

**Sunday Worship for 4th July 2021
The Fifth Sunday after Trinity
From Holy Trinity Tottenham
'Homelessness and Rough Sleeping'**

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Rev Dr 'Bunmi Fagbemi, Vicar of Holy Trinity Tottenham

HYMN

All my hope on God is founded

Choir of Holy Trinity Tottenham

All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown, he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tow'r and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tow'r.

Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ the Son.
Christ doth call one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.

*Source: (CAHON 19 – Verses 1,2&4)
CCLI - 1218924*

The Minister says

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

All

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

The Minister says

As children of a loving God, full of everlasting mercy,
let us turn to Him to acknowledge our weaknesses,
our fears and our imperfections in word and deed.

Silence is kept.

Your grace is sufficient for us.

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Your power is made perfect in our weakness.

Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Your love is greater than all our fears.

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

A reader says

A sentence from Psalm 123

Read by Mr Joduni Okrafo-Smart, Churchwarden

To you, I lift up my eyes,
O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

Silence

REFLECTION

Mrs Joan Murray and Mrs Christiana Imoukhuede, Parishioners

“At nighttime, society disappears.”

That is Ben Judah’s startling awareness of London as a rough sleeper. Ben Judah is an author and investigative reporter - a George Orwell of our era. His perception is startling because it contrasts with the widespread sense of London as a 24/7 bustling ‘world city’. Yet the idea that cities, towns, suburbs, and even villages atomize at night should not surprise us.

People only see what they want to see.

The reality is that a Dives sits at the heart of the human experience. A Dives unaware of the sore-ridden Lazarus at our doorsteps.

Thankfully some are given to see.

Among the many who see are Christian Churches and dedicated charities, often spurred by religious compassion.

Changing Lives and St Mungo’s are just two such charities.

Changing Lives is in its 50th year and serves the Northeast of England.

St Mungo’s reaches out across Southern England.

Their work and approaches to the rescue and recovery of those blighted by homelessness and rough sleeping are exemplary and deserving of support. Nevertheless, much good work goes on locally - as here in Tottenham through.

Pastor Alex (who was awarded an MBE in 2018) talks about his outreach to the homeless and rough sleepers.

TESTIMONY

Highway of Holiness Ministries

Pastor Alex Gyasi

A reader says:

A sentence from Psalm 123

Read by Mr Joduni Okrafo-Smart, Churchwarden

As the eyes of servants
look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of the maid
to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to the Lord our God,
until he has mercy upon us.

Silence

REFLECTION

Given by Mrs Joan Murray and Mrs Christiana Imoukhuede, Parishioners

Many homeless families face constant relocation, often moving from one substandard accommodation, to the next. At our food bank service here at Holy Trinity, we quickly learnt that requests for ring-pull cans are not indulgences. What's the use of a can-opener without a kitchen or worktop? We recognised that mothers limiting their preferences to powder soup and dry foodstuffs are driven not by unhealthy choices, as by the practicalities of their own safe living conditions. Besides, it is now common for families, after enduring periods of substandard living conditions, to be rehoused outside the local borough.

Whilst many charities inevitably step in to help with the settlement of families, this blight of homelessness among families has worsened in an insidious new front. Schools now must manage the frustrations which homelessness and other insecurities surrounding it impose on punctuality, attendance, and other issues pertinent to the learning environment.

The following contribution from Holy Trinity Primary School, highlights how this new front sits awkwardly upon our schools.

TESTIMONY

Holy Trinity School

Yr 6 Pupils, Holy Trinity School

A reader says:

PSALM

Verses from Psalm 123

Read by Mr Joduni Okrafo-Smart, Churchwarden

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt. Our soul has had more than its fill of the scorn of those who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud.

Silence

REFLECTION

Given by Mrs Joan Murray and Mrs Christiana Imoukhuede, Parishioners

Homelessness and rough sleeping are multifaceted and complex issues. However, they also offer mission opportunities for the Church to engage with property developers and affected communities. In the last decade or so, the Diocese of London has engaged in shaping such opportunities, including among emergent housing estates. Father Andrew Williams has been at the forefront of such an effort in Tottenham.

He is the inaugural vicar of a brand new parish church conceived to engage with a property developer, and to respond to the new community at Tottenham Hale Village. Our contributions will now end with a brief narrative of this constructive missional contribution to Housing Justice from Father Andrew.

TESTIMONY

Rev Andrew Williams

Vicar of St Francis at the Engine Room, Tottenham

HYMN

And can it be

Choir of Holy Trinity Tottenham

And can it be that I should gain
an int'rest in the Saviour's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain?
For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

*Amazing love! how can it be
That thou, my God, should die for me?*

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
fast bound in sin and nature's night;
thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
my chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

*My chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.*

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ my own.

*The bold approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ my own.*

Source: (CAHON 32 – Verses 1,4&5)
CCLI - 1218924

THE GOSPEL

Mark. (6.1-13)

Read by Mr Tolulope Fayemi, Churchwarden

The Gospeller says

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark. (6.1-13)

He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, 'Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?' And they took offence at him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honour, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.' And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, 'Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.' So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

SERMON

The Rt Rev Rob Wickham Bishop of Edmonton, Commissary Bishop of Portsmouth and Chair of the national charity, Housing Justice

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith.

All We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.
We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

INTERCESSIONS

Led by Rev Richard Carter (Associate Vicar) of St. Martin-in-the-Fields and The Nazareth Community

The response:

All Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Grant these our prayers,
O merciful father.
For the sake of your Son,
our saviour Jesus Christ.

All Amen.

THE COLLECT

The Minister then prays The Collect for the 5th Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God,
send down upon your Church
the riches of your Spirit,
and kindle in all who minister the gospel
your countless gifts of grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Rt Rev Rob Wickham Bishop of Edmonton, Commissary Bishop of Portsmouth and Chair of the national charity, Housing Justice

 Christ the Good Shepherd,
 who laid down his life for the sheep
 draw you and all who hear his voice
 to be one flock, within one fold.
 and the blessing of God Almighty,
 the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
 rest upon you and remain with you,
 today and always.

All Amen.

SONG

A song about homelessness

Choir of Holy Trinity Tottenham

This world affords to some deep, rooted peace
a home, a life, blessed with security;
but others stripped of justice, place and care,
live migrant lives, denied all certainty.

For those, Dear God, who feel at home, secure,
we pray some thorn from You may pain their flesh
that they and we may always feel the need
to seek and succour those left in distress;

That all who blessed with home and bed and roof
may ceaselessly engage to change the plight
of those denied the safety of a home,
exposed to anguish, risk both day and night.

And may we learn the deep humanity
of those bereft of basic dignities,
undone by vil'ence, war or mental health,
who, stripped of home, yet, like us, long for peace.

Together, mortals, let us stand as one,
to share the shelt'ring some are still denied;
let all know risk until all are secure,
all be exposed until all safe inside.

*Source: Composed by Rev Dr John Campbell, 10/6/21
Tune: Woodlands (Tell out my soul) CCLI - 1218924*

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Service led by Rev Dr 'Bunmi Fagbemi, Vicar of Holy Trinity Tottenham.

With thanks to Rev Richard Carter, Associate Vicar, St. Martin-in- the-Fields, Rt Rev Rob Wickham Bishop of Edmonton, Commissary Bishop of Portsmouth and Chair of the national charity, Housing Justice. Pastor Alex Gyasi (of Highway of Holiness Ministries); Staff and pupils of Holy Trinity Primary School, Tottenham and Rev Andrew Williams, Vicar of St Francis at the Engine Room, Tottenham and Rev Dr John Campbell, United Reformed Church, High Cross Tottenham. Joan Murray and Christiana Imoukhuede. The readers are Joduni Okrafo-Smart and Tolu Fayemi, Churchwardens.

Music Performed by the Choir of Holy Trinity Tottenham, Organist and Director of Music, John Khwaja.

Holy Trinity Tottenham Technical Director, Tunde Akinlotan.

BSL Interpretation by Esther Rose Bevan.

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