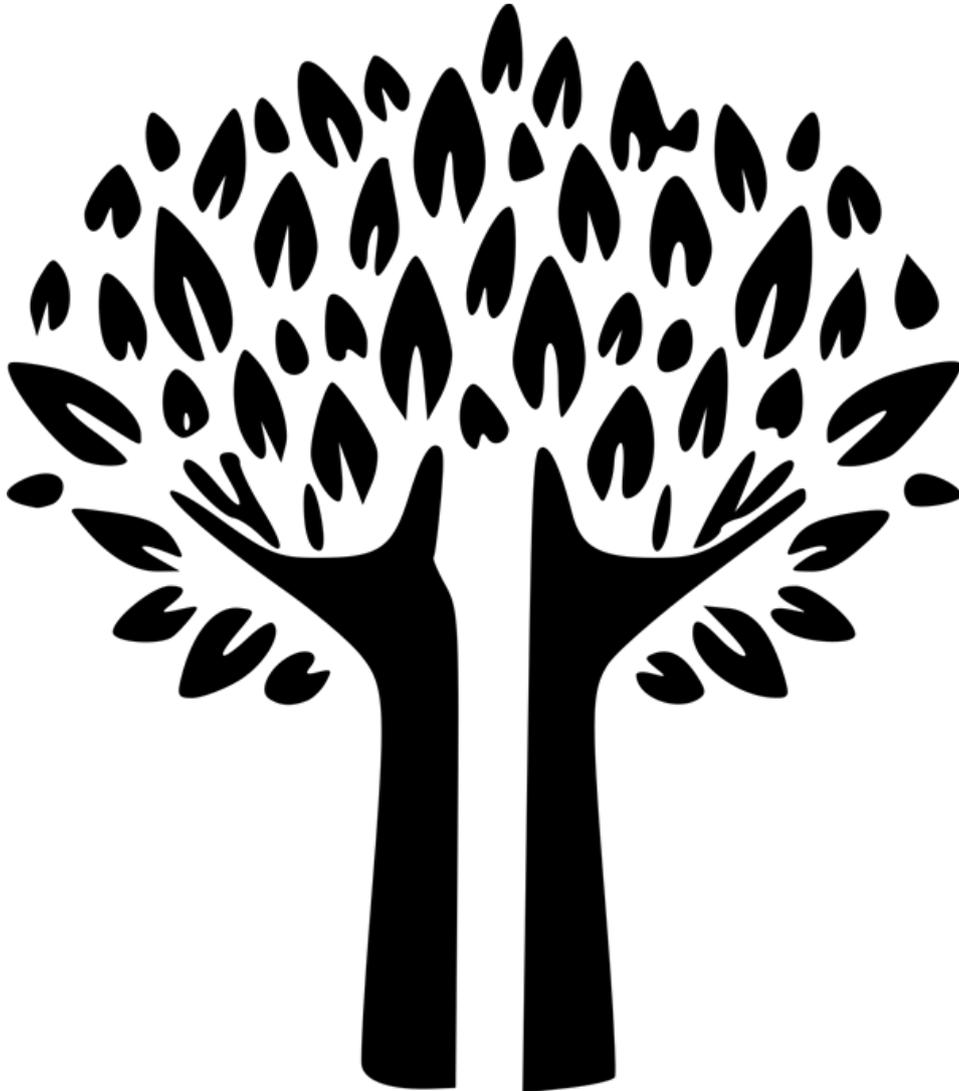


Second Sunday after Trinity

Prayers, Readings, Reflection and Song.

“Welcome to another short act of worship for the Parish Church of St Martin. For those who are able to follow it as written or listen in, I hope it offers some comfort, encouragement and a sense of being together despite the distance between us.” Rev Jonny



*Be still, and draw yourself closer to the God who rests beside you,
before you and within you.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The Lord be with you

All **And also with you**

God the Father forgives us in Christ and heals us by the Holy Spirit.

Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness,
all slander and malice,
and confess our sins to God our redeemer.

Father, you come to meet us when we return to you:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus, you died on the cross for our sins:
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Spirit, you give us life and peace:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

May the Father forgive *you* by the death of his Son and strengthen you to live in the power of the Spirit all *your* days.

All **Amen**

The Collect for the day

Lord, you have taught us
that all our doings without love are nothing worth:
send your Holy Spirit
and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,
the true bond of peace and of all virtues,
without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.
Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading, Matthew 10: 24-39

Jesus said:

"A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; 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 Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

"So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. 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. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

"Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but

whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

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; and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household. 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; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God**

Reflection

‘Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me.’

Do you remember being taught that one when you were young? Looking back, I can honestly say that it is one of the worst pieces of advice ever given. Harmful even.

What were the grown-ups hoping for? That we would learn to ignore harsh words? That we would believe that abuse is only ever physical? Of course it’s not – words, emotions, prejudice, even silence, can all be forms of abuse levelled against a person, especially a child. Of course words can hurt you.

Jesus talks about two kinds of evil. That which attacks the body, and that which attacks the soul as well. In complete contrast to that poor advice we were given about sticks and stones, Jesus actually instructs us not to worry so much about the physical harm that can be done to us – the material harm, the financial harm – those things that the eye can see. Instead for Jesus it is the much deeper harm of mind, soul and spirit that we must look out for. It is that pain which goes far deeper.

And it is that pain – those wounds – which are still festering in so much of our society today. The racism – individual and institutional – along with the sexism, classism, and xenophobia, upon which the spotlight is now being shone.

The Black Lives Matter Movement cannot - *must not* - be ignored. Some may question the tactics, but I cannot question the importance of the message. From Minneapolis to Melbourne, and across countless nations, voices are being raised that can no longer be silent in the face of a million injustices, small and large. We may have reached a point where presidents and princesses are people of colour; but below that, in every stream of society, there are still the glances, the preferences, the unspoken allegiances which swell the current of racism today.

The church is no exception. We have played our part in racism over the centuries, and you only have to look at the House of Bishops to see that we are still playing our part right now.

I don't have all the answers. But that is no excuse for silence.

Jesus has the answer. Jesus has the message and he calls on us to proclaim it: **“So have no fear... for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops.”**

And his message is this: **“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.”**

In that message is the heart of the Gospel. What I spoke about with you only a fortnight ago: You matter. You are of immeasurable value. You are loved.

God made us, and he knows us, and he loves us. He made us different – thank goodness – he made us tall, short, right-handed, left-handed, black, white, male female, straight, gay. God ordained variety and complexity from the very beginning. But he never, ever, ever, loved any one of us, or any group of us, more than another. ‘Loving less’ is impossible to the nature of God. You may as well ask the Sun to rise to in the West.

That is our truth. We are all loved.

But there is more. And the next part is more difficult.

Jesus goes on to say what sound like very harsh words, about hating mothers and brothers and sisters. We cannot gloss over this.

What Jesus is saying is this. If you deny me, if you deny the truth of God's love, then things will fall apart. To accept God's love – to fully understand it

and accept it – you must accept that there is no hierarchy. There is no system of seeing the world that is better than God’s all-embracing love.

Not nationalism, not patriotism, not socialism or capitalism, not white-privilege or male-privilege, not intellectualism or athleticism or artistic ability. Not even marriage or family.

God’s love – which both created us and redeems us; which set all things going and sets all things right – is above and beyond anything we can conceive of, beyond anything to which we may pledge loyalty. Even family.

I do not hate my children, or my mother-in-law, and I don’t expect to start hating them anytime soon. But the love I have for them is only possible because of the love of God. God comes first.

And if I, or any of us, start to quietly build up other structures around us, or around our community, and if we start to think those structures are more important than God’s love.... Well, that’s when things will start to go wrong.

Because pretty soon, love of country or love of money or love of Southampton Football club, becomes a love of people who love those things too. And then before long, the people who do not love the things I love become harder and harder to love at all. There is my group, and there is your group. There are people who look like me, who talk like me, who spend money like me, and then there is everyone else.

When you think about it like that, it’s easy to see how racial prejudice and injustice can become so deeply entrenched.

Well, Jesus didn’t come to bring peace to such systems of preferential love, Jesus came to bring the sword to them. Jesus came to tear down systems of oppression and systems of privilege. And he does so because he loves us. Because he knows that the more we love such systems, the less we can love and be loved by God.

That is why he says, if these things have become your life – if your money or your pride or your privilege have become the things you live for – you must lose them. Tear them from yourself before they consume you.

If you thought those things were your life, then you must lose them, and only then will we truly find again the life our God has laid out for us. Only then can we appreciate the depth of the Father’s love for us – for all of us – and only then can we truly live.

Amen.

Song

**Oh Lord, All The World Belongs To You
And You Are Always Making All Things New.
What Is Wrong, You Forgive,
And The New Life You Give
Is What's Turning The World Upside Down.**

**The World's Only Loving To Its Friends,
But Your Way Of Loving Never Ends,
Loving Enemies Too;
And This Loving With You
Is What's Turning The World Upside Down.**

**The World Lives Divided And Apart,
You Draw Men Together, And We Start
In Our Friendship To See
That In Harmony We
Can Be Turning The World Upside Down.**

**The World Wants The Wealth To Live In State,
But You Show A New Way To Be Great:
Like A Servant You Came,
And If We Do The Same,
We'll Be Turning The World Upside Down.**

**Oh Lord All The World Belongs To You
And You Are Always Making All Things New.
Send Your Spirit On All
In Your Church Whom You Call
To Be Turning The World Upside Down.**

Prayers of Intercession

Pray for one another – those in our church community

Pray for the Parish, the Island and the World

Pray for the sick, the isolated, the anxious and depressed

Pray for the dying, and those who mourn

Pray for yourselves, and for your own needs

Lord in your mercy
All Hear our prayer

The Intercessions may end as follows

Merciful Father

All **Accept these prayers
for the sake of your son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**

The Peace

Peace to you from God our heavenly Father.
Peace from his Son Jesus Christ who is our peace.
Peace from the Holy Spirit, the life-giver.
The peace of the triune God be always with you

All **and also with you.**

Let us pray with confidence, as our Saviour taught us

All **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.**

The Blessing.

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love,
defend you on every side,
and guide you in truth and peace;
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and
the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**