

Evening Prayer on Thursday 8th October 2020

Introduction and welcome

from Revd Simon Buckley,
the Rector of St Anne's Soho
(the Sybils' home church in London).

Elaine will play and sing 'Christ be Beside me'

As we settle our hearts and minds in the presence of God;

Opening Prayer:

Christ, be beside us as evening falls, be with us in our hearts and homes.
Be with those we can see before us and those whose faces we hold in our minds.
Be with us when we turn to you and be with us when we are distracted or busy.
Be with us while we are awake and watch over us when we take our rest.
To you O God, beyond us and within us, we give thanks for this day and this time of prayer; to you Lord Jesus we come in praise for revealing the Father's love; to you Holy Spirit we turn, to draw us together in love for each other and our God.

Psalm:

- 1 Not to us, Lord, not to us,
but to your name give the glory,
for the sake of your loving mercy and truth.
- 2 Why should the nations say,
'Where is now their God?'
- 3 As for our God, he is in heaven;
he does whatever he pleases.
- 4 Their idols are silver and gold,
the work of human hands.
- 5 They have mouths, but cannot speak;
eyes have they, but cannot see;
- 6 They have ears, but cannot hear;
noses have they, but cannot smell;
- 7 They have hands, but cannot feel;
feet have they, but cannot walk;
not a whisper do they make from their throats.
- 8 Those who make them shall become like them
and so will all who put their trust in them.

- 9 But you, Israel, put your trust in the Lord;
he is their help and their shield.
- 10 House of Aaron, trust in the Lord;
he is their help and their shield.
- 11 You that fear the Lord, trust in the Lord;
he is their help and their shield.
- 12 The Lord has been mindful of us and he will bless us;
may he bless the house of Israel;
may he bless the house of Aaron;
- 13 May he bless those who fear the Lord,
both small and great together.
- 14 May the Lord increase you more and more,
you and your children after you.
- 15 May you be blest by the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.
- 16 The heavens are the heavens of the Lord,
but the earth he has entrusted to his children.
- 17 The dead do not praise the Lord,
nor those gone down into silence;
- 18 But we will bless the Lord,
from this time forth for evermore.
- Alleluia.

Glory be 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.

Reading: 1 Corinthians 12: 12-26

One Body with Many Members

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each

one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

Reflection on the reading By Fr Simon

Music from Elaine:

All Are Welcome

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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Tune: TWO OAKS (see RW #219)

Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions.
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger.
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter.
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Responses:

We pray for the church

That it may be a house where all are welcome

We pray for communities

In which all are cherished and held as equals

We pray for a world

In which the we recognise our interdependence.

Prayers

Fr Simon will begin and end these,

to include a prayer of your own please raise your hand and he will invite you to unmute yourself.

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in Heaven...

The Grace