Second Sunday Before Advent, Year A, 15.11.2020

Welcome, notices, birthdays

*On screen before the service:*

*Matthew 25.14-30*

*Jesus tells a parable of a man who, before going away, gives his slaves talents (money).*

*When he returns, he holds his slaves accountable for what they have done with the talents.*

*Two have used them wisely, but one has done nothing – and is strongly condemned.*

**Welcome and introduction**

God calls you to bring your life before him.

Will you offer your hands to help others?

**We will.**

Will you offer your gifts to encourage others?

**We will.**

Will you offer your resources to share with others?

**We will.**

Will you offer your time to listen to others?

**We will.**

Will you offer your hearts in compassion for others?

**We will.**

Will you entrust all that you are, and all that you long to be,

to the good of others and to the glory of God?

**We will.**

**Amen.**

**Hymn Will you come and follow me**

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,

Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?

Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?

Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,

And admit to what I mean in you and you me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?

Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?

Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,

Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.

Let me turn and follow you, and never be the same.

In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show.

Thus, I’ll move and live and grow in you, and you in me.

Prayer of Confession

Forgive us, God of all:

when we bury your gifts in the ground of our fear;

when we bury our responsibilities in the ground of reluctance;

when we bury your hopes for us in the ground of our diffidence.

**Forgive us, and free us to be your fruitful servants,**

**people on whom you can depend and rely.**

**We ask this in Jesus’ name.**

**Amen**.

**The Absolution**

May almighty God have mercy on us,

forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

**The****Collect***, the special prayer for today*

Heavenly Lord, you long for the world’s salvation:  
stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess  
and revive in us new hope that all creation will one day be healed  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Reading Matthew 25: 14-30

Jesus said to his disciples, ‘The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, “Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, “Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, “Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” But his master replied, “You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”’

Address

**Hymn All I once held dear**

All I once held dear, built my life upon, all this world reveres and wars to own  
all I once thought gain I have counted loss,

spent and worthless now, compared to this

Chorus:

*Knowing you, Jesus, knowing you. There is no greater thing:  
you’re my all, you’re the best, you’re my joy, my righteousness and I love you, Lord*

Now my heart’s desire is to know you more,

to be found in you and known as yours.   
To possess by faith what I could not earn,

all surpassing gift of righteousness

Oh to know the power of your risen life and to know you in your sufferings,  
to become like you in your death, my Lord,

so with you to live and never die.

**Bless the Gifts**

Lord Jesus, you gave everything for us.  
With these our gifts, we offer you all that we have, and are, and will be,  
praying that our church, and our mission,  
may reach out so that others may come to share in your risen life.

**Amen.**

**Prayers**

We pray, loving God,

for all those who take risks in our world today:

for those who preach the gospel where it is dangerous to do so;

**God, give them courage**

for those who speak out for justice though it could cost them their lives;

**God, give them courage**

for those who denounce corruption though it costs them their livelihoods;

**God, give them courage**

for those who stand up to temptation and turn down offers of riches;

**God, give them courage**

for those called to be in the armed forces, the rescue services,

the police force, and in any place of work

where they risk their lives to save others.

**God, give them courage**

Lord, bless their faithfulness, reward their courage,

and receive our prayers.

**In Jesus’ name. Amen.**

*We sing the* ***Lord’s* *Prayer***

**Our Father who art in heaven HBTN**

**Thy kingdom come thy will be done HBTN**

**On earth as it is in heaven HBTN**

**Give us this day our daily bread HBTN**

**Forgive us all our trespasses HBTN**

**As we forgive those who trespass against us HBTN**

**And lead us not into temptation HBTN**

**But deliver us from all that is evil HBTN**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory HBTN**

**For ever and for ever and ever HBTN**

**Blessing**

May you flourish as you use your gifts.  
May you grow in faith and wisdom.  
And may ‘Well done, good and faithful servant’   
be your joy to hear as you work, rest and pray,  
day by day.

and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
Amen.

**The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**and also with you.**

**Hymn One more step**:  
One more step along the world I go, one more step along the world I go.

From the old things to the new keep me travelling along with you

*And it’s from the old I travel to the new, keep me travelling along with you.*

Round the corners of the world I turn, more and more about the world I learn.

All the new things that I see you’ll be looking at along with me.

As I travel through the bad and good, keep me travelling the way I should.

Where I see no way to go, you’ll be telling me the way, I know

Give me courage when the world is rough, keep me loving though the world is tough.

Leap and sing in all I do, keep me travelling along with you.

You are older than the world can be, you are younger than the life in me.

Ever old and ever new, keep me travelling along with you.