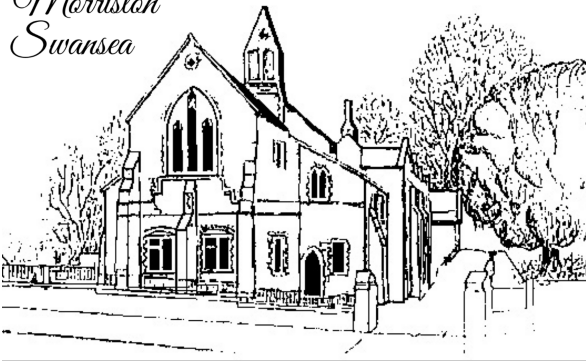


# THE MINISTRY AREA OF TAWE ISAF

## The Parishes of Morriston & Llangyfelach with Clase

*St. David's Church  
Morriston  
Swansea*



*Llangyfelach Parish Church*



# MORNING PRAYER

**The thirteenth Sunday after Trinity**

**6th September 2020**

## **Preparation**

O Lord, open our lips  
**and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

We have come together as the family of God in our Father's presence, to offer him praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive his word, to bring before him the needs of the world and to seek his grace, that, through his Son, Jesus Christ, we may give ourselves to his service.

Jesus said: 'The first commandment is: "Listen Israel! The Lord our God is the only Lord. 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.

### ***A Song of Creation (shorter version)***

- 1 Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
- 2 Bless the Lord you heavens: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
- 3 Bless the Lord you angels of the Lord: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
- 4 Bless the Lord all people on earth: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
- 5 O people of God bless the Lord: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
- 6 Bless the Lord you priests of the Lord: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
- 7 Bless the Lord you servants of the Lord: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
- 8 Bless the Lord all you of upright spirit: bless the Lord you that are holy and humble in heart.

*The Song of the Three 35-37, 60-65*

**Bless the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.**

## **HYMN**

### ***Opening Prayer***

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

### ***Silence is kept.***

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.

## **The Word of God : Psalm 119.33-40**

33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes • and I shall keep it to the end.  
34 Give me understanding and I shall keep your law; • I shall keep it with my whole heart.  
35 Lead me in the path of your commandments, • for therein is my delight.  
36 Incline my heart to your testimonies • and not to unjust gain.  
37 Turn away my eyes lest they gaze on vanities; • O give me life in your ways.  
38 Confirm to your servant your promise, • which stands for all who fear you.  
39 Turn away the reproach which I dread, • because your judgements are good.  
40 Behold, I long for your commandments; • in your righteousness give me life.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

## *Romans 13.8-end*

8 Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. 11 Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; 13let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## *Canticle : A Song of David.*

**Splendour and majesty are yours, O God;  
you are exalted as head over all.**

1 Blessed are you, God of Israel, for ever and ever, for yours is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour and the majesty.  
2 Everything in heaven and on earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head over all.  
3 Riches and honour come from you and you rule over all.  
4 In your hand are power and might; yours it is to give power and strength to all.  
5 And now we give you thanks, our God, and praise your glorious name.

6 For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.

*1 Chronicles 29.10b-13, 14b*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Splendour and majesty are yours, O God; you are exalted as head over all.**

*SECOND READING : Matthew 18.15-20*

15 'If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. 16But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. 18 Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

For the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead

**And Christ shall give you light.**

You have died and your life is hid with Christ in God.

**Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead.**

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on the earth.

**And Christ shall give you light.**

When Christ our life appears you will appear with him in glory.

**Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light.**

*from Colossians 3*

*Gospel Canticle The Benedictus*

**You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour,  
born of the house of your servant David.**

1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, who has come to his people and set them free.

2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, born of the house of his servant David.

3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old to save us from our enemies,

from the hands of all that hate us,  
4 To show mercy to our ancestors, and to remember his holy covenant.  
5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
6 Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.  
7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
8 To give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of all their sins.  
9 In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

*Luke 1.68-79*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

***Refrain:***

**You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour, born of the house of your servant David.**

### **Prayers**

Jesus gave us an example for living and dying that we might follow. Being his disciple may not be easy since his teaching clashes with the world's values. However, he promises us that our struggle will not be wasted. Confident of Christ's promises we come before our God, offering ourselves, our burdens and our needs for healing and consolation for all people and all of his creation, especially those who live in doubt and fear.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY. HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Let us pray that we may always remember and give thanks for Jesus coming into the world to be one with us. May we see how his death and Resurrection help us to make sense of our present suffering.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY. HEAR OUR PRAYER.

We pray that we may face our trials with faith and confidence in God's love. Asking for the wisdom to remain open to being infused with God's healing grace.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY. HEAR OUR PRAYER.

We pray for all who are suffering in body, mind or soul at this time. Strength for those who care for them – and consolation for those who are grieving.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY. HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Let us pray for all those who have no faith, for those who feel their lives have no meaning or purpose. For all who are in despair.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY. HEAR OUR PRAYER.

We bring before God with thanks all who have been our strength and help in dark times. May God reward them and help us to follow their example in meeting other's needs in due time.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY. HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Let us now quietly bring to God our own prayers at this time. ( SILENCE )

LORD IN YOUR MERCY. HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Lord our God, you alone hold the key to life. Help us to see your hand in our journey through life and to hold fast to you, especially in time of trial. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Silence may be kept.***

***The Collect of the day is said***

Almighty God,  
who called your Church to bear witness  
that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself:  
help us to proclaim the good news of your love,  
that all who hear it may be drawn to you;  
through him who was lifted up on the cross,  
and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

***The Lord's Prayer is said***

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has 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.**

**HYMN**

## **SERMON**

There was a church where the Vicar and the organist were not getting along. As time went by, this began to spill over into the worship. The first week the vicar preached on commitment and how we all should dedicate ourselves to the service of God. The organist led the song, "I Shall Not Be Moved." The second week the Vicar preached on tithing and how we all should gladly give to the work of the Lord. The organist led the song, "Jesus Paid it All." The third week he preached on gossiping and how we should all watch our tongues. The organist led the song, "I Love to Tell the Story."

With all this going on, the Vicar became very disgusted over the situation and the following Sunday told the congregation that he was considering resigning. The musician led the song, "Oh Why Not Tonight?" As it came to pass, the vicar did indeed resign. The next week he informed the church that it was Jesus who led him there and it was Jesus who was taking him away. The music leader led the song, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

If another member of the church sins against you...just talk about them behind their back.

If another member of the church sins against you...just call a bunch of people in the church to complain about them. You may even want to start a letter-writing campaign against them.

If another member of the church sins against you...just send them a nasty email. Copy the clergy, and, while you're at it, CC the bishop.

If another member of the church sins against you...don't say anything. Just avoid them. Un-friend them on Facebook. And, if you can't avoid them on Sundays, then just leave the church.

...No.

In the eighteenth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus talks directly to his followers to tell us what our fellowship is to be like. If a brother or sister in the faith hurts you, angers you, saddens you, or does you wrong in any way...you go and talk to them about it directly, one on one.

Not only does this manner of working out difficulties lead to forgiveness, it also does so in a graceful way. The offended party isn't dragging the offender through the mud. If it gets worked out here, no one else needs to know.

Forgiveness is available without fear of embarrassment in the church community. It can be done quietly. Lovingly. Gracefully.

However, when that doesn't work, you bring another person or two with you. This "ratchets" things up a bit, but still provides for dignity and grace amidst discretion.

And then, if things can't be worked out there, you bring it to the whole church.

Many churches become totally undone by backbiting and whisper campaigns and gossip. Where divisions and infighting become so the mission and worship of the church become lost in the middle of arguments between members. It can be devastating-and not just to attendance and but it's devastating to the Christian witness of that parish, and the Universal Church. If new members were to come into this type of church they would struggle to find the love and peace of Jesus.

For when that happens, the church ceases to be a place of forgiveness, grace, and mercy. One might say that it ceases to be a church in any real way.

Forgiveness is meant to be at the core of who we are, if we can't do it between ourselves in the church, how can we ever be agents of reconciliation in the world? How can we talk about Gods love and forgiveness to others if we cannot live it in our lives ?

Jesus gives a clear blue-print for how our communities might be holy places where holy relationships might flourish. And, it's something that we need to practice until it is so ingrained in our DNA, we can't imagine living another way. Our whole lives should be a reflection of the love that God has for us and where all equally valued children under the care of our Heavenly Father. In our conversation and actions use that old saying : What would Jesus do ?

Because, for Jesus, there isn't another way other than the way of reconciliation and love.

## **HYMN**

### **The Conclusion**

God our creator, you feed your children with the true manna, the living bread from heaven: let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.**

## **HYMN**