

5/7/20 Trinity 4 (week 16)

Hello to you all.

Praying as ever that you are well. It has been good to get out a bit this week, taking the dog for a walk and visiting family in a 'support bubble.' There's been lots of opportunity to rest and slow down during the last months but as life begins to get moving again, it's easy to fall back into the routine we did pre Covid. I heard that only 6% of people polled actually wanted to go back to what their lives were like before. It hasn't taken long for the traffic to build up again on the roads as the reports return to the radio of mayhem on the motorways!!

There has been the opportunity to evaluate priorities, to change as we've learned to live without and do new things we thought we'd never do – or get round to. Inactivity may have brought things to the fore as we've never had more time to ponder. I wonder how many have instilled a quiet time into their lives and will take that quietness and insert it into the busyness of life.

In the reading for today from Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30, it begins with Jesus comparing the generation of the time, to children 'calling to one another' because they're not getting what they want, believing that everything is 'deserved' and worthy of reward and unhappy with whatever is offered. Is that generation not unlike the present one in many respects? People get argumentative and angry when they can't get their own way. For example, one particular shop has a one way system to guide people around safely, but some have wanted to take a short cut instead of doing what everyone else is doing and demand to know why they're not allowed and waste time arguing when they could have got where they were going faster if they followed the rules.

Later in the passage, Jesus thanks his father that not everyone is like that, the "wise and intelligent" who think they know better and childish when they don't get their way. But the 'infants' are the ones who listen and do what is right, caring for others in turn.

Jesus gives those who listen the answer to a calmer life. "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." When we are 'yoked' to anything other

than Jesus, it will leave us tired, anxious, both physically and mentally which can make us argumentative and dissatisfied. There is so much pressure bearing down, but knowing Jesus alleviates that heavy burden.

So many live a life which is less than God intended for them as they believe they have it 'right.' The offer is there as Jesus reaches out to all, to take it. I like how the Message translation puts it, "Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly...learn the unforced rhythms of grace." The personal offer then is simply to "Come to me."

Take a quiet moment whenever we can and let God speak to us. The words of Psalm 46:10 are ones which have sustained me for many years and have kept me focussed upon all that is greater than I could ever be, "Be Still and know that I am God."

As we revisit our Rule and Life, let us take time each day to 'Keep company with Jesus' and we will be very much blessed for doing it.

Amen

With love and Prayers

Rev Tracey xx