**ORDER OF SERVICE**

**Trinity Sunday** 07 – 06 – 2020

**SCRIPTURE SENTENCE** (2 Corinthians 11-13)

Brothers and sisters … strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace.  And the God of love and peace will be with you.

Hymn Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DAyi2G9wr3U>

*Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord;*

*Shout to the Rock our Salvation!*

*Come, let us greet Him with a song of praise…*

*For great is our God, the King of all kings.*

*Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!*

 (1)

Let us bow down and worship the Lord;

Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!

For this is our God, whose people we are.

Come, Let us sing with jot to the Lord!

Come, Let us sing with jot to the Lord!

*Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord;*

*Shout to the Rock our Salvation!*

*Come, let us greet Him with a song of praise…*

*For great is our God, the King of all kings.*

*Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!*

 (2)

Great is the Lord and worthy of our praise;

Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!

Sing to the Lord, and bless His name.

Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!

Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!

*Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord;*

*Shout to the Rock our Salvation!*

*Come, let us greet Him with a song of praise…*

*For great is our God, the King of all kings.*

*Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!*

 (3)

All that has life and breath shall rejoice;

Come, let us sing with joy to the lord!

The great and the small, all creatures of God.

Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!

Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!

*Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord;*

*Shout to the Rock our Salvation!*

*Come, let us greet Him with a song of praise…*

*For great is our God, the King of all kings.*

*Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!*

 (4)

Heaven and earth rejoice in His name;

Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!

He governs the world with Justice and Truth.

Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord;

Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!

*Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord;*

*Shout to the Rock our Salvation!*

*Come, let us greet Him with a song of praise…*

*For great is our God, the King of all kings.*

*Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!*

*Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!*

Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord...

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**PRAYERS**

We confess, O Lord that we have limited who has access to your love by our unwillingness to reach out to those unlike us. We have deprived people of the Good News of Christ, and deprived ourselves of the gifts and relationships you have for us. Forgive our overprotective hearts and narrow minds, and give us holy boldness to share your boundless love. We pray this day for all families everywhere. We ask that you might be especially close to those experiencing times of difficulty or need. So, open our hearts to worship you together and share the joy we experience in you. Send the power of your Spirit that we understand today’s message for us, and subsequently put it into practice.

(We say together): **Our Father, who art in heaven, hollowed by thy … Amen.**

**READINGS** 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace.  And the God of love and peace will be with you. 12 Greet one another with a holy kiss.  13 All God’s people here send their greetings.

Matthew 28:16-20 **The Great Commission**

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go.  17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.  19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Hymn One more step along the way I go

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TL2LrOAZVZ8>

One more step along the world I go;

One more step along the world I go
From the old things to the new,
Keep me travelling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me travelling along with you.

Round the corners of the world I turn,
More and more about the world I learn;
All the new things that I see
You'll be looking at along with me.
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me travelling along with you.

As I travel through the bad and good,
Keep me travelling the way I should.
Where I see … no way to go,
You'll be telling me the way, I know.
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me travelling along with you.

Give me courage when the world is rough,
Keep me loving though the world is tough;
Leap and sing in all I do,
Keep me travelling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me travelling along with you.

You are older than the world can be,
You are younger than the life in me;
Ever old … and ever new,
Keep me travelling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me travelling along with you.

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**SERMON**

**Rejoice; strive for full restoration. Encourage one another. Be of one mind, and live in peace**.  **And the God of love and peace will be with you.**

(2 Corinthians 13:11-13 & Matthew 28:16-20)

Today is Trinity Sunday: God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit have been revealed. The message stresses the **Great Commission**, which is about going into the world to fulfil what Jesus commanded his disciples to do. It includes Christ’s promise to be always with His disciples. So, we have two things: the **command** and the **promise**. This promise anticipates the coming of the Holy Spirit.

The saying in my culture goes: “**God helps those who also helps themselves**.” It means that you won’t be blamed for not doing anything, if you have no means, no physical energy or money, **provided you tried** and had the eagerness or willingness. Successes, fulfilments or accomplishments are mostly seen first as results of one’s own effort that is blessed by God. The good news is that we are aware, well informed of what God wants: God said it and Christ explained in plain words. Yet, the Holy Spirit guides us constantly to what is the will of God.

This happens also in many other ways, including Sunday preaching, our Bible readings, prayers and many more opportunity offered by the members of the Church or its leaders. We have very good example from the first disciples. Jesus called them and taught them. Before returning to the heavens, he gave the **plan of action to his disciples and other followers**: to pray always and seek the Holy Spirit’s guidance, to make more disciples of all nations to the end of the world, by teaching people to obey whatever Christ has commanded the disciples.

The Gospel reading for this morning shows us that the Disciples of Christ had been **attentively listening to his commands and teaching**: and when they saw him, they recognised him. Thus, they worshiped him. They showed the very **signs of maturity**: that is why Christ told them precisely,

*“Go and make disciples of all nations, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

The two parallel things **the command and the promise are together**. Then, our saying is true: ***if you move, God comes to help***. The only thing missing in our cultural understanding is that **it is God who took first the initiative to save us** (help people in Old & New Testaments he promised): I am always with you till the end of the age. It is also true that good work rewards and all starts in the mind. As mentioned earlier, ***even if you are in bed, sick or tired***, ***you will be rewarded for your willingness***. It is therefore very good to have good friends or neighbours who encourage, someone by your side who may tell you: “try!”

This is a right time to heed Christ’s message, **Pentecost was a reminder** – the helper promised is here – to “***Go and make disciples everywhere teaching them what we have heard from Christ***. There are many needs, many people who don’t know where to bang their heads, particular due to the uncertainty with Covid19 and most confusing attitude and subsequent messages. You may have realised that knowledgeable people of the world do not have clear answer to the problems we are facing. Scientific don’t understand this pandemic, economists do not know what to do to maintain stability: **only God knows**.

This situation has caused chaos: with added conflicts and narcissism mingled with fear. The only hope is faith in God: so, we must rejoice that we have the power of the Spirit, and go, tell the people to **“strive for full restoration, to encourage one another, to be of one mind, and to live in peace**: **that the God of love and peace will be with them as he is with us in Jesus’ name; amen.**

**PRAYER OF INTERCESSION AND OFFERING**

Dear Father, we have had the opportunity to worship you in special way, during this time of uncertainty. We thank you for the joy we have and the care you provide for us. We continue to pray for those who are suffering from the virus; we seek your healing that they may glorify you through the action of your hand.

 As we still pray, we remember the nations of America that are in conflict due to different colours of their skins. Send your Spirit to people of faith that standing by its truth, they may challenge those who create endless insecurity. We thank you for the relative calm in our country and pray for new blessings.

God who gave us the Holy Spirit and wisdom, we thank you once again for all you have done for us and given us. In return, we put aside this moment to pray for ways we offer our offering to you. We pray for blessing to those who give generously, but also to those who are grateful to be served with generous hearts. Extend your blessing that those more needy people find your grace and overcome the odds of the pandemic. We pray for all these in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn My peace I give unto you

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59ZncdMw1pc>

My peace I give unto you;
It's a peace that the world cannot give
It's a peace that the world cannot understand
Peace to know, peace to live. My peace I give unto you.

My joy I give unto you;
It's a joy that the world cannot give
It's a joy that the world cannot understand

My love I give unto you;
It's a love that the world cannot give
It's a love that the world cannot understand
Love to know, love to live. My love I give unto you.

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Joy to know, joy to live. My joy I give unto you.

**BLESSING**

Now, let us go forth as God’s beloved, knowing the fullness of God’s presence through the grace of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. May we all be strengthened and encouraged to share the Good News of God’s welcome and the healing of everyone we meet. Amen.