

Second Sunday after Trinity
Sunday, 22nd June 2022



Dear Friends in Christ,

As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, I will follow you wherever you go. (Luke 9: 57)

When I read this week's bible text from Chapter 9 of Luke's Gospel, I am reminded of the beautiful hymn, '*O Master, let me walk with Thee*,' written by the majestically named, Washington Gladden in 1879:

O Master, let me walk with Thee,
In lowly paths of service free;
Tell me Thy secret; help me bear
The strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move
By some clear, winning word of love;
Teach me the wayward feet to stay,
And guide them in the homeward way.

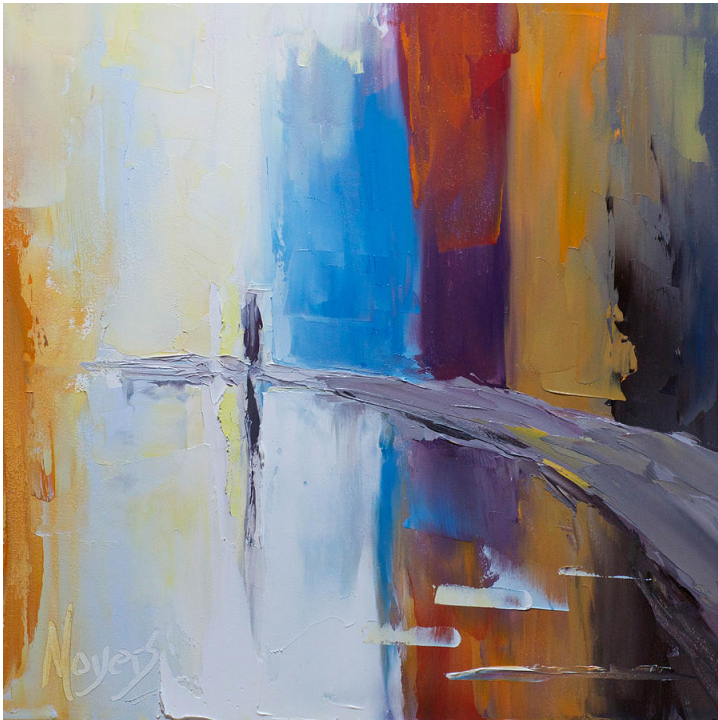
Teach me Thy patience; still with Thee,
In closer, dearer, company;
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
In trust that triumphs over wrong.

In hope that sends a shining ray
Far down the future's broad'ning way;
In peace that only Thou canst give,
With Thee, O Master, let me live.

Often used as a 'Gradual' hymn before the Gospel is read, to help us open our hearts 'step by step' to the word of Christ, this worship song helps us cry out for God's guidance in showing us the way to live our lives in Christian service and humility. It is based on the words of Micah 6: 8: '*And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*'

These instructions from God through the prophet, Micah, are at the very heart of what it means to be Christian: humbly worshipping God, and following the ways of Jesus in loving others with compassion, mercy and justice. In the text from Luke's Gospel we are reading today, Jesus is at pains to teach His followers that trying to live this way will not be easy – it will, by definition, come at a cost to all who have the faith to pursue this path in His footsteps.

Christian writer, Selwyn Hughes, paraphrases Jesus by pointing out that: *'No-one who commits to following Christ, and does so, lives a life of ease. No one. If your Christianity has not brought discomfort to your life, something is wrong.'*

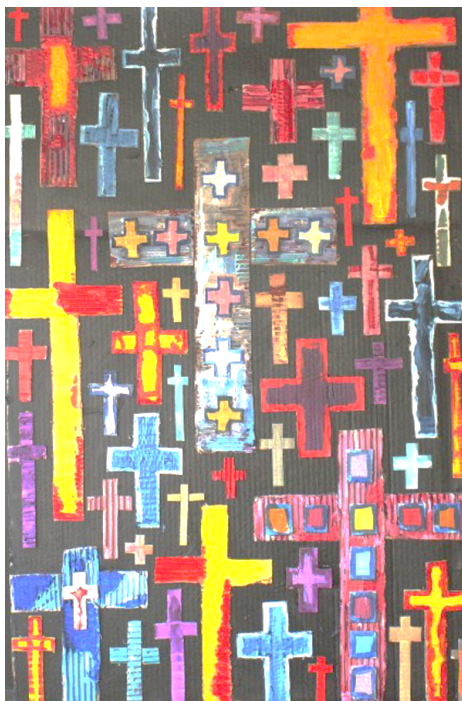


'O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee' by Mike Moyers

There are many examples across the New Testament of Jesus teaching us to follow His example. Matthew's Gospel says: *'Jesus said to his disciples, 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.'* Following Christ, therefore, causes us to ask some serious questions as to our willingness as disciples to endure to the end whatever the cost of walking with our God might be. Are we honestly prepared to take up our cross daily? Are we ready to stand apart from everyone and everything that hinders our walk with Christ?

Chapter 9 of Luke's Gospel finds Jesus preparing His disciples for His death. Jesus knows the cost of saving our souls could not have been greater, and yet He is still prepared to endure the agonies of taking on each of our sins in our place.

Scripture is telling us, that because of Christ's death, i.e., because of how grateful we should be that Jesus chose to save our mortal souls from our own wretched sinfulness, we ought to live for Him and through Him, bearing the discomfort of walking against the tide of sinful temptation and earthly pressures. For these experiences are nothing by comparison to the death our broken behaviours put Jesus through.



'Take Up Your Cross' by John Kohan

The disciples show us by their actions the response Jesus expects of us all. On encountering Christ, they immediately left everything and followed him. Are we prepared to do the same?

Yours, in the footsteps of Christ,

Jax

Revd Jax Machin, Rector, The Downs Benefice

Holy Communion in The Downs Benefice



During the Coronavirus pandemic, use of the Chalice during Holy Communion was suspended. This means you have only been able to receive the host and not the wine. The Church of England is now allowing Holy Communion in both bread and wine at the discretion of the Incumbent. I have therefore decided it is time for our Benefice to dispense with the COVID-19 measures of administering the sacraments in one kind only with immediate effect.

The Church of England does not allow the use of any cup other than the shared Chalice, which means we cannot use individual disposable cups for wine like Methodists use. Instead, I have decided to use my discretion as Incumbent to allow the dipping of wafers into the wine. We will have two chalices at each service – one for the main congregation, and the other for those requiring gluten-free sacraments.

Parishioners will once again come forward to the altar rail to receive Holy Communion. You will receive the host, and a Communion Assistant will come along the rail with the chalice so you can choose whether you want to

- receive from the chalice direct, or
- dip your wafer into the wine, or
- choose not to receive this sacrament at all.

Gluten-free sacraments will be administered separately by the President and Chalice Assistant.

I began offering Holy Communion in both kinds this past Sunday morning. At Sparsholt's 8am service, people chose to take the sacrament from the chalice direct. At Littleton's mid-week service, there was a mixture of dippers and sippers! All have said how wonderful it was to return to receiving both sacraments. I wholeheartedly agree.

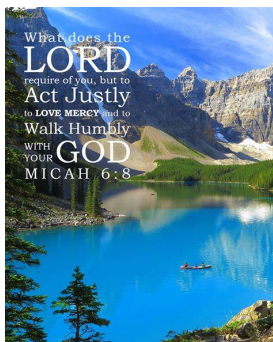
With every blessing,

Jax

Revd Jax Machin, Rector, The Downs Benefice

Collect Prayer for the Second Sunday after Trinity

Faithful Creator,
whose mercy never fails:
deepen our faithfulness to you
and to your living Word,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Luke 9: 51-62 - The Cost of Following Jesus

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. Then he and his disciples 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 dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.'

He said to another man, 'Follow me.' But he 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 goodbye to my family.' Jesus replied, 'No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.'

Schedule of Services

Now that all national Coronavirus restrictions have been lifted, it is no longer necessary to book seats in our parishes for services. Neither is it mandatory for you to wear masks in church. However, Coronavirus is still very much with us. There are a number of people in our villages with it at present, so we are encouraging people to observe social distancing measures.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Ch</i>	<i>Cr</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Sp</i>	<i>Wh</i>
<i>26th June</i>	Thanksgiving Service for the Fete (<i>in the Fete Marquee</i>)		Morning Prayer	Morning Worship	8am – Holy Communion (BCP) PLUS 6pm – Spring Meditations
<i>3rd July</i>	Morning Prayer		4pm – Café Church (<i>in the Church Room</i>)		
<i>10th July</i>			Holy Communion		Morning Prayer
<i>17th July</i>	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	6pm – Peace & Wholeness	8am – Holy Communion (BCP)	
<i>24th July</i>			Morning Prayer	Morning Worship	8am – Holy Communion (BCP)
<i>27th July</i>			Mid-week Holy Communion		
<i>31st July</i>		5 th Sunday Benefice Holy Communion			