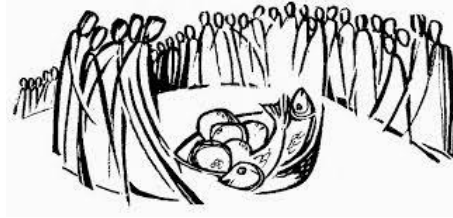


We are the church.

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August**  
**Trinity 8**



**Notices:**

**ISingPop** - Excellent Resource for Family: look at their latest content – “Resilience”  
#Faith@Home

**‘Supervised Private Prayer’:** every Wednesday 3pm-4pm

**Mid-Week Gathering:** a group of us have starting meeting online through Zoom on Wednesday mornings at 930am. It is very informal, and we would love you to join us. The Zoom details are:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96766775950?pwd=ZlZjVnk4MG0rMm0rOTVhN3VEZ3Zadz09>

Meeting ID: 967 6677 5950

Password: 080328

**Black Lives Matter part** – learn more about living in unity, with love, respect and honour for all, especially those who are different to us.

**Uncomfortable Conversation with a Black Man – Race & Religion part 7**

Emmual Acho talks with the lead pastor of a church in America about the role religion plays in fueling and/or killing racism. This is such an

... all these videos are about 4mins ... give them go

## We are the church.

In the name of the Father,  
And of the Son,  
And of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Grace, mercy and peace  
From God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with us all – wherever we are.

**Sing:** (*click on the song title, and it should open up and play in YouTube*)

Be Still for the Presence of the Lord.

Almighty God,  
To whom all hearts are open,  
All desires known,  
And from whom no secrets are hidden:  
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
By the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
That we may perfectly love you,  
And worthily magnify your holy name;  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen

Gathering our thoughts, we remember and confess:

Our Lord Jesus Christ said;  
The first commandment is this;  
'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only  
Lord. You shall love the Lord your God  
With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your  
Mind, and with all your strength.'  
The second is this, 'Love your neighbour  
as yourself.' There is no other commandment  
greater than these. On these two commandments  
hang all the law and the prophets.

## We are the church.

Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy  
forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly,  
love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God.  
Amen.

Lord God, your Son left the riches of  
heaven and became poor for our sake:  
when we prosper save us from pride,  
when we are needy save us from  
despair, that we may trust in you  
alone; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God,  
Who in Jesus Christ has given us  
A kingdom that cannot be destroyed,  
Forgive us our sins,  
Open our eyes to God's truth,  
Strengthen us to do God's will  
And give us the joy of his kingdom,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*Take a few moments to sit and think about receiving that  
unconditional offering of forgiveness through grace.*

# We are the church.

## Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21 - Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns.<sup>14</sup> When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.  
<sup>15</sup> As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food."  
<sup>16</sup> Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."  
<sup>17</sup> "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.  
<sup>18</sup> "Bring them here to me," he said. <sup>19</sup> And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. <sup>20</sup> They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. <sup>21</sup> The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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*When I preached a couple of years ago at St George's, I tried to promote and to thank our Open the Book teams which regularly visit two local schools. One is Brockworth Primary Academy situated in Moorfield Road and the other one is Castle Hill Primary School situated in Abbotswood Road. I have been a member of the ecumenical team that visits Castle Hill School and when we return to story telling during the autumn term (Covid-19 rules allowing this), it will be our eleventh year of visits to that school and ten years of visits to Brockworth Primary Academy. A remarkable effort and thanks are due to all the members for continuing to serve on these teams allowing us to tell the children stories from the bible, to reflect on these stories and to join in prayer. The bible story that I preached previously was about the Greedy Farmer who rebuilt his barns to keep his grain all for himself and would not share with the poor, hungry and needy. By storing up riches for himself, he forgot all about the really important things in life, to share with others. Today I want to tell you another story about Jesus and one of his sharing miracles. This story comes from The Lion Story Telling Bible written by Bob Hartman and Krisztina Kallai Nagy. The scripture reading is from Matthew chapter 14 verses 13 – 21.*

*I expect when you go out for the day to the seaside or into the country that your picnic or packed lunch is similar that everyone would bring. A couple of sandwiches, packet of crisps, piece of fruit and a drink. In today's story, we are going to hear about a boy who gave up his packed lunch. It is titled The Marvellous Picnic*

*It wasn't long before lots of people wanted to hear Jesus talk about God. And many more wanted him to make them well. So they followed him everywhere. From town to town. From city to country. And all the way back again. We need a rest, Jesus said his friends one day. So they took a boat trip across Lake Galilee. hoping to camp for a while in the hills beyond. But people were so eager to see Jesus that they raced around the shoreline of the lake to meet him on the other side! Jesus was tired. But when he turned and saw the people following him up the hill, he stopped. They're like sheep without a shepherd, he said to his friends. They need someone to show them the*

## We are the church.

*way. So he sat himself down, right there and then. And he started to teach. God loves you, Jesus said. He knows what's best for you. The most amazing things can happen when you trust him. Jesus said a lot more than that. He taught all day, in fact. And by then, the people who were listening were hungry. Philip! Jesus called to one of his friends. Can you go out and buy some food for these people? Philip just laughed. There are more than five thousand of them. It would take six months wages to feed them all. Then Andrew, Peter's brother spoke up. There's a boy here, Jesus who has a little food. Five loaves of bread and a couple of fish. It's not much, but it's a start.*

*So it is grinned Jesus, and he rubbed his hands together, as if he was about to go to work. Make the people sit down in little groups. Tell them we are going to have a picnic!. Jesus' friends looked at Jesus. They looked at the boys little lunch. They looked at the enormous crowd. They looked at each other and shrugged their shoulders. All right, they agreed. What ever you say. Jesus smiled as he watched them go. Then he bowed his head, thanked God for the food, and started breaking it into pieces. And, to their amazement, there was plenty for the first group, the second group and the third group and then every group! Plenty for everyone. More than enough to go round. So much, in fact, that there were twelve baskets full of leftovers to take home! The people patted their tummies. They struggled to their feet. They wiped the crumbs from their mouths. And some even burped! But all Jesus' friends could do was stare. It's just as I told you, said Jesus, God can do the most amazing things, All we have to do is trust him. Then he smiled at his helpers, popped a chunk of bread into his mouth and started off for home.*

*In this story, everyone had more than enough to eat, but for the next few moments we're going to close our eyes and to think about all the people in the world who don't have enough to eat.*

*Dear God, we know that there are lots of people in the world who need help to have enough food to eat. Please help us to be like the little boy in today's story and give what we can – even if it's only a little bit. Amen.*

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Let us declare our faith with confidence:

Holy, holy, holy  
is the Lord God almighty,  
who was, and is, and is to come.  
We believe in God the Father,  
who created all things:  
for by his will they were created  
and have their being.

# We are the church.

We believe in God the Son,  
who was slain:  
for with his blood,  
he purchased us for God,  
from every tribe and language,  
from every people and nation.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:  
the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'  
Even so come, Lord Jesus!  
Amen.

**Sing:** (*click on the song title, and it should open up and play in YouTube*)

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful.

Rona Clifford leads as we pray for the world, the church, and for our family, friend's & our neighbours':

*Lord, we meet with our God in worship and as we are fed by word and sacrament, let us bring with us the needs of all our brothers and sisters, that you our God will make us strong in your service, take our small offerings and make them grow.*

*Guide us, Father:*  
***Along the right path.***

*Lord, awaken in us our need of you and make us hungry and thirsty for you, both as individuals and as the Church of God. Increase our love and compassion so that we long to serve out your love to the world around us.*

*Guide us, Father:*  
***Along the right path.***

# We are the church.

*Lord, allow our world to see the true value of things, so that the worthless and dangerous is unmasked and real need acknowledged. Guide ours and all world leaders to make decisions in wisdom and integrity and enable us all to co-operate in proper care and stewardship of the worlds resources so that we may not waste or abuse our talents in thoughtless destruction, but rather work with our Creator to heal, conserve and fulfil, show us the way to relieve the needs that lie close to us and the greater needs around the world.*

*Guide us, Father:*

***Along the right path.***

*Lord, we pray for all of us here and at home and the families we represent and we bring to your love the needs of those who live and work in this area and community that we may all be liberated to live selfless, generous lives and receive a greater simplicity in the ordering of our lives, to have deeper trust and acceptance.*

*Guide us, Father:*

***Along the right path.***

*Lord, we pray for all who are ill, for all who need medical treatment or are waiting in pain for surgery, for all those who have recently undergone surgery and hospital treatment or are in pain, and we hold up to your care especially Erica, Pat W, Heather and Brian, also we pray for those who have become addicted and long to be set free and for all those whose wrong choices have ended in heartache, disillusion and despair. We pray that even in pain and discomfort they may recognise Christ, who also suffered, and who is full of caring and compassion.*

*Upheld by Gods peace, we pray now in silence for any special needs, concerns or burdens, joys and sorrows known to us personally.....*

*Guide us, Father:*

***Along the right path.***

*Lord, welcome into your eternity all who have spent their lives coming to you, grant light and peace to those who no longer need the bread of this world, receive them into their eternal home. Have mercy on all who are approaching death who do not know you but reject what they imagine you to be! May they respond to the true and living God and know your love for ever. We name in our hearts those known to us and to you.....*

*Guide us, Father:*

***Along the right path.***

*With special joy, Lord, in the knowledge that you love us and we can trust you unconditionally, we offer you our prayers and thank you for feeding us with spiritual food that satisfies our souls.*

*Merciful Father,*

***you pour out your blessings so richly on us; with thankful hearts we praise you and ask you to accept our prayers, through Jesus Christ our Lord.***

***Amen.***

# We are the church.

We pray with confidence as our saviour has taught us:

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 forever. Amen.

**Sing:** (*click on the song title, and it should open up and play in YouTube*)

[When I Needed a Neighbour](#)

**Numbers 6:24-26** *The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*

**Until we can come together in worship & witness be strong in the Lord & in his mighty power.** (Eph6:10)



We are the church.

- **AMEN?**