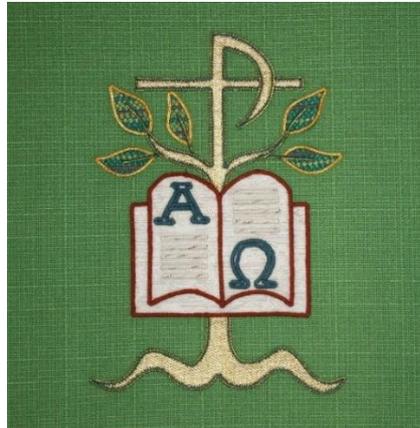


**Materials for Worship at Home - Sunday, 3 July 2022**  
**The Third Sunday after Trinity**

**Please use this material with the order of Service  
for Worship at Home for the Linton Team of Churches  
Ordinary Time**



**Collect**

Almighty God,  
you have broken the tyranny of sin  
and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts  
whereby we call you Father:  
give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,  
that we and all creation may be brought  
to the glorious liberty of the children of God;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**Readings**

**Galatians 6:1-16**

**Bear One Another's Burdens**

My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ. For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. All

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must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbour's work, will become a cause for pride. For all must carry their own loads. Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.

Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

#### **Final Admonitions and Benediction**

See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised—only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

#### **Luke 10:1-11, 16-20**

#### **The Mission of the Seventy**

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same

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house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house.

Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you." But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, "Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near."

'Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.'

#### **The Return of the Seventy**

The seventy returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!' He said to them, 'I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.'

#### **Reflection - Paul, The Galatians, One in Christ.**

There is an old joke about the Catholic Priest and the Protestant minister. They are discussing the differences between their denominations.

*'Surely' said the minister 'it all comes down to a matter of style. We both worship God and that's what's important.'* *'Yes!'* said the catholic priest *'We both worship the same God and it is just a matter of style. So we can agree to differ. You can worship God in your way and I'll worship him in His'.*

Who is right? Who are the proper Christians? This was something of the problem that Paul was facing in Galatia. We have been hearing portions of Galatians as our epistle reading over the last few weeks. The problem arose because other Jewish Christians had gone to the

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Galatians after Paul and told them that to be saved, to be proper Christians they had to become Jews: they 'try to compel you to be circumcised' wrote Paul. As well as that these Jewish Christians wanted the Galatians to keep all the Jewish food Sabbaths and festivals. False Brethren Paul called these Jewish Christians, they want to make a 'good show in the flesh'.

Paul was very clear 'You don't have to be circumcised; you don't have to keep the Jewish laws to be in the group destined for salvation all that you require is Faith in Christ who was crucified.

Paul's arguments in Galatians are complex. He strings together whole series of scriptural texts to try to make a convincing argument. Later evidence in the New Testament seem to indicate that Paul's arguments to the Galatians didn't win the day, his proof texts that Paul were not convincing. However convincing the arguments were, Paul's conclusions were more than clear. By faith and baptism we are united with Christ and so we are heirs with him of the promise of God to Abraham. According to Paul if you are united to Christ whether you are Jew or Greek, male or female, slave or free you belong to the group of the saved. The Galatians had believed and been baptized so they were 'in'. They didn't need circumcision, Sabbaths or food laws. This morning's reading which is Paul's conclusion to the his letter, written in his own hand to add force to his arguments reiterates his main points, *'if you sow in the flesh you will reap corruption from the flesh'* that is if you seek to rely on the outward physical sign of circumcision you've lost it, instead you should *'sow to the Spirit' and 'you will reap eternal life from the Spirit'*.

Faith in Christ crucified is the key which leads you to be part of the new creation.

The precise problem that Paul faced in Galatia and through much of his ministry is not one that concerns us much today. The close links between Judaism and Christianity have been left behind in history. There is, though, a more general problem that we still face today. That

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problem is who amongst the great diversity of practice and tradition are considered to be real Christians? The ecumenical movement has done much to break down the historical barriers between different Christian denominations. There is certainly much greater tolerance and acceptance. At least we don't burn each other as heretics anymore. There are though still great divisions. Roman Catholics and the Official Church of England Canon Law would not recognize Salvationists and certain Quakers as real Christians, because they don't practise water baptism. Some denominations would not recognize my and many of your baptisms because we were baptized as babies, not adults. There are priests within the Church of England who would not recognize Methodists, URC, Baptist or other 'non-conformist ministers as having anything equivalent to their priesthood. Behind the tolerance and the great degree of acceptance there is still an under-current which says that these other groups are not real Christians. Even within single denominations people can be graded according to how often they attend Church, have they done a particular course, been baptised in the Spirit, got involved in Church activities. I shudder inwardly when I hear people classified as 'nominal Christians'. Then there are the pressure groups, 'real Christians are green', 'real Christians are vegetarians', 'real Christians are against war', 'against abortion', 'against homosexuality', 'for homosexuality', 'real Christians are... well, I think you get the idea. If we are not careful we create a new law, like the Jewish law, our equivalent of circumcision. A set of particular beliefs or practices, which you have to follow to be a real Christian and be saved. Some of these beliefs and practices may be quite laudable, but they are not Christ. Paul goes to great lengths to point out to the Galatians that it is only in Christ that we are saved. Living our life in Christ may lead us to embrace a variety of religious practices, social concerns or political issues. Which ones we embrace depends a lot on what sort of people we are. This is not to say that we can do anything we like! Paul strongly warns the Corinthians against libertarianism, but in Christ there is room for diversity and differences of approach.

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'You can worship in your way and I'll worship in his' said our Catholic Priest. We can all do it in God's way if we do it in Christ. For in Christ we are a new creation, we are all Children of God by Faith. Amen.

Ian Fisher

#### **Just As I Am**

**1** Just as I am without one plea  
But that Thy blood was shed for me  
And that Thou biddest me come to Thee  
O Lamb of God I come I come

**2** Just as I am and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot  
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot  
O Lamb of God I come I come

**3** Just as I am Thou wilt receive  
Wilt welcome pardon cleanse relieve  
Because Thy promise I believe  
O Lamb of God I come I come

**4** Just as I am Thy love unknown  
Hath broken every barrier down  
Now to be Thine yes Thine alone  
O Lamb of God I come I come

**5** Just as I am though tossed about  
With many a conflict many a doubt  
Fightings and fears within without  
O Lamb of God I come I come

**6** Just as I am poor wretched blind  
Sight riches healing of the mind  
Yea all I need in Thee to find  
O Lamb of God I come I come

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### **Come Holy Ghost (Veni Creator)**

**1** Come Holy Ghost our souls inspire  
And lighten with celestial fire  
Thou the anointing Spirit art  
Who dost Thy sevenfold gifts impart

**2** Thy blessed unction from above  
Is comfort life and fire of love  
Enable with perpetual light  
The dullness of our blinded sight

**3** Anoint and cheer our soiled face  
With the abundance of Thy grace  
Keep far our foes give peace at home  
Where Thou art guide no ill can come

**4** Teach us to know the Father Son  
And Thee of both to be but One  
That through the ages all along  
This this may be our endless song

### **Bridge**

Praise to Thy eternal merit  
Father Son and Holy Spirit Amen

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### We Sing the Praise Of Him Who Died

1 We sing the praise of Him who died  
Of Him who died upon the cross  
The sinner's hope let men deride  
For this we count the world but lost

2 Inscribed upon the cross we see  
In shining letters God is love  
He bears our sins upon the tree  
He brings us mercy from above

3 The cross it takes our guilt away  
It holds the fainting spirit up  
It cheers with hope the gloomy day  
And sweetens every bitter cup

4 It makes the coward spirit brave  
And nerves the feeble arm for fight  
It takes the terror from the grave  
And gilds the bed of death with light

5 The balm of life the cure of woe  
The measure and the pledge of love  
The sinner's refuge here below  
The angels' theme in heaven above

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### **O Thou Who Camest From Above**

1 O Thou who camest from above  
The pure celestial fire to impart  
Kindle a flame of sacred love  
On the mean altar of my heart

2 There let it for Thy glory burn  
With inextinguishable blaze  
And trembling to its source return  
In humble prayer and fervent praise

3 Jesus confirm my heart's desire  
To work and speak and think for Thee  
Still let me guard the holy fire  
And still stir up Thy gift in me

4 Ready for all Thy perfect will  
My acts of faith and love repeat  
Till death Thine endless mercies seal  
And make the sacrifice complete

### **Tell All The World Of Jesus**

1 Tell all the world of Jesus  
Our Saviour Lord and King  
And let the whole creation  
Of His salvation sing  
Proclaim His glorious greatness  
In nature and in grace  
Creator and Redeemer  
The Lord of time and space

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**2** Tell all the world of Jesus  
That everyone may find  
The joy of His forgiveness -  
True peace of heart and mind  
Proclaim His perfect goodness  
His deep unfailing care  
His love so rich in mercy  
A love beyond compare

**3** Tell all the world of Jesus  
That everyone may know  
Of His Almighty triumph  
Defeating every foe  
Proclaim His coming glory  
When sin is overthrown  
And He shall reign in splendour -  
The King upon His throne

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### **Closing Prayer**

O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining  
and whose power we cannot comprehend:  
show us your glory as far as we can grasp it,  
and shield us from knowing more than we can bear  
until we may look upon you without fear;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

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The Feast of St Thomas

