me to stumble. 'Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him and take our revenge on him.' <sup>11</sup>But the Lord is with me like a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonour will never be forgotten.<sup>12</sup>O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous, you see the heart and the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.<sup>13</sup>Sing to the Lord; praise the Lord! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

*Psal̄m 69*

Verses 15-18

But as for me, my prayer is to you, O Lord.

At an acceptable time, O God,  
in the abundance of your steadfast love, answer me.

With your faithful help <sup>14</sup>rescue me  
from sinking in the mire;  
let me be delivered from my enemies  
and from the deep waters.

<sup>15</sup>Do not let the flood sweep over me,  
or the deep swallow me up,  
or the Pit close its mouth over me.

<sup>16</sup>Answer me, O Lord, for your steadfast love is good;  
according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.

<sup>17</sup>Do not hide your face from your servant,  
for I am in distress—make haste to answer me.

<sup>18</sup>Draw near to me, redeem me,  
set me free because of my enemies.

## *Second reading*

Romans 6; 1-11

What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup> We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup> For whoever has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup> But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup> We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup> The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup> So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

## *Hymn*

Lord of all hopefulness

[https://youtu.be/9-D\\_aT8CXyc](https://youtu.be/9-D_aT8CXyc)

## *Gospel reading*

Matthew 10; 24-39

<sup>24</sup> “A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; <sup>25</sup> it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more will they malign those of his household! <sup>26</sup> “So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. <sup>27</sup> What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. <sup>28</sup> Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unseen by your Father. <sup>30</sup> And even the hairs of your head are all counted. <sup>31</sup> So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

<sup>32</sup> “Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; <sup>33</sup> but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword <sup>34</sup> “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup> For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; <sup>36</sup> and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household. <sup>37</sup> Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; <sup>38</sup> and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup> Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

## *Reflection*

People are often surprised to hear this passage from Matthew's Gospel. Some of the sentiments are repeated in Luke's Gospel in a rather watered-down version but Matthew gives Jesus a voice that is much more akin to the Old Testament prophets.

One thing we have to remember is that this was an Old Testament situation. To all intents and purposes that is how the crowd saw him. They wanted Jesus to be the firebrand hero who would cast off the yoke of Roman domination and make Judea great again. What they wanted to hear was that God was on their side and if they kept the faith, he would release them from their bondage – just like he'd rescued them from slavery in Egypt, just like he'd sent heroes and prophets in the past. Everywhere Jesus went people projected their own hopes and fears on him. The hot-headed revolutionaries longed for him to speak of war, the Pharisees longed for him to teach adherence to the law, the Temple authorities wanted him to draw people into worship and sacrifice.

Jesus, like Jeremiah before him, came to deliver God's message, and like Jeremiah he was misunderstood. The factions that existed in first century Judea were like people through the ages, looking for someone who would give authority, credence and leadership, to their viewpoint.

So, who is Jesus really speaking to, and what is he telling them and us? He is actually speaking to his twelve disciples. We may think of these men as understanding the mission of Jesus – the mission as interpreted by centuries of Christianity. But they did not have the view of the situation that we, blessed by hindsight, have. They were raw, simple, local men. They too had their ideas, views, opinions, which they were hoping for him to fulfil. As we travel with them through the Gospels, we find them misunderstanding and misinterpreting his words. Right until the very end they are still thinking in terms of revolution, the Kingdom of God being an earthly kingdom with Jesus as ruler and them on the governing council. Just think of Peter's reaction when Jesus speaks of his own death, or John and James asking to sit on his right and his left hand when Jesus

comes into power. These are men to whom the talk of dispute, families fractured, and hatred spoke of warfare, not a mission of love.

Jesus tries to tell them, but they cannot hear what he says for the weight of expectations and longing that they carry.

And he speaks the truth. The message that he asks them to carry into the future is one that has brought death and destruction to his followers time and again. Christians have suffered death and torture for their faith all around the world. They are still being persecuted...and they still speak about Jesus whenever and wherever they can. They follow the dictum of Peter who wrote;

‘...always be prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have.’

But what has really made the difference in the world are those people who have lived the Christian life of loving and giving. People who have grasped the message of Jesus and applied it to themselves instead of subverting it to their agenda. Right at the very dawn of the Christian Church, when to be a Christian could mean persecution and death, a man wrote a fascinating letter about Christians...

“For Christians are not distinguished from the rest of mankind by country or by speech or by dress. For they do not dwell in cities of their own or use a different language or practise a peculiar life. They live in countries of their own but simply as sojourner; they share the life of citizens; they endure the lot of foreigners, every foreign land is to them a fatherland, every fatherland a foreign land...

...they spend their existence on earth, but their citizenship is in heaven. They obey the established laws, and in their own lives they surpass the laws. They love all men and are persecuted by all, they are unknown, and they are condemned, they are put to death and they gain new life. They are poor and make many rich; they lack everything and in everything they abound. They are dishonoured and their dishonour becomes their glory; they are reviled and are justified. They are abused and they bless; they are insulted and repay insult with honour. They do good and are punished as evil doers, and in their punishment, they rejoice as gaining new life therein. In a word, what the soul is to the body, so Christians are in the world”

This is a high calling for all Christians – and never at any time did Jesus say it would be easy, rather the opposite. But once having truly known him – there is no other way but his way – the way of living in love.

## *Hymn*

Let us build a house

<https://youtu.be/gKJgcv8SdnQ>

## *Creed*

Let us declare our faith in God

We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and earth is named.

We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with this love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
Who strengthens us  
with power from on high.

We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

## *Hymn*

Creator God you are there  
Margaret Rizza

<https://youtu.be/kDpxFMBw55E>

## *Intercessions*

Gracious God

We thank you for your great gift of love  
The love we are able to share with those around us,  
Which gives us a sense of self-worth and belonging,  
which enriches ours in so many ways.

Deepen our love for you and one another.  
Help us to be faithful and true in our relationships.

Thank you for loving us  
even when we fail to love you in return

We thank you for all those  
who have heard your call throughout the ages  
from different walks of life  
from different nations,  
different cultures,  
different places,  
different times.

We thank you for the amazing gifts  
you pour into your people  
gifts that help us serve  
teach, tend and care for  
our brothers and sisters throughout the world

we thank you for teaching us  
that whoever we are you can use us  
the anyone and everyone  
is included in your kingdom  
help us to accept one another  
and ourselves as we really are  
united in diversity by one common cause

to demonstrate your transforming love in the world.

To you we bring our friends for your healing power  
to comfort and reassure them  
to strengthen and protect.

We remember especially

Alex, Anne & Geoff, Catherine, Derek & Val, Don & Ro, Eileen, Frances, Harriet,  
Jacky, Matthew and Lucy, Michelle, Peter,  
Val Adams, Jake Agnew,  
Elizabeth Bailey & family; Ken Baker, Robert Bloomfield, Nonnie Bridge,  
Doreen Clarke, David Kloose [Close], Guy Coxeter, Jimmy Cromar,  
Beryl Dabson, Peter Dickinson, Barry Dowsett,  
Jean Foster, Tom & Kylie Freeman & Family,  
Doreen Gilbert, Gillian Grafham, Eddie Gordon, Richard Green,  
Colin Hart, Kaye Head, Kath House, Stephen Johnson, Hayden Keeling,  
Colin Lister,  
Rene M, Claire and Andrew MacLeod, Rhys Maples, David McNeill, Erika  
Matteson,  
Carole Noble,  
Harriet Pearson, Cecilia Phelps, Dave Phillips, Robert Price,  
Doug Watson, Ruth Wells,  
and the family and friends of the late, Brian Prew and Lilian Evans

We thank you for all who work to bring wholeness and healing to the sick –  
doctors and nurses, surgeons and all medical staff, psychiatrists, counsellors,  
clergy and therapists.

Support and strengthen all who share in the work of healing, all who strive to  
bring relief, all who minister to others.

Gracious God, your love is for all, whoever they may be, wherever they are.  
May it reach out into every heart in every place and may we be part of that,  
learning to love you as you love us.

We bring our prayers to an end with the words that Jesus taught us

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who 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.

### *Closing Prayer*

Loving God,  
lead us out into the world  
renewed in vigour  
in hope  
in faith  
and in purpose  
send us out to live and work for you  
and to live your life  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
Amen

## *Farewell*

Lord Jesus Christ

You are the peace of all things calm  
You are the place to hide from harm  
You are the light that shines in dark  
You are the heart's eternal spark  
You are the door that's open wide  
You are the guest who waits inside  
You are the stranger at the door  
You are the calling of the poor  
You are my Lord and with me still  
You are my love, keep me from ill  
You are the light, the truth, the way  
You are my Saviour this very day. **Amen**

## *Blessing*

And now may the blessing of the Lord  
rest and remain  
upon all his peoples  
in every land of ever tongue.  
The Lord meet with mercy all who seek him.  
The Lord comfort all who suffer and mourn.  
The Lord hasten his coming  
and now give us  
and all his people  
peace by all means. Amen

The Lord bless you and keep you  
John Rutter

<https://youtu.be/QcYzO8Y4PH0>