 *To journey in faith and share God’s love*

**Sunday 4th October**

**Trinity 17**

**Proper 22**

**The Church of Saint George, Brockworth**

**E service**

**The Gathering**

The day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Sit in silence and think of those (naming them if you can) with whom you would normally worship. Reflect that even on your own you are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses and, most importantly, that the Risen Christ comes and stands in the midst of his disciples.*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. **Amen**

**Say or sing:**

Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
binding all the Church in one,
holy Zion's help for ever,
and her confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call thee,
come, O Lord of Hosts, today;
with thy wonted loving-kindess
hear thy servants as they pray;
and thy fullest benediction
shed within its walls always

Here vouchsafe to all thy servants
what they ask of thee to gain,
what they gain from thee for ever
with the blessèd to retain,
and hereafter in thy glory
evermore with thee to reign.

Laud and honour to the Father,
laud and honour to the Son,
laud and honour to the Spirit,
ever Three, and ever One,
consubstantial, co-eternal,
while unending ages run.

**Exhortation**

Brothers and sisters in Christ, as we gather for worship, we must recall the promises and warnings given to us in the Scriptures. Let us therefore examine ourselves and repent of our sins. Let us give thanks to God for his redemption of the world through his Son Jesus Christ, and as we remember Christ’s death for us, and receive this pledge of his love, let us resolve to serve him in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life.

**Confession**

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin. Lord have mercy.

**Lord have mercy.**

Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Christ have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Lord have mercy.

**Lord have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us and forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen**

**The prayer that Collects us together, set for today:**

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Readings from Scripture:**

**Exodus 20. 1-4, 7-9, 12-20**

Then God spoke all these words:2 I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; 3you shall have no other gods before\* me.4 You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.7 You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.8 Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. 9For six days you shall labour and do all your work.12 Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.13 You shall not murder.\*14 You shall not commit adultery.15 You shall not steal.16 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.17 You shall not covet your neighbour’s house; you shall not covet your neighbour’s wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.18 When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid\* and trembled and stood at a distance, 19and said to Moses, ‘You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die.’ 20Moses said to the people, ‘Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin.’

**Matthew 21. 33-46**

‘Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. 34When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. 35But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. 36Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. 37Finally he sent his son to them, saying, “They will respect my son.” 38But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, “This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.” 39So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. 40Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’ 41They said to him, ‘He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.’42 Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the scriptures:
“The stone that the builders rejected  has become the cornerstone;\*this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes”?43Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom.\* 44The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.’\*45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. 46They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

**Reflection – David Sutch**

*St George’s Church, like many other church buildings, has a pair of wooden boards on which the Ten Commandments are written (North wall of the Chancel). They were teaching aids and reminders of on what our faithful practices are based.*

*A Covenant between God and His people – “You obey these and we will live in harmony and you will prosper.” It is a relationship in two parts. A relationship with God, and the relationship with our neighbours and neighbourhood. We know it better through our Lord’s summary “You shall lave the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength; and you shall love your neighbour as yourself.” You shall love God – no others, nothing else and please don’t say OMG, unless you mean to say it. Keep a day of rest for your well being and to worship me.*

*If we are loving God with all that we are and have, then our relationship with our neighbour and community follows. With no social security or welfare state it was vital to take care of and honour your parents. Community is destroyed by stealing, murder, adultery, telling lies and being envious of another’s success and wealth and property.*

*The Covenant made with Noah was sealed with the Rainbow, which has become the symbol of our commitment to the Community that is made up of the NHS workers, the emergency services, and those who care for so many in our community.*

*In St. Matthew’s parable, the workers in another’s vineyard were envious and coveted the profits for themselves. They plotted to kill the servants and then the Son and Heir for their own ends. They will get their just reward.*

*They had not obeyed the Commandments. Perhaps they had forgotten them or ignored the teaching of them.*

*This week reflect on the Ten Commandments and think about Judgement Day. Will you be found guilty or innocent? Some churches have rediscovered the murals which depict Judgement and Hell – in many others they are still whitewashed over .Read Psalm 119 verses 1-32 sometime this week. Use the week to reflect as we are workers in the God’s vineyard. Are we doing our best to make it fruitful and profitable or are we envious that others seem to have more than us and we want to take it from them.*

*We celebrated Harvest Thanksgiving last week. Are we truly grateful, or are we envious of any who might have more than us? Do we care about those who have less? Do we love our neighbour as ourselves? How we treat our neighbours in the community reflects how much we love God!*

*“O Lord, forgive what I have been, correct what I am, and order what I shall be, to your glory only.* ***Amen.***

**We profess our faith with the Apostle’s Creed**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried, he descended to hell; The third day he rose again from the dead, he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Catholic Church; the Communion of Saints; the forgiveness of sins; the Resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

**We say or sing**

 Love divine, all loves excelling,

 Joy of heaven, to earth come down,

 Fix in us thy humble dwelling,

 All thy faithful mercies crown.

 Jesu, thou art all compassion,

 Pure unbounded love thou art;

 Visit us with thy salvation,

 Enter every trembling heart.

Come almighty to deliver

 Let us all thy grace 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.

 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.

***Our prayers are lead by Revd Mike***

We thank you, Lord God, for the freedom to openly worship your name.

Thank you that we are able to join together and be church together. Thank you for technology that allows people to join in and be part of this service.

We pray for all those watching at home because they are vulnerable, or their families are vulnerable. We pray that they would know and experience the peace and protection of God.

*Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We pray for hope and comfort for those who are isolated and housebound: we pray that we may be alert to their needs, and care for them with our words, prayers, and actions in their vulnerability.

*Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We pray for an end to discrimination of people because of the colour of their skin. We pray for peace with justice in communities around the world, and we pray for transparency and accountability in all organisations to bring an end to abuse and discrimination.

*Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We pray for all those who are putting themselves at an increased risk to care for others: for the carers at Millbrook Lodge, Brockworth House, Doctors surgeries and pharmacies.

We also pray for those in our local schools: Brockworth Primary Academy, Castle Hill Primary School, Coopers Edge School and Henley Bank High School. Heavenly Father would you increase your spirit, that all that go through these places would both know and experience your peace and hope, keep all those who work there protected.

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

**We pray in the words our Saviour taught us**

**We sing or say**

Praise to the holiest in the height,
And in the depth be praise;
In all His words most wonderful,
Most sure in all His ways.

O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame,
A second Adam to the fight
And to the rescue came.

O wisest love! that flesh and blood,
Which did in Adam fail,
Should strive afresh against the foe,
Should strive and should prevail.

And that a higher gift than grace
Should flesh and blood refine,
God’s Presence and His very Self,
And Essence all divine.

O generous love! that He, who smote,
In Man for man the foe,
The double agony in Man
For man should undergo.

And in the garden secretly,
And on the Cross on high,
Should teach His brethren, and inspire
To suffer and to die.

Praise to the Holiest in the height,
And in the depth be praise;
In all His words most wonderful,
Most sure in all His ways.

The Lord bless us and preserve us from all evil, and keep us in eternal life. **Amen**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**