

[OPENING PRAYERS AND HOLY COMMUNION ARE AVAILABLE AS A VIDEO HERE](#)

PART 1 – OPENING PRAYERS

WELCOME

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

SENTENCE

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8.38–39

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Let us pray.
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.

TWO GREAT COMMANDMENTS

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. Matthew 22.37–40, Mark 12.30–31

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

In penitence and faith,
let us confess our sins to Almighty God:

Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you

in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith:
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, the fount of wisdom,
you have revealed to us in Christ
the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price:
grant us your Spirit's gift of discernment,
that, in the midst of the things of this world,
we may learn to value the priceless worth of your kingdom, and be ready to renounce all else
for the sake of the precious gift you offer.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

PLEASE PAUSE THE VIDEO

PART 2 — AN ALL AGE VIDEO PART 2 OF *WHERE IS GOD?* FOCUSING ON FRIENDSHIP AND
DOWNLOADABLE MATERIAL FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN [HERE](#)

This week's All Age video includes a greatly sped up video of how to make a **Friendship Bracelet**
by Kach (Jennie's daughter). The video at normal speed is available to watch [HERE](#), and
downloadable pdf instructions [HERE](#).

PART 3 — LOOK UP AND READ THROUGH THE READINGS, LISTEN TO THE [SERMON PODCAST](#) (READ
ALONG IF YOU WISH) BY REV JENNIE SAVAGE, AND PRAY THE INTERCESSIONS, TODAY BY JOAN
ROWNEY.

READINGS

Romans 8:31-39

Psalm 85:8-13

Matthew 13:31-35, 44-53

SERMON BY REV JENNIE SAVAGE

Available to listen online and/or download – access via Pentecost 2020 link and notice also a reasonable library of past sermons for you to listen to as you exercise or meditate...

Matthew 13: 31-35, 44-53

Let us pray: Lord, we thank you for the gift of your Word; open our hearts and our minds to your Spirit as we reflect and pray. Amen.

Let's have a quick review of this assortment of parables about the kingdom of heaven, from the start of Matthew 13:

1. There's the sower, who sows the word of the kingdom meeting with various receptions, but where there is good soil, the bearing of fruit is magnificent.
2. Then there is the story of the good seed of the wheat which gets caught up with the weeds growing in its midst and unable to be separated until the harvest time where the difference becomes obvious.
3. There are the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast, indicating the kingdom may start in what seems small and insignificant ways, and yet becomes incredibly significant in its work.
4. And in today's reading we heard three pithy parables. The first two compared discovering the kingdom as a great treasure, one hidden in a field, the other finding the pearl of great value. Both of these are worth everything in order to possess.
5. Then they are followed by the parable of the dragnet. The kingdom catches fish of every kind that are later sorted out, separated, the bad fish from the good, separating the evil from the righteous.

There's a lot about separation, about telling the difference between the good and the bad. Sometimes it all seems just too hard work, even dirty work – as in, you get your hands dirty. For all today's talk about pearls and treasure, they don't simply fall in your lap.

For instance, there is the treasure that is hidden in a field. Someone found it, then hid it again until he was able to get enough funds, which meant selling all that he had, so he could buy the field and claim his treasure. The merchant's discovery also demanded of him the liquidation of all his assets and previous discoveries before he could own the great pearl. This suggests the kingdom of heaven comes at quite a cost! But first we have to recognize its value, so, back to that review:

The seed which grew in the good soil yielded 30, 60, even a hundredfold in grain.
The wheat which grew entangled in the weeds, at harvest time proved its worth.
The mustard seed grew into a tree providing housing for the birds of the air.
The yeast was able to leaven three measures of flour.

In one sense they are very simple things, yet they are profound. Not being an agrarian culture, maybe these parables don't find us an easy target. We tend to be dazzled by big cars and houses and exotic travel.

Plants, food? Easily available until a pandemic comes along. Suddenly staples are in short supply as were seedlings – now was that because of a desire to become self-sufficient, or a home project?

But in the past we have also have known the word 'drought', when soil became too dry and too dusty to grow the crops, or grass for the cattle.
Sometimes we are shaken out of our complacency.

We take for granted having a place to call home.

How will our children or grandchildren be able to afford their own accommodation? Perhaps our families are the lucky ones, but what of the many unlucky ones? What of the many, who because of this pandemic, are going to lose their homes in the economic fallout? I have known a number who thought such a thing would never happen to them.

This pandemic has shaken up the world.

Many things that had the fancy price tag are now redundant. Much that was undervalued, has shown its true worth. They have a new name: the essentials.

They are priceless, beyond a price tag, we cannot do without them. But now the world is in a dilemma in trying to save the economy our society has been built on. What should be put first?

Morally, can the economy return to what it was before this pandemic? What have we learnt about true value?

As I look at those little parables again, I wonder how I can enjoy the value of the kingdom whilst holding defensively to other things that prop up my life.

I start to wonder, what do I have to divest myself of in order to enjoy the benefits of the kingdom? For it seems it is not only my accumulation of other worldly goods, but also what lies beneath that accumulation: fear, defensiveness, self-protection.

What am I really investing in?

What is our society investing in?

The kingdom of heaven asks of us values of humility and detachment. These virtues give freedom that allow other things to be found and to grow.

But we can only obtain this freedom by shaking off some other chains first.

The laborer and the merchant had to go off and do their homework first. The language of separation, of telling the difference is underneath these parables too. So Jesus rounds off this series with yet another parable of sorting, the dragnet with all its kinds of fish.

As we look over this chapter in Matthew, we see the promises of the kingdom. The promises of goodness, fruitfulness, hospitality, and joy! But how entangled we are by the weeds, how overwhelmed we are.

The promises of the kingdom of heaven may seem small and insignificant against all that is around us, but they do their work. The kingdom is worth the work of sifting the soil, being aware of the weeds, sowing a small seed, letting a bit of yeast start its work. The kingdom is worth detaching from and, or, divesting yourself of other demands. The kingdom bursts beyond our isolation and our own minds. The kingdom is to be grown here on earth as it is in heaven.

In the end, these parables turn around as they show God's activity here on earth: sowing the seed, patiently outwaiting the weeds, inserting a bit of leaven, treasuring the world so much that God bursts through to the world in Jesus Christ, giving up everything, even life on a cross to bring about the kingdom where we are God's beloved, priceless, possession.

I finish with this creed based on these parables. The creed was written by Rev Bruce Prewer. Let this be our prayer:

We believe in the love-kingdom of God, through Christ upon us, within us, beyond us.

We believe the love-kingdom is like a mustard seed; sown in apparent insignificance, growing into magnificence for the greening of the world.

We believe the love-kingdom is like yeast; inserted in humble insignificance into the dough of life, expanding into enough bread for the world.

We believe the love-kingdom of God is like a treasure; lost and rendered insignificant the ground, now found with joy and thanksgiving.

We believe the love-kingdom of God is like pearls; all others become in insignificant the largest, most beautiful pearl of all is found.

We believe the love-kingdom of God is like a net full of fish; where even insignificant are saved but worm-ridden barracouta are thrown away.

We believe in the love-kingdom of God, through Christ upon us, within us, beyond us; where the meek and the poor, the merciful and the hungry, rejoice with the angels of God.

Loving God, we believe; scatter our unbelief. Amen.

INTERCESSIONS BY JOAN ROWNEY

Father God,

We come to you this morning remembering that *'Nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ our Lord'*. We need to keep this truth close to our hearts in these days when Covid19 continues to destroy many lives around our world, this world where there is so much for which to be thankful, particularly in our country. Dear Lord, as you know it was a blow to the people in Melbourne including the Peninsula to find that we were once again, under strong restrictions because of the rise again of Covid19 cases and to see further cases in New South Wales. But if we all remember how close to us you are, the time will go much quicker.

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

Dear God,

Be with those whose lives have been devastated, not only by illness but by financial and personal loss. Strengthen and protect those who we turn to for relief and support – our government, healthcare workers, the police force, A.D.F., friends and families. We pray especially for those who have nothing and nobody they can turn to – the homeless, migrants for whom English is a second language, if that, and the elderly living on their own. To be lonely at this time is not a good place to be. Be with us, dear Lord, and help us to be watchful of our neighbours and friends so that we can, in your name, offer anyone needing it, help at this time.

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

Compassionate God,

We pray for our Vicar, Jennie and are particularly thankful for her weekly newsletter as well as her media Holy Communion services both of which have been so informative and supportive. We also pray and give thanks for Samantha and Sav who have contributed such lively and helpful material on Children's Time and pray for our Parish Council, Treasurer, Wardens and others who have continued to keep our parish running under such difficulties.

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

Loving God,

In a moment of quiet can we pray for those in need and others for whom we have concerns – our families, friends, Fusion, local schools – and for children and their parents at all schools and at home who are having such a difficult time not really knowing what is coming with shut downs and openings etc.

We pray for all those who are ill at this time; for Anthea, Kelly, and others who are on our hearts at this time.

We pray also for those in our parish who have died in the faith and peace of Christ, and remember Jennifer Cavill whose anniversary falls in this week. We ask with trust, hope and thanksgiving Father, that you will grant us, with them and when it is time, a share in the eternal kingdom of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

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

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray:

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.

Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

PLEASE RESUME THE VIDEO FOR HOLY COMMUNION

GREETING OF PEACE

We are the body of Christ.
His Spirit is with us.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.
Blessed be God for ever.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you,
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts;
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honour and power,
for you created all things,
making us in your own image.
We praise you for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by his death on the cross and rising to new life
offered the one true sacrifice for sin
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.
Therefore, we lift our voices to praise you, saying,

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

And now we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine; may we who receive them, as Jesus said,
share his body and his blood.
On the night he was betrayed, he took bread and gave you thanks. He broke the bread and gave it to
his friends, and said, 'Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'
After supper he took the cup and gave you thanks.
He shared the cup with them and said,
'This is my blood poured out so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me.'

Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.

You have gathered us together to feed on Christ and to remember all he has done for us:
Fill us with your Spirit that we may follow Jesus in all we do and say, working for justice and
bringing your peace to this world that you have made.
Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessing and honour and glory and power,
are yours forever and ever. Amen

THE BREAKING AND SHARING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Living God,
in this holy meal you fill us with new hope.
May the power of your love,
which we have known in word and sacrament,
continue your saving work among us,
give us courage for our pilgrimage,
and bring us to the joys you promise.

Most loving God,
you send us into the world you love.
Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage
in the power of your Spirit.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH based on Ephesians 3

Let us declare our faith in God:

We believe in God, the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his 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.

Based on Ephesians 3. New Patterns of Worship (CofE) p166

BLESSING

**The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.**

DISMISSAL

**Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**Liturgy from A Prayer Book for Australia
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