**St Barnabas’ Church, Swanmore**

14th Sunday after Trinity



Morning Service

Sunday 13th September at 10am

**Words of Welcome** from Jill

**Psalm 103 v 1-5**

Bless the Lord O my soul,

And all that is within me bless his holy name;

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,**

**And forget not all his benefits;**

Who forgives all your sins,

And heals all your infirmities;

**Who redeems your life from the Pit,**

**And crowns you with faithful love and compassion;**

Who satisfies you with good things,

So that your youth is renewed like an eagles’s.

**Song**: **10,000 Reasons by Matt Redman** played and sung by Claire Lloyd

**Bless the Lord O my soul, O my soul, worship his holy name.**

**Sing like never before, O my soul, I worship your holy name.**

**The sun comes up, it’s a new day dawning, it’s time to sing your song again;**

**Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,**

**let me be singing when the evening comes.**

**Bless the Lord O my soul..**

**You’re rich in love and you’re slow to anger,**

**your name is great and your heart is kind;**

**For all your goodness I will keep on singing,**

**ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.**

**Bless the Lord O my soul..**

**And on that day when my strength is failing,**

**the end draws near and my time has come;**

**Still my soul will sing your praise unending,**

**ten thousand years and then for evermore!**

**Bless the Lord O my soul…**

**Reading: Romans 14: 1-5** read by Allison Gurry

*A reading from Paul’s letter to the Romans*

Welcome with open arms fellow believers who don’t see things the way you do. And don’t jump all over them every time they do or say something you don’t agree with—even when it seems that they are strong on opinions but weak in the faith department. Remember, they have their own history to deal with. Treat them gently.

For instance, a person who has been around for a while might well be convinced that he can eat anything on the table, while another, with a different background, might assume he should only be a vegetarian and eat accordingly. But since both are guests at Christ’s table, wouldn’t it be terribly rude if they fell to criticizing what the other ate or didn’t eat? God, after all, invited them both to the table. Do you have any business crossing people off the guest list or interfering with God’s welcome? If there are corrections to be made or manners to be learned, God can handle that without your help.

Or, say, one person thinks that some days should be set aside as holy and another thinks that each day is pretty much like any other. There are good reasons either way. So, each person is free to follow the convictions of conscience.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Reading: Matthew 18: 21-35** read by Allison Gurry

*A reading from the Gospel of Matthew*

Then Peter came and said to him, ‘Lord if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?’

Jesus said to him, ‘Not seven times but, I tell you, seventy times seven.’

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him saying, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything”. And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, “Pay what you owe”. Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you.” But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt.

When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, “You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave as I had mercy on you?” And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt.

So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**Some thoughts on the readings** Jill

**Our response**

Dear God of justice and truth, we are like the servant who owes much and cannot pay. We do wrong things, we say wrong things, we think wrong things. We are sorry, please forgive us.

Merciful King, **hear us as we pray.**

Dear God of mercy and grace, you are like the king who generously forgives. Thank you that you rescue us from our muddy mess, clean us up and set us on the right path. Help us to live in ways that please you.

Merciful King, **hear us as we pray.**

Dear God of mercy and compassion, we live among people who need forgiving, just like us. Please help us to show your love to everyone we meet and to reflect your goodness in the world.

Merciful King, **hear us as we pray.**

**Song**: **Amazing Grace**

**Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me;**

**I once was lost, but now I’m found, was blind but now I see.**

**‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;**

**How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.**

**Through many dangers, toils and snares, we have already come,**

**‘Twas grace that brought us safe thus far, and grace will lead us home.**

**The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures;**

**He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.**

**When we’ve been there a thousand years, bright shining as the sun,**

**We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise, than when we first begun.**

**Prayers** led by Jill

**The Collect for today:**

**God of debts forgiven,**

**you call to account our hunger for power;**

**you disturb hierarchies which crush the weak;**

**Break the vicious cycles of revenge and domination**

**That we might look to him whose mercy never ends,**

**Jesus Christ our redeemer. Amen.**

**Song: Brother, sister, let me serve you.**

**Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you;**

**Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travellers on the road,**

**We are here to help each other, walk the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christlight for you in the night -time of your fear;**

**I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I’ll laugh with you.**

**I will share your joy and sorrow, ‘til we’ve seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony;**

**Borne of all we’ve known together of Christ’s love and agony.**

**Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you;**

**Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.**

**Blessing**