**At Home Order of Service**

**Sunday 7th of August 2022**

**This Sunday’s theme**

“Right Here, Right now”

## Welcome

In our worship today on this 8th Sunday after Trinity let us remember that the love of God for his people and for his church knows no limits. The Psalmist talks of God’s love reaching up to the heavens and his justice to the depth of the ocean, and yet he blesses us as individuals with the gifts of his Spirit so that his Church, his people might be a light in this place, to his glory.

['Guide Me, Oh Thou Great Jehovah'. - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wT4n1hGjDDg)

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty,
Hold me with Thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
Feed me now and evermore;
Feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliv'rer, strong Deliv'rer,
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield;
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's Destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's Destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
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Father God, we bring our offering of worship and with it the service of our lives through this coming week. May we go from this place knowing that we have met with you and been blessed by your Spirit, to live and work to your glory. **Amen**

Living God whose Word became flesh in Jesus and whose Spirit of Truth speaks into our hearts all honour and glory and worship belong to you. As our praises pronounce your wonder may our lives overflow with love, that our words and deeds might tell of your goodness and declare your infinite grace. **Amen**.

**Confession**

Gracious God with gratitude and gladness we hear your promise of liberation: that in Christ we are forgiven and set free, and restored to serve you. Thanks be to you, Living God! **Amen.**

**Collect,**

Lord God your Son, left the riches of heaven and became poor for our sake: When we prosper save us from pride, when we are needy save us from despair, that we trust in you alone through Jesus Christour Lord. **Amen.**

**The Reading:**

Luke 12:32-40 New International Version

**32**“Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. **33**Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. **34**For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**Watchfulness**

**35**“Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, **36**like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. **37**It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. **38**It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak. **39**But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. **40**You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

[Detectorists - Lance finds GOLD!! - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rbvfpns2LAg)

**Thought of the week from Roots**:

A time-honoured classroom activity is to invite children to make a treasure map. You may well have done this yourself. Such a map almost always consists of a wobbly outline denoting the shape of a desert island, and is probably surrounded by shark-infested waters. The island will have mountainous areas, thick forests and beaches strewn with palm trees. But somewhere in this complex geography will be a small ‘X’. And we all know what the ‘X’ means. It marks the spot where the treasure is buried. Find the place marked, get digging and, if you are lucky, you will uncover a chest of untold riches.

The idea of buried treasure has captured imaginations for many years. One of the most famous stories must be Robert Louis Stevenson’s Treasure Island. In this story, young Jim Hawkins finds a map in a dead man’s chest and takes a role as a ship’s cabin boy in a thrilling search for the pirate gold hiding under the ‘X’ on his map. Enid Blyton’s ‘Famous Five’ also have an encounter with a cargo of gold ingots. In this tale, the intrepid gang deal with ruined castles, hidden dungeons, shipwrecks and storms as they hunt for the treasure stashed on Kirrin Island. Even very contemporary stories use the treasure hunt as a major plot device. Amy, in Gillian Flynn’s novel Gone Girl, sets up little treasure hunts for her husband on their anniversary, a seemingly romantic tradition that turns very sinister when Amy disappears and she becomes the treasure he is hunting for. On a lighter note, the film Paddington 2 makes use of a hunt for treasure that takes the bear, his family and his nemesis, Phoenix Buchanan, on a search of London looking for a lost fortune.

If something is highly prized, the human impulse is to work very hard to find it. Think about the times when you have lost something precious. For those items there is no handy treasure map with an ‘X’ to tell you where you left it but, when it’s valuable or important to you, you will search as hard as possible to try and find it.

In other words, whatever – or perhaps whoever – we value has high priority in our life. Whatever we deem to be our treasure naturally occupies our thoughts, fills our senses and often guides our behaviour and how we choose to spend our time. The challenge embedded in the Gospel reading is for us to see that the most precious treasure of all, the valuables marked by ‘X’ in the universal map of life, are the riches we gain from doing the work of God’s kingdom. Real treasure is found when we draw close to Jesus, and this treasure has a beauty and value that eclipses anything else. And the exciting news is that this treasure is not buried or hidden, it’s available right here, right now. The treasure is not in a hidden box but in a relationship with Jesus – and everyone is invited to share it.

**Intercessions** We pray…

for those living on the edge, in fear of the future:
bless them with a deepening sense of hope and trust in you;

for those caught up in the ways of the world,
relying on worldly treasures:
give them a blessing of release and joy in you;

for those battling with ill health:
give them the blessing of strengthening hope and healing;

for all who have the responsibility of leading your flock:
give them your blessing of wisdom and strength.

Lord, you watch and protect.
Strengthen all who are in need
with an unshakeable trust in you;
give them a glimpse of the treasures
that are theirs when they put their hope in you.
**Amen.**

**Lord’s Prayer**

**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** .

Lord, go with us.
Help us to seek your treasure.
Help us to look for all you’re doing right now.
Help us – by our example as much as by our words –
to share your treasure and your life-giving story
with the people we meet this week.
**Amen.**

Generous God, you have nourished us with your word. Take us, bless us and send us, that our lips be touched with the gentleness of your peace; that our hearts burn with your passion and integrity; that our lives declare the good news of your love for the whole creation, in the name of Christ, **Amen**

Faithful God whose Word does not return empty but accomplishes all that you purpose, may your blessings fall like rain to water the earth, nourishing seed for our food, and filling us with the abundance of your love, through Jesus Christ your living Word. **Amen.**