**Cranmer Group Sermon, Worship & Prayers**

**June 7th – Café Church (Trinity Sunday)**

**‘The Wise and Foolish Builders’ (Matthew 7:24-27)**

*Dear Friends,*

*This Sunday is something of an adventure for us, since we have both our first, informal Café Church online service and also, God – and all the complex technology – willing, our first video service as opposed to a podcast. We’re currently praying that it all goes well! The nature of the service means that it has a slightly different format, with contemporary worship songs, shorter prayers, and also a children’s film & activity, which obviously aren’t incorporated here!*

*We’re again following our virtual service on Sunday mornings with an opportunity to catch-up with our friends across the Benefice. The service will be available online on Sunday from 9.30AM. It’ll last about 30 minutes, and then, at 10.15AM, we’re able to join together in a video conference, using Zoom. For those of you without internet access, you can still join our catch-up on Zoom, by phone. Call 0131 460 1196. Then key into your phone the meeting ID (864 0083 1074 #) and password (549794 #). Do join us!*

*May the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you, this Trinity Sunday and always,*



**Rev. Tim Chambers
Vicar, the Cranmer Group
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E-mail: curate@stgilesparish.com
Mobile: 07946 526569**The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

**The Collect for Trinity Sunday
(Common Worship)**

Holy God,
faithful and unchanging:
enlarge our minds with the knowledge
of your truth, and draw us more deeply
into the mystery of your love,
that we may truly worship you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
**Amen.**

**Here I am to Worship (Light of the World)

Played by Amy Taylor**

Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You

Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

King of all days
Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came to the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor

Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

Well, I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross

Tim Hughes

**Bible Reading: Matthew 7:24-27 (New International Version)**

**Read by Peter Watkins**

***The wise and foolish builders***

*24 ‘Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.’*

**Sermon: The Wise and Foolish Builders – Rev. Tim Chambers**

*[Context: Clare has just demonstrated the parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders with the assistance of a couple of Esther’s toys!]*
In her demonstration just now with Mickey and Minnie Mouse, Clare talked about where – in whom, or in what? - each one of us puts our trust in life. Do we put it in money and possessions, or status; maybe in scientists or even in politicians; perhaps in our friends and family - those we know and love deeply? Or do we put our trust in God?

I’m going to help us think a bit more about that now, looking for a few moments at the Bible passage that Peter kindly read for us (by the way, it’s great to have you with us this morning, Peter – thank you for everything that you and all the Café Crew have done over the last three years to make the service what it is today – even under social distancing!)

So let’s look at Matthew chapter 7, verses 24-27.

Jesus is talking to the crowds about what following him really looks like. What happens if we do do in our lives what he taught his followers (which we read in the four Gospels in the Bible) – and what happens if we don’t.

There have been some pretty huge storms surrounding our lives recently, whatever their direct impact on us personally may have been.

Perhaps for some of us, this has taken the form of struggling with isolation. Perhaps, for others of us, there has been a toll on our mental health. Maybe you’re worried that you may lose your job as a consequence of the economy’s coronavirus slowdown. Maybe you’ve lost your job already. It could be that you’ve had the virus yourself, or that you have friends and family who have done so, and maybe even lost their lives to it. The storms around us over these last 3 to 4 months have been wilder and stronger than we’ve known for many, many years, and – for some of us – fiercer than we’ve ever known.

Any season of life always has its share of wind and rain, as well as sunshine and calm. This parable, this story, told by Jesus is absolutely relevant to us then as well. But I believe it’s especially important to us all at a time like now.

In Jesus’s parable of the two builders, it’s not that one man hears God’s word, and so follows his advice, and the other doesn’t hear, and so can’t follow it. Both of them hear God’s word; it’s the way in which they choose to respond that’s the difference between one house falling down and the other house standing firm.

Jesus is saying to those listening to him then, and to us today, that we have a choice in how we live our lives. Either we can hear his teaching, take it to heart, and put it into practice in our life - so we have our firm foundation in him. Or we can hear it, choose to ignore it, and find ourselves in the midst of life without shelter from the storms.

So how do we get this ‘firm foundation’ in our life, that Jesus is talking about? I think there are four ways in particular.

The first is this: by reading God’s word, and especially the life and teachings of Jesus, in the Bible; in Scripture. This is the place where we learn about God’s plan for our lives; what it looks like in practice to follow him; and all that Jesus did for each of us by dying on the cross. If you don’t have a Bible at home, and would like to read one to discover more, do get in touch with me – my email address and phone is on the Cranmer Group website – and I’d be absolutely delighted to give one to you, and to discuss with you what you read in it.

Second, in worship. The first purpose of the life of every single one of us here, and of every single human being on this planet, is to bring glory to the God who created us, in all that we do in our lives. One of the ways in which can do this is by singing praises to God, or – if you sing like me – by listening to others praising him. I’ve put on the Cranmer Group website links to some great contemporary worship songs & some wonderful traditional hymns you might like to listen to at home (& maybe even sing along to!) to bring your thanks & praises to God.

Thirdly, in prayer. Talking to God about everything that’s going on in our lives, and listening for what he may have to say to us as well, is a fundamental part of building our lives on His solid foundation. If you’re not sure where to start with this, why not come along to our Morning or Evening Prayer meetings that we’re holding on Zoom (details are in the June Newsletter on the website), or contact me, and I’ll be very happy to point you to some great resources to help start you praying.

So, our ‘firm foundation’ for life is based firstly on what we read in the Bible; secondly, on worship; thirdly, on prayer; and, finally, on fellowship – that is, on walking on our journey through life, alongside other women and men who have also chosen to follow Jesus Christ. Supporting one another; encouraging one another; at times challenging one another; sharing our joys and our sorrows. Even though we cannot meet in our buildings at the moment, being what it really means to “be church” with one another; being a part of God’s universal family.

In another book of the Bible, the prophet Isaiah writes this:

“When you pass through the waters,
 I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned.”

Stuff will happen to us - to me and to you. Following Jesus isn’t some sort of “Get out of jail free” card for life. But what following Jesus – that is, in the image of the parable, building our lives on the solid rock of Scripture, worship, prayer and fellowship - does mean, is that when the waters and the rivers and the fires of life do come, our foundations - our faith in Jesus - is secure. If we trust in him, he won’t let us down. He promises that he will be with us, and that, in the end, he will bring us through. Let’s pray….

Lord, we thank you that you can be with us in the roughest of storms. Help us to open our lives to you, and place our trust in you, so that our foundations can be secure.
We pray for your healing on those who are ill;
For your comfort on those who mourn;
For your peace on those who are anxious;
And for your grace on us all.
In Jesus’ name,
**Amen.**

 **The Lord’s Prayer**As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

**The Collect for Trinity Sunday
(Book of Common Prayer)**

Almighty and everlasting God, who hast given unto us thy servants grace, by the confession of a true faith to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of the Divine Majesty to worship the Unity: We beseech thee, that thou wouldest keep us stedfast in this faith, and evermore defend us from all adversities, who livest and reignest, one God, world without end. Amen.
**Amen.**

**Cornerstone**

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust is Jesus' name

Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Savior's love
Through the storm
He is Lord
Lord of all

When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil

Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm
He is Lord
Lord of all

When he shall come with trumpet sound
Oh, may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless, stand before the throne

Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm
He is Lord
Lord of all

Hillsong Worship

**A Closing Blessing**

God the Holy Trinity
make you strong in faith and love,
defend you on every side,
and guide you in truth and peace;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you & remain with you always.
**Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
**In the name of Christ, Amen.**