

Simple Table Services

for

18th Sunday after Pentecost - 1st Sunday of Advent 2020

Compiled in continuing response to this time of isolation caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) and in recognition of the growing development of faith and worship in the domestic context, complementary to public worship in our church buildings.

Compiled by Keith Slater

Overview: Simple Table Services

These simple table services are offered in response to the 2020 ongoing context of isolation imposed because of the coronavirus — *recognising the place of worship in the domestic context*. These continue to be offered for usage with the uncertainty of when public worship will/can be resumed with a whole congregation gathering at the one time.

These are simple table services designed to provide a framework for Sunday worship, in our homes, from 18th Sunday after Pentecost (4 October 2020) through to the First Sunday of Advent (29 November 2020).

They seek to transform the experience of isolation into a time of 'holy presence'. They give a simple shape to our Sunday worship gathered at the table. In a sense these simple services come from an understanding that we are a people of faith who gather at the Eucharist. We may be alone, or we may be with a small family gathering, in any case we presently are a dispersed community which can still consciously practise being a community that gathers together around 'the meal table'.

Framework for these 'Simple Table Services':

- **Normality:** the table at which you normally eat — adding meaningful symbols of the Gospel for the week to your table arrangement
- **Preparation:** careful, simple and intentional preparation for a meal
- **Gathering:** opening prayer — consciously drawing together the dispersed Parish community around your table
- **Self-examination:** a pause to consider one's life, identify shortcomings, and offer these in confession, asking for God's forgiveness
- **Scripture:** reading some or all the Scripture lessons set for the Day, but always the Gospel set for the Day
- **Eating and Reflecting:** eating, sharing conversation and reflectively responding to the Gospel passage
- **Prayer:** prayer-time — for the world, for healing; for the church; for the parish community; for family; for other needs, etc
- **Connecting:** intentional connection outside your home, into the community.

IN PREPARATION

These services provide a basic format for use by individuals and families. Users are encouraged to use them as they are in their patterned simplicity, or to creatively shape them according to your home circumstances. You may want to include some music at various points: *youtube* can be a place for accessible and appropriate music. You may want to choose and sing some suitable hymn or song.

In the week leading up to the particular Sunday:

1. During the week, read the Gospel passage for the coming Sunday
2. Reflect upon the passage
3. Identify a meaningful symbol which emerges from the Gospel
4. Prepare the symbol/s to be placed in your Sunday table arrangement

Ideas for Symbols for the Table Arrangement

Each week create a central table arrangement.
This might be centred around a simple cross (maybe handmade),
a candle,
some flowers/greenery,
and a symbol of the Sunday Gospel/theme for the Day which connects for you.

* In acknowledgement: The Collects are from 'A Prayer Book for Australia' (Copyright 1995, The Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation. All rights reserved), and the suggested Readings are from 'An Australian Lectionary 2020' (Copyright 2019 Broughton Publishing Trust).

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost - 4 October 2020

- ***the table at which you normally eat***

The table is the everyday altar of life-giving food.

Place a simple cloth on the table.

Create your table arrangement with a Cross, a Candle, coloured cloth and flowers/greenery, along with other symbol/s appropriate for the Gospel of the day, e.g. a bunch of grapes, or a bowl of fruits, or a stone, or

- ***careful, simple and intentional preparation for a meal***

Intentionally plan a simple breakfast for this day.

Talk about it with the members of the household.

Give thought to the presentation of your meal.

Make it pleasing to your eye.

Invite, in your mind, a number of people from the Parish / from your family to your breakfast.

- ***opening prayer — consciously drawing together the dispersed Parish community around your table***

Name aloud those you are inviting.

Be still and silent — and practise a welcoming heart.

Pray:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Here, and throughout the world,
We adore you O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Amen**

**Bless this food, both physical and spiritual.
Bless all who gather at your table, both seen and unseen,
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

- ***self examination***

Take a short period to quietly reflect upon the past week, being aware of those things which you need to offer in penitence and ask forgiveness.

- ***reading some or all the set passages for the Day, but at least read the set Gospel.***

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Psalms 19

Philippians 3 or 3:4b-14

Matthew 21:33-46

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- ***eating, sharing conversation and reflectively responding to the passage***

Engage in some conversation sharing and responding to the Gospel passage. You might consider one or more of the following conversation starters:

If there are children present some careful *open questions* (*what/who/how/when/where/why*) may facilitate the conversation.

If you are alone you might like to write down some key thoughts for further reflection.

- + **Earlier we met the verse: “the last will be first, and the first will be last,” Today’s parable is spoken to the chief priests and the Pharisees - the religious ‘firsts’. This must have been confronting! Consider what Jesus is suggesting needs to change for them.**
- + **How is Jesus the cornerstone of your faith?**
- + **How do you perceive yourself as producing the fruits of the kingdom of heaven?**

- ***prayer-time (concluding with the Collect for the Day *)***

Offer short one sentence prayers — e.g. for the right use of the resources of the earth; for its conservation and for the abundance of its fruits; in thanksgiving for human wisdom, imagination, skill and labour, for the life and ministry of the church; for the local and parish community; for the sick and other needs; for family; for self; for those who have died; etc

Draw your prayers together in saying:

The Lord's Prayer,

and conclude with the Collect for the Day and the Grace:

**Almighty God,
your Son Jesus was the stone rejected by the builders,
and, by your doing, he has been made the chief cornerstone:
grant that, by the power of his Spirit working in us,
we may become living stones
built up into your dwelling place,
a temple holy and acceptable to you;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the
fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen**

- ***intentional connection beyond your home***

After the Table Service, make contact via phone, email, letter, Messenger, Skype, Zoom, etc with someone who is on your heart and mind at this time.

Let God guide you to the person with whom you connect.

Contact the person.

Start a conversation: 'I was thinking of you.....'

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost - 11 October 2020

- ***the table at which you normally eat***

The table is the everyday altar of life-giving food.

Place a simple cloth on the table.

Create your table arrangement with a Cross, a Candle, coloured cloth and flowers/greenery, along with other symbol/s appropriate for the Gospel of the day, e.g. a wedding photo, or a card with the words 'You are invited,' or a card with 'Many are called

- ***careful, simple and intentional preparation for a meal***

Intentionally plan a simple breakfast for this day.

Talk about it with the members of the household.

Give thought to the presentation of your meal.

Make it pleasing to your eye.

Invite, in your mind, a number of people from the Parish / from your family to your breakfast.

- ***opening prayer — consciously drawing together the dispersed Parish community around your table***

Name aloud those you are inviting.

Be still and silent — and practise a welcoming heart.

Pray:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Here, and throughout the world,
We adore you O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Amen**

**Bless this food, both physical and spiritual.
Bless all who gather at your table, both seen and unseen,
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

- **self examination**

Take a short period to quietly reflect upon the past week, being aware of those things which you need to offer in penitence and ask forgiveness.

- **reading some or all the set passages for the Day, but at least read the set Gospel.**

Exodus 32:1-14

Psalms 106:1-6, 20-24

Philippians 4 or 4:1-9

Matthew 22:1-14

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- **eating, sharing conversation and reflectively responding to the passage**

Engage in some conversation sharing and responding to the Gospel passage. You might consider one or more of the following conversation starters:

If there are children present some careful *open questions* (*what/who/how/when/where/why*) may facilitate the conversation.

If you are alone you might like to write down some key thoughts for further reflection

- + **Once again we are confronted with a parable of the kingdom of heaven - compared to a wedding feast. We are invited into joy. What does it ask of us?**
- + **The invitation was not refused but those invited - the chosen - became otherwise engaged and did not come. The invitation was broadened and speaks of the grace of God. Who is invited (called)?**
- + **Without a wedding garment speaks of disrespect and an unwillingness to change - to be transformed. Consider what this means for you?**

- ***prayer-time (concluding with the Collect for the Day *)***

Offer short one sentence prayers — e.g. for the healing and reconciliation of the world; for the grace of transformation; for the life and ministry of the church; for the local and parish community; for the sick and other needs; for family; for self; for those who have died; etc

Draw your prayers together in saying:

The Lord's Prayer,

and conclude with the Collect for the Day and the Grace:

**Almighty God,
in your wisdom you have so ordered our earthly life
that we must walk by faith and not by sight:
give us such trust in your fatherly care
that in the face of all perplexities
we may give proof of our faith by the courage of our lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the
fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen**

- ***intentional connection beyond your home***

After the Table Service, make contact via phone, email, letter, Messenger, Skype, Zoom, etc with someone who is on your heart and mind at this time.

It might be one of the people you invited to your meal, or a member of your family, or someone who doesn't have family, or a friend, someone you know is in need, etc, etc.

Let God guide you to the person with whom you connect.

Contact the person.

Start a conversation: 'I was thinking of you.....'

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost - 18 October 2020

- ***the table at which you normally eat***

The table is the everyday altar of life-giving food.

Place a simple cloth on the table.

Create your table arrangement with a Cross, a Candle, coloured cloth and flowers/greenery, along with other symbol/s appropriate for the Gospel of the day, e.g. create a card 'Give to God the things that are God's'; or

- ***careful, simple and intentional preparation for a meal***

Intentionally plan a simple breakfast for this day.

Talk about it with the members of the household.

Give thought to the presentation of your meal.

Make it pleasing to your eye.

Invite, in your mind, a number of people from the Parish / from your family to your breakfast.

- ***opening prayer — consciously drawing together the dispersed Parish community around your table***

Name aloud those you are inviting.

Be still and silent — and practise a welcoming heart.

Pray:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Here, and throughout the world,
We adore you O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Amen**

**Bless this food, both physical and spiritual.
Bless all who gather at your table, both seen and unseen,
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

- ***self examination***

Take a short period to quietly reflect upon the past week, being aware of those things which you need to offer in penitence and ask forgiveness.

- ***reading some or all the set passages for the Day, but at least read the set Gospel.***

Exodus 33:12-23

Psalm 99

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Matthew 22:15-33

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- ***eating, sharing conversation and reflectively responding to the passage***

Engage in some conversation sharing and responding to the Gospel passage. You might consider one or more of the following conversation starters:

If there are children present some careful *open questions* (*what/who/how/when/where/why*) may facilitate the conversation.

If you are alone you might like to write down some key thoughts for further reflection.

+ **Consider what are the things of God?**

+ **In the light of the Gospel today what does the following have to say to you: “Give to God the things that are God’s”.**

+ **Consider resurrection: it transcends the physical relationship of time and is about being in living relationship with God.**

- ***prayer-time (concluding with the Collect for the Day *)***

Offer short one sentence prayers — e.g. for the healing and reconciliation of the world; for being embraced by the amazing love of God; for the life and ministry of the church; for the local and parish community; for the sick and other needs; for family; for self; for those who have died; etc

Draw your prayers together in saying:

The Lord's Prayer,

and conclude with the Collect for the Day and the Grace:

**Almighty and everlasting God,
in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations:
grant that your Church throughout the world
may persevere with steadfast faith
in proclaiming the cross to be the way that leads to life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the
fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen**

- ***intentional connection beyond your home***

After the Table Service, make contact via phone, email, letter, Messenger, Skype, Zoom, etc with someone who is on your heart and mind at this time.

Let God guide you to the person with whom you connect.

Contact the person.

Start a conversation: 'I was thinking of you.....'

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost - 25 October 2020

- ***the table at which you normally eat***

The table is the everyday altar of life-giving food.

Place a simple cloth on the table.

Create your table arrangement with a Cross, a Candle, coloured cloth and flowers/greenery, along with other symbol/s appropriate for the Gospel of the day, e.g. create a card like 'Love God totally Love your neighbour as yourself,' or

- ***careful, simple and intentional preparation for a meal***

Intentionally plan a simple breakfast for this day.

Talk about it with the members of the household.

Give thought to the presentation of your meal.

Make it pleasing to your eye.

Invite, in your mind, a number of people from the Parish / from your family to your breakfast.

- ***opening prayer — consciously drawing together the dispersed Parish community around your table***

Name aloud those you are inviting.

Be still and silent — and practise a welcoming heart.

Pray:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Here, and throughout the world,
We adore you O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Amen**

**Bless this food, both physical and spiritual.
Bless all who gather at your table, both seen and unseen,
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

- **self examination**

Take a short period to quietly reflect upon the past week, being aware of those things which you need to offer in penitence and ask forgiveness.

- **reading some or all the set passages for the Day, but at least read the set Gospel.**

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

1 Thessalonians 2:1-13

Matthew 22:34-46

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- **eating, sharing conversation and reflectively responding to the passage**

Engage in some conversation sharing and responding to the Gospel passage. You might consider one or more of the following conversation starters:

If there are children present some careful *open questions* (*what/who/how/when/where/why*) may facilitate the conversation.

If you are alone you might like to write down some key thoughts for further reflection.

- + **In essence Jesus lays down a definition for living life in relationship: Love God, and love your neighbour as you love yourself. Consider the order of this definition - the first issues in the possibility of the second.**
- + **Consider a situation in your life at present: how can you show love for your neighbour in that situation?**
- + **Reflect and share on this question: Who do you say Jesus is?**

- ***prayer-time (concluding with the Collect for the Day *)***

Offer short one sentence prayers — e.g. for the healing and reconciliation of the world; for the gracious love of God, and for the gift to love others; for the life and ministry of the church; for the local and parish community; for the sick and other needs; for family; for self; for those who have died; etc

Draw your prayers together in saying:

The Lord's Prayer,

and conclude with the Collect for the Day and the Grace:

**O God,
whose Son has taught us that love is the fulfilment of your law:
stir up within us the fire of your Holy Spirit,
and pour into our hearts your greatest gift of love,
so that we may love you with our whole being,
and our neighbours as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the
fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen**

- ***intentional connection beyond your home***

After the Table Service, make contact via phone, email, letter, Messenger, Skype, Zoom, etc with someone who is on your heart and mind at this time.

Let God guide you to the person with whom you connect.

Contact the person.

Start a conversation: 'I was thinking of you.....'

All Saints Day - 1 November 2020

- ***the table at which you normally eat***

The table is the everyday altar of life-giving food.

Place a simple cloth on the table.

Create your table arrangement with a Cross, a Candle, gold coloured cloth symbolic of the heavenly place and flowers/ greenery, along with other symbol/s appropriate for the Gospel of the day, e.g. create a card with the word 'Blessed ...,' or a range of words that emerge from the Beatitudes in the Gospel reading or ...

- ***careful, simple and intentional preparation for a meal***

Intentionally plan a simple breakfast for this day.

Talk about it with the members of the household.

Give thought to the presentation of your meal.

Make it pleasing to your eye.

Invite, in your mind, a number of people from the Parish / from your family to your breakfast.

- ***opening prayer — consciously drawing together the dispersed Parish community around your table***

Name aloud those you are inviting.

Be still and silent — and practise a welcoming heart.

Pray:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Here, and throughout the world,
We adore you O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Amen**

**Bless this food, both physical and spiritual.
Bless all who gather at your table, both seen and unseen,
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

- ***self examination***

Take a short period to quietly reflect upon the past week, being aware of those things which you need to offer in penitence and ask forgiveness.

- ***reading some or all the set passages for the Day, but at least read the set Gospel.***

Revelation 7:9-17

Psalm 34:1-10, 22

1 John 3:1-3

Matthew 5:1-12

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- ***eating, sharing conversation and reflectively responding to the passage***

Engage in some conversation sharing and responding to the Gospel passage. You might consider one or more of the following conversation starters:

If there are children present some careful *open questions* (*what/who/how/when/where/why*) may facilitate the conversation.

If you are alone you might like to write down some key thoughts for further reflection.

- + **The Gospel reading, known as the Beatitudes (in this case taken from the Sermon on the Mount - see also Luke 6:20-26) speaks of those who are blessed.**
- + **Consider those in circumstances of life (in the Beatitudes) who are blessed with hope.**
- + **Reflect upon the things of your life for which you feel blessed and want to give thanks.**

- ***prayer-time (concluding with the Collect for the Day *)***

Offer short one sentence prayers — e.g. for the healing and reconciliation of the world; for the blessings of life and hope; for the life and ministry of the church; for the local and parish community; for the sick and other needs; for family; for self; for those who have been models of faith for us; for those who have died; etc

Draw your prayers together in saying:

The Lord's Prayer,

and conclude with the Collect for the Day and the Grace:

**Eternal God,
neither death nor life can separate us from your love:
grant that we may serve you faithfully here on earth,
and in heaven rejoice with all your saints
who ceaselessly proclaim your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the
fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen**

- ***intentional connection beyond your home***

After the Table Service, make contact via phone, email, letter, Messenger, Skype, Zoom, etc with someone who is on your heart and mind at this time.

Let God guide you to the person with whom you connect.

Contact the person.

Start a conversation: 'I was thinking of you.....'

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost - 8 November 2020

- ***the table at which you normally eat***

The table is the everyday altar of life-giving food.

Place a simple cloth on the table.

Create your table arrangement with a Cross, a Candle, coloured cloth and flowers/greenery, along with other symbol/s appropriate for the Gospel of the day, e.g. an oil lamp, or a flask of oil, or a card with words like 'Stay awake,' or

- ***careful, simple and intentional preparation for a meal***

Intentionally plan a simple breakfast for this day.

Talk about it with the members of the household.

Give thought to the presentation of your meal.

Make it pleasing to your eye.

Invite, in your mind, a number of people from the Parish / from your family to your breakfast.

- ***opening prayer — consciously drawing together the dispersed Parish community around your table***

Name aloud those you are inviting.

Be still and silent — and practise a welcoming heart.

Pray:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Here, and throughout the world,
We adore you O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Amen**

**Bless this food, both physical and spiritual.
Bless all who gather at your table, both seen and unseen,
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

- ***self examination***

Take a short period to quietly reflect upon the past week, being aware of those things which you need to offer in penitence and ask forgiveness.

- ***reading some or all the set passages for the Day, but at least read the set Gospel.***

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Psalms 78:1-7

1 Thessalonians 4:9-18

Matthew 25:1-13

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- ***eating, sharing conversation and reflectively responding to the passage***

Engage in some conversation sharing and responding to the Gospel passage. You might consider one or more of the following conversation starters:

If there are children present some careful *open questions* (*what/who/how/when/where/why*) may facilitate the conversation.

If you are alone you might like to write down some key thoughts for further reflection.

- + **Here is another parable of the kingdom of God, reminding us of being prepared. Share words/phrases which spoke to you as this parable was being read.**
- + **Share why these words/phrases stood out for you. How do they connect with your experience of life/your present circumstances?**
- + **In the context of Jesus' parable what does it mean for you 'to be prepared'?**

- ***prayer-time (concluding with the Collect for the Day *)***

Offer short one sentence prayers — e.g. for the healing and reconciliation of the world; for the life and ministry of the church; for being available as a channel of God's grace; for the local and parish community; for the sick and other needs; for family; for self; for those who have died; etc

Draw your prayers together in saying:

The Lord's Prayer,

and conclude with the Collect for the Day and the Grace:

**Eternal God,
you have taught us that the night is far spent
and the day is at hand:
keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom,
so that when Christ, the bridegroom, comes
we may go out joyfully to meet him,
and with him enter into the marriage feast
that you have prepared for all who truly love you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the
fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen**

- ***intentional connection beyond your home***

After the Table Service, make contact via phone, email, letter, Messenger, Skype, Zoom, etc with someone who is on your heart and mind at this time.

Let God guide you to the person with whom you connect.

Contact the person.

Start a conversation: 'I was thinking of you.....'

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost - 15 November 2020

- ***the table at which you normally eat***

The table is the everyday altar of life-giving food.

Place a simple cloth on the table.

Create your table arrangement with a Cross, a Candle, coloured cloth and flowers/greenery, along with other symbol/s appropriate for the Gospel of the day, e.g. some coins representing talents, or create a card with words like 'Use fully the talents you have,' or write a list of the talents you have and place them as an offering in your table arrangement, or

- ***careful, simple and intentional preparation for a meal***

Intentionally plan a simple breakfast for this day.

Talk about it with the members of the household.

Give thought to the presentation of your meal.

Make it pleasing to your eye.

Invite, in your mind, a number of people from the Parish / from your family to your breakfast.

- ***opening prayer — consciously drawing together the dispersed Parish community around your table***

Name aloud those you are inviting.

Be still and silent — and practise a welcoming heart.

Pray:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Here, and throughout the world,
We adore you O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Amen**

**Bless this food, both physical and spiritual.
Bless all who gather at your table, both seen and unseen,
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

- ***self examination***

Take a short period to quietly reflect upon the past week, being aware of those things which you need to offer in penitence and ask forgiveness.

- ***reading some or all the set passages for the Day, but at least read the set Gospel.***

Judges 4:1-10

Psalm 123

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

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- ***eating, sharing conversation and reflectively responding to the passage***

Engage in some conversation sharing and responding to the Gospel passage. You might consider one or more of the following conversation starters:

If there are children present some careful *open questions* (*what/who/how/when/where/why*) may facilitate the conversation.

If you are alone you might like to write down some key thoughts for further reflection.

- + **This is another parable of the kingdom of God which reminds us of how we live into the kingdom - into relationship with God.**
- + **Consider the talents - abilities - that you have. List those which you can identify. How do you use them?**
- + **Consider how you offer them in service for the revelation of kingdom love?**

- ***prayer-time (concluding with the Collect for the Day *)***

Offer short one sentence prayers — e.g. for the healing and reconciliation of the world; for the life and ministry of the church; for the local and parish community; for the many gifts and talents which are offered for the kingdom; for the sick and other needs; for family; for self; for those who have died; etc

Draw your prayers together in saying:

The Lord's Prayer,

and conclude with the Collect for the Day and the Grace:

**Everliving God,
before the earth was formed,
and even after it shall cease to be, you are God.
Break into our short span of life
and show us those things that are eternal,
that we may serve your purpose in all we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the
fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen**

- ***intentional connection beyond your home***

After the Table Service, make contact via phone, email, letter, Messenger, Skype, Zoom, etc with someone who is on your heart and mind at this time.

Let God guide you to the person with whom you connect.

Contact the person.

Start a conversation: 'I was thinking of you.....'

Christ the King - 22 November 2020

- ***the table at which you normally eat***

The table is the everyday altar of life-giving food.

Place a simple cloth on the table.

Create your table arrangement with a Cross, a Candle, coloured cloth and flowers/greenery, along with other symbol/s appropriate for the Gospel of the day, e.g. create a card

'Come,blessedinherit the kingdom,' or place items of food and drink, or place some ornaments of sheep, or

- ***careful, simple and intentional preparation for a meal***

Intentionally plan a simple breakfast for this day.

Talk about it with the members of the household.

Give thought to the presentation of your meal.

Make it pleasing to your eye.

Invite, in your mind, a number of people from the Parish / from your family to your breakfast.

- ***opening prayer — consciously drawing together the dispersed Parish community around your table***

Name aloud those you are inviting.

Be still and silent — and practise a welcoming heart.

Pray:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Here, and throughout the world,
We adore you O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Amen**

**Bless this food, both physical and spiritual.
Bless all who gather at your table, both seen and unseen,
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

- **self examination**

Take a short period to quietly reflect upon the past week, being aware of those things which you need to offer in penitence and ask forgiveness.

- **reading some or all the set passages for the Day, but at least read the set Gospel.**

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalm 100 or 95:1-7

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

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- **eating, sharing conversation and reflectively responding to the passage**

Engage in some conversation sharing and responding to the Gospel passage. You might consider one or more of the following conversation starters:

If there are children present some careful *open questions* (*what/who/how/when/where/why*) may facilitate the conversation.

If you are alone you might like to write down some key thoughts for further reflection.

- + **In Matthew's account today's Gospel draws together the theme of the past few weeks - the kingdom of heaven!**
Share what you consider the kingdom of heaven to be.
- + **Identify who will inherit the kingdom - e.g. those who help the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, the prisoner,**
- + **Consider how you have been/are such an instrument of God's love?**

- ***prayer-time (concluding with the Collect for the Day *)***

Offer short one sentence prayers — e.g. for the call to be kingdom dwellers; for the healing and reconciliation of the world; for the life and ministry of the church; for the gift of willingness and availability to serve others; for the local and parish community; for the sick and other needs; for family; for self; for those who have died; etc

Draw your prayers together in saying:

The Lord's Prayer,

and conclude with the Collect for the Day and the Grace:

**God of power and love,
who raised your Son Jesus from death to life,
resplendent in glory to rule over all creation:
free the world to rejoice in his peace,
to glory in his justice, and to live in his love.
Unite the human race in Jesus Christ your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the
fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen**

- ***intentional connection beyond your home***

After the Table Service, make contact via phone, email, letter, Messenger, Skype, Zoom, etc with someone who is on your heart and mind at this time.

Let God guide you to the person with whom you connect.

Contact the person.

Start a conversation: 'I was thinking of you.....'

First Sunday of Advent - 29 November 2020 - Year B

- ***the table at which you normally eat***

The table is the everyday altar of life-giving food.

Place a simple cloth on the table.

Create your table arrangement with a Cross, a Candle, purple coloured cloth and flowers/greenery, along with other symbol/s appropriate for the Gospel of the day, e.g. create a card with the word 'Advent,' or create a card with the words 'Keep awake,' or

.....

- ***careful, simple and intentional preparation for a meal***

Intentionally plan a simple breakfast for this day.

Talk about it with the members of the household.

Give thought to the presentation of your meal.

Make it pleasing to your eye.

Invite, in your mind, a number of people from the Parish / from your family to your breakfast.

- ***opening prayer — consciously drawing together the dispersed Parish community around your table***

Name aloud those you are inviting.

Be still and silent — and practise a welcoming heart.

Pray:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Here, and throughout the world,
We adore you O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Amen**

**Bless this food, both physical and spiritual.
Bless all who gather at your table, both seen and unseen,
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

- **self examination**

Take a short period to quietly reflect upon the past week, being aware of those things which you need to offer in penitence and ask forgiveness.

- **reading some or all the set passages for the Day, but at least read the set Gospel.**

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Mark 13:24-37

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- **eating, sharing conversation and reflectively responding to the passage**

Engage in some conversation sharing and responding to the Gospel passage. You might consider one or more of the following conversation starters:

If there are children present some careful *open questions* (*what/who/how/when/where/why*) may facilitate the conversation.

If you are alone you might like to write down some key thoughts for further reflection.

- + Today begins a new liturgical year - Advent Sunday. This season is preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas, but also for the Second Coming of Christ. The Gospel takes us to the latter today.
- + Consider how is this presented in dramatic cosmic signs and in the natural order?
- + What words from the Gospel today best describe how we need to be when this happens?

- ***prayer-time (concluding with the Collect for the Day *)***

Offer short one sentence prayers — e.g. for the healing and reconciliation of the world; for the life and ministry of the church; for watchfulness and wakefulness for the coming Christ in our lives; for the local and parish community; for the sick and other needs; for family; for self; for those who have died; etc

Draw your prayers together in saying:

The Lord's Prayer,

and conclude with the Collect for the Day and the Grace:

**Eternal God,
through long generations you prepared a way
for the coming of your Son,
and by your Spirit you still bring light to illumine our paths:
renew us in faith and hope
that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts
and claim our love;
to whom be glory for ever. Amen.**

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the
fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen**

- ***intentional connection beyond your home***

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