

Living Thankfully Before God

How should we live in response as those who have been redeemed by Jesus and given the means of grace? If we are right to be thankful for the good things that are done for us by our fellow human beings, then clearly we should be truly thankful to God for the much greater things that he has done for us. It is not enough for us to say that we are grateful to other people for what they have done to us, but we need to show the reality of our gratitude in the way we behave towards them. Similarly, it is not enough for us to say either privately or in church that we are thankful for what God has done for us. We demonstrate the reality of our thankfulness in the way that we behave. The thankful life has a particular shape. It involves service to God and which takes the form of living before God in 'holiness and righteousness.' These are technical theological terms, but what they mean is very simple. They mean living a distinctive way of life that reflects the character of God.

The Bible and the subsequent Christian tradition contain a great many detailed accounts of what it might mean to live in this way in various different situations. However, what lies at the heart of all these accounts gives coherence to them is that they are all rooted in the three virtues of faith, hope and love referred to by St Paul in 1 Corinthians 13.

Faith means trust that the biblical story tells us the truth about who God is, what God is like, what God has done for us and who we are called to be. It is this trust that underlies everything else in the Christian life.

Faith leads to hope because, as we have seen, the biblical story makes a claim about the future. It tells us that God's plan for us and for the world will reach its perfect fulfilment even though it has not yet done so. Living the Christian life involves hope because trusting in the truth of the biblical story means living in the light of the belief that God will keep his promise. He will bring to completion the future that has already begun to break into the world through the life death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit. **Finally, faith and hope lead to love.**

Bincombe with Broadway Upwey and Buckland Ripers



Welcome to Church today

**The Lord is at my right hand; I shall not fall.
Please take these notes away with you**

June 27th 2010

Broadway 10.30am
Bincombe 9.15am
Upwey 10.30am
Buckland 6.00pm

Fourth Sunday after Trinity

Family Worship (Rector)
Holy Communion (Rector)
Family Communion (Revd Pat Jones)
Evening Service (Rector)

1 Kings 19:15 - 21; Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51 - 62 pp 925ff

Bibles - page 361 1171

1040

The Prayer for Today

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;
that with you as our ruler and guide
we may so pass through things temporal
that we lose not our hold on things eternal;
grant this, heavenly Father,
for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake. Amen

U-R-4-Given

Introduction to the Peace

We are all one in Christ Jesus. We belong to him through faith,
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.
The peace of the Risen Lord be always with you.
and also with you.

COMMUNION We welcome all who are members of their own
Churches to receive the sacrament at any of our Communion Services.

Today's Gospel Luke 9.51 - 62

As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" But Jesus turned and rebuked them, and they went to another village. As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."

Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

He said to another man, "Follow me."

But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family."

Jesus replied, "No-one who puts his hand to the plough and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

Archbishops: don't fight shy of evangelism

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have told their church not to be afraid to seek conversions, even in 'multi-faith Britain'. Dr Rowan Williams and Dr John Sentamu admitted that many Anglicans are nervous about sharing their faith today but said evangelism, while 'contentious', is part of 'our vocation'. The two leaders were writing the forward to *Sharing the Gospel of Salvation*, a report commissioned by the church's General Synod.

The two archbishops recognised that 'religious diversity', a 'society fixated on personal choice' and the Church's 'cultural insensitivity' in the past have all helped to produce today's caution. But they said, followers of other religions want Christians to be 'upfront' about their beliefs and 'Conversion must never become a word of which Christians fight shy'

Notices

Monday	7.00pm	Prayers and Chat at the Rectory
Tuesday	10.00am	Holy Communion – St Laurence Upwey
Wednesday	3.00pm	Funeral of Ian Lock at St Laurence Upwey
Wednesday	7.15pm	Deanery Synod at St Nicholas Broadwey
Thursday	10.30am	Holy Communion at St Nicholas Broadwey
Saturday	7.30am	Bloke's Breakfast at St Nicholas Broadwey

July 4th

Broadwey	10.30am	Family Worship (Vicky Piggott-Genge)
Bincombe	9.15am	Holy Communion (Rector)
Upwey	10.30am	Family Worship (Rector)
Buckland	6.00pm	Evening Service (Rector)

Isaiah 66:10-14; Galatians 6:1-6; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20 pp 932ff

Bibles - page 753

1172

1041

Church makes last-ditch effort to avoid split over women bishops

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have intervened in proposed legislation on women bishops to avoid an exodus of traditionalists from the Church of England. The amendment they suggest to rules due for debate at the church's governing body next month would create 'co-ordinate' bishops. These male leaders would stand in for female diocesan bishops where parishes were unwilling to accept a woman's oversight. The archbishops are desperate to maintain their church's 'mixed economy' and see this as the only solution because of the reluctance to compromise by both sides on the women bishops debate. According to the secretary-general of General Synod, women bishops will be the 'big-ticket item' for debate at July's assembly. Some 17 hours are tabled to discuss it.

Our St Laurence Upwey Summer Fete raised a great total of £1052.

Well done to all who organised and worked hard to make such a good amount for the Church.

Government is not, and cannot be, a 'God free zone.'
Christians are called to remind those in government of this fact.