**6th September 2020 Video Service**​ **Trinity 13**
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Hello everyone , welcome to our time of worship together, you will find the text version of this service which has the links to the music on our website, <https://christchurchlille.fr/>

Wherever you are and however good or difficult life is at the moment, and it does indeed have its challenging moments particularly with Covid-19, we come from our scattered lives to meet with God.

As we bring ourselves into God’s presence, we still our hearts and minds in a short time of silence

*Silence*

*Greeting*

​Faithful one, whose word is life:

come with saving power

to free our praise,

inspire our prayer

and shape our lives

for the kingdom of your Son,

Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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**Opening Hymn** Jesus Stand Among Us

<https://youtu.be/HWt5z4G7F1A>

**The Gospel Reading**​

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Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew

***All***   **Glory to you, O Lord.**​

​**Matthew 18.15-20**

**Reproving Another Who Sins**

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. 18Truly 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. 20For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.​

***All***   **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon/Homily**​

**God is present**

You may have noticed that I have been pointing out over the past two weeks that God is present. His very name which we speak as Yahweh, means I AM WHO AM, or I am present.

In these strange times in which we live, the challenge and our prayer is to see that God is indeed present with us, wherever we are, in whatever circumstances we find ourselves, he is there. Jesus’ final words on earth were a promise to be with his disciples even to the end of the age. When we look at the news, we pray for the situations unfolding before us, tragedy, lives and homes lost to hurricane or fire or indeed firearms. We think of the people who are in despair, who have lost everything, and we pray for them. By praying we are reminding ourselves that God is present and by lifting people to him as we pray, we acknowledge that he is present in this world and is at work.

How often do you pray for our church community? For individuals that you know? For those who are unwell or struggling?

Do you pray to the God who is present when you don’t get on with someone at church? Have there been misunderstandings that remain unresolved? Do you have a problem with someone that remains unresolved?

God is present.

The passage in Matthew’s Gospel is a sobering reminder that there have been problems in our church communities from the very beginning. So many different people called together by love of God and a desire to worship him. However, as we know, it often isn’t a simple matter to live together peacefully! And when there are difficulties, here is a way to work through them. It begins with having a private word, and if that can’t resolve the problem, then it moves on to a small meeting and could end up with the person being estranged from the community.

Suppose that it is **you** that has caused upset and someone comes to you for a private word? How do you respond? We are not always as gracious to hear about our own errors as we are quick to tell others of theirs 😊

If we, or the other person, refuses to listen, then we need to think about our motives. Are we desperate to be proved right? Do we refuse to see another point of view; decline to compromise?

God is present

By being ready to challenge or be challenged, we allow God to be present in our difficulties and for him to be at work in us. Verses 19 and 20 *“Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.****20****For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”*

A vision of unity that is worth working for.

Either side of this passage are powerful images of pardon and mercy. Forgiveness and restoration are the goal and aim of Christian life and community. We have no right to nurse grudges, whine about others and resist efforts at healing. Neither is it right to pretend that nothing has happened and to brush it under the carpet, to hope it will go away. Forgiveness doesn’t happen by itself, it is a choice we make. When we are able to agree, to resolve a problem together, God is present.

Before we move to a time of prayer, let’s take a moment or two to call to mind unresolved issues we have and bring them to God for his help.

​*Prayers*

​We begin with prayers of penitence.

​The grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all.

Let us come to him, in sorrow for our sins,

seeking healing and salvation.

## ​Confession/ Saying Sorry

**Almighty God,**

**long-suffering and of great goodness:**

**I confess to you,**

**I confess with my whole heart**

**my neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments,**

**my wrong doing, thinking, and speaking;**

**the hurts I have done to others,**

**and the good I have left undone.**

**O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against you;**

**and raise me to newness of life;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

**The almighty and merciful Lord**

**grant us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins,**

**time for amendment of life, and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**

The Collect​ Trinity 13

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​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.  **Amen**

Prayers for Others

### Prayers for the Day by Thom Shuman

When we hold out our hands
to be cuffed by loneliness,
you clasp our wrists
to pull us into your heart.
When our lives are shattered
by the injustices done to those
passed over by the world,
your love puts us back together,
so we can serve them with your hope.
Emancipating God,
we praise you!

When we would build walls
between us and our neighbors,
you come to be the welcoming gate.
When we would curse someone
who has hurt us in our souls,
you sing us songs of blessing.
When we would focus only
on our needs and our desires,
you hand us the dinnerware
and ask us to set the Table.
Ever-near Salvation,
we would follow you!

When we would feed on
our bitter brokenness,
you would offer us
the Bread of reconciliation.
When we would grasp
the Cup of peace,
and drink it to the last drop,
you whisper, 'offer some
to those you don't like.'
Liberating Spirit,
we would be filled with you!

God in Community, Holy in One,
free us of all fears and doubts,
as we pray as Jesus has taught us,
Our Father . . .

***All***   **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.**​

**Lead us not into temptation**​

**but deliver us from evil.**​

**For the kingdom, the power,**​

**and the glory are yours**​

**now and for ever.**​

**Amen.**

**¶    The Dismissal**​

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*The Blessing*​

The Lord has done great things for us,
 and we are filled with joy. *(Psalm 126:3)*

The blessing of God almighty,​

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,​

be among you and remain with you always.​ **Amen.**​

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**Notices**​

I hope you keep an eye on our website for all the latest news. This past week we set up a virtual shop where you are able to buy a virtual cup of coffee and a piece of cake! Thank you to those who have already bought some cups of coffee. The virtual shop will expand with more goodies in a couple of months 😊

Once again, may I thank you for continuing to support our mission and ministry by your prayers and donations?

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**Hymn**

All hail the pow’r of Jesus’ name

<https://youtu.be/i3-SwidavfU>