

Wednesday 6 September 2023

Allen Gardiner



Allen Francis Gardiner was born in 1794, to wealthy parents in Oxfordshire. He became an officer in the Royal Navy and had a distinguished career. He returned to England after the Napoleonic wars as an invalid in 1822.

Perhaps as a result of his naval adventures, he had long considered becoming a missionary first in Africa among the Zulu, then among the indigenous peoples of Chile (1838–1843). During this time, he founded the *South American Missionary Society*, SAMS. A later expedition to the Falkland Islands failed, and all the expedition starved to death. Captain Gardiner was the last survivor and probably died on this day in 1851.

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Bible readings © the publishers of the NRSV translation.

Prayers of intercession © Catholic Church in the United States (altered slightly).

The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration appear at the end.

All the hymns are hosted on YouTube. Please click on the links to hear them.

To see service transcripts from previous weeks, please visit the page,

<http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm>

Introduction and welcome

HYMN 1 O Jesus I have promised (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

HYMN 1 O Jesus I have promised (different version)

HYMN 1 O Jesus I have promised (instrumental version)

The Welcome

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

All Amen.

The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

The Preparation

**All Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,

with all your soul, with all your mind,

and with all your strength.’

And the second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

All Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Jesus said to the apostles, ‘Go and make disciples of all the nations.’

Conscious of our failure to obey his commands,

let us call to mind our sins.

All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Gloria

This Gloria is sung to the tune of 'Cwm Rhondda'. Click [here](#) for the tune.

All Glory be to God in Heaven,
Songs of joy and peace we bring,
Thankful hearts and voices raising,
To creation's Lord we sing.
Lord we thank you, Lord we praise you,
Glory be to God our King:
Glory be to God our King.

Lamb of God, who on our shoulders,
Bore the load of this world's sin;
Only Son of God the Father,
You have brought us peace within.
Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy,
Now your glorious reign begin:
Now your glorious reign begin.

**You O Son of God are Holy,
You we praise with one accord.
None in heav'n or earth is like you,
Only you are Christ the Lord.
With the Father and the Spirit,
Ever worshipped and adored:
Ever worshipped and adored.**

The Collect for Allen Gardiner

Everlasting God,
whose servant Allen Gardiner carried the good news of your Son
to the people of South America
grant that we who commemorate his service
may know the hope of the gospel in our hearts
and manifest its light in all our ways;
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.

All Amen.

First reading

A reading from the Book of Psalms

- 11 Come, my children, and listen to me; ♦
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
- 12 Who is there who delights in life ♦
and longs for days to enjoy good things?
- 13 Keep your tongue from evil ♦
and your lips from lying words.
- 14 Turn from evil and do good; ♦
seek peace and pursue it.

15 The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous ♦
and his ears are open to their cry.

16 The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, ♦
to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.

17 The righteous cry and the Lord hears them ♦
and delivers them out of all their troubles.

18 The Lord is near to the broken-hearted ♦
and will save those who are crushed in spirit.

Psalm 34:11-18

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading

A reading from St Paul's Letter to the Colossians

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae: grace to you and peace from God our Father.

In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow-servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

Colossians 1:1-8

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

**HYMN 2 Come down O Love divine
Come down O Love divine**

*(click on this link to hear the hymn)
(version led by an alto saxophone)*

Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

All Glory to you O Lord.

After leaving the synagogue [Jesus] entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked him about her. Then he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. Immediately she got up and began to serve them.

As the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various kinds of diseases brought them to him; and he laid his hands on each of them and cured them. Demons also came out of many, shouting, 'You are the Son of God!' But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Messiah.

At daybreak he departed and went into a deserted place. And the crowds were looking for him; and when they reached him, they wanted to prevent him from leaving them. But he said to them, 'I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other cities also; for I was sent for this purpose.' So he continued proclaiming the message in the synagogues of Judea. *Luke 4:38-end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

Today's service transcript starts with a very short biography of Allen Gardiner. He is most famous as a missionary in South America, particularly for his part in helping form the South American Missionary Society (SAMS), although he also worked widely elsewhere. For more information, please click [here](#).

The Church calendar does not regard Allen Gardiner as a major saint, so he does not have his own lectionary readings: those reproduced above are those for today, Wednesday 6 September. In a sense there is a glorious coinciding of these readings with today's saint because St Paul says, 'You have heard of this hope [because someone told you of it]' and Jesus says, 'I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom ... for I was sent for this purpose'. But in a different sense there is no coincidence for the imperative to share the Good News so permeates the scriptures that the idea is fundamental rather than an 'add-on extra'. The church reveres Allen Gardiner because he was a great missionary.

Leaving aside for a moment the questions of what actually constitute a saint, and why the Church chooses to remember and revere some of its people in this way, we need to ask ‘what is a missionary’; *what exactly is mission?*

The on-line encyclopaedia *Wikipedia* defines mission as ‘an organised effort for the propagation of the Christian faith. Missions involve sending individuals and groups across boundaries, most commonly geographical boundaries’; and the BBC schools’ website says, ‘for Christians [mission] means telling people about Jesus Christ, in the hope of converting non-Christians to Christianity.’ Allen Gardiner certainly fulfils both these definitions.

To some extent, though, these definitions are a caricature. The Anglican Church defines mission much more widely and sometimes uses the Latin phrase *mission dei*—the ‘mission of God’, which is seen as the total redeeming work of God. Seen this way, ‘mission’ is expressed in saving, healing, restoring, and renewing the whole World. The Church is invited to join in this adventure.

The definition above can seem a little abstract or woolly so the Church helpfully explains ‘mission’ in terms of five expressions of what mission looks like in practice. They are often called the ‘marks’ of mission, and comprise:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers.
3. To respond to human need by loving service.
4. To transform unjust structures of society,
to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation.
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation,
and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

The definitions above from Wikipedia and the BBC suggest that mission primarily emphasises the first item on this list with a lesser emphasis on the second. But the others are also vitally important. The third is often called the ‘social gospel’ and responds to Jesus’ New Commandment, ‘Love one another as I have loved you’. The fourth is often described as ‘social justice’ and explains why it was Christians who championed movements such as the abolition of the slave trade, created the NHS, had the vision that led to the Samaritans, create and oversee most of Britain’s food banks, ..., the list is huge. And the fifth expresses God’s command for us to care for the environment.

The five marks of mission are entirely inter-related and should never be considered in isolation; mature expressions of faith never emphasise just one mark of mission to the complete exclusion of all the others. For example, it’s possible to be

an environmentalist who does not even believe in God! Social justice without the Gospel is always good but is not a response to the Gospel.

In fact, Christian mission (our own and of the Church as whole) is always most powerful when it responds to two or three marks of mission at the same time. For example, a great many of the nurses who helped staff the NHS when it first formed were living in Christian communities, which is why we still call them 'sister'.

God calls each of us to work for all five of these marks of mission but will usually inspire us to work principally for two or maybe three. (The interconnectedness described above explains why it is very rare that He calls us to work for only one.) Actually, most of us will be called to work at the interface between two marks of mission. For example, a Christian doctor or teacher will seek to show the love of God in their healing and their teaching; a Christian environmentalist will show they love God by the way they revere nature; an evangelist will show the love of God by the way they love other Christians, love the environment, and so on.

Today in the Church calendar we remember Allen Gardiner, but the scriptures invite us to explore the whole concept of mission—in effect, they offer us a chance to reflect on how we love both God and neighbour. Mission, then, is a response to Jesus' Summary of the Law: when Jesus said, 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength' and 'Love your neighbour as yourself', he could have said, 'You shall engage in the mission of God, which is loving service.'

The Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
the source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

All We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

**All This is our faith.
We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers of intercession

For a personal encounter with Jesus Christ, who is alive in the Church, that the Holy Spirit will guide our catechetical formation for mission, and that our love for the Church's mission, which is a passion for Jesus and a passion for His people 'grow ever stronger,'

Let us pray to the Lord.

All We pray to the Lord.

For all missionaries and martyrs who give their lives to tell the glory of the Lord among the nations, especially martyred Allen Gardiner, a voice for the indigenous peoples of the America and a faithful servant of the Gospel, that they may be loving, wise and holy witnesses of Christ, our Saviour.

Let us pray to the Lord.

All We pray to the Lord.

For the leaders of nations, that they may be committed to justice for all peoples—especially indigenous peoples and those persecuted for their faith, that our leaders may also be dedicated to preserving our common home and building a world at peace.

Let us pray to the Lord.

All We pray to the Lord.

For an increase in missionary charity, that our spiritual and financial sacrifices may help the message and love of our Lord be made known to the ends of the earth.

Let us pray to the Lord.

All We pray to the Lord.

For those who are ill or who live in spiritual loneliness, that they may unite their sufferings with the Crucified Christ for the redemption of the world.

Let us pray to the Lord.

All We pray to the Lord.

Merciful Father,

All accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The peace

We are fellow-citizens with the saints and of the household of God,
through Christ our Lord, who came and preached peace
to those who were far off and those who were near.

The peace of the Lord be always with you,

All And also with you.

HYMN 3 [Go forth and tell!](#)

(please click on this link to hear the hymn)

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below.

The Dismissal

May God, whose glory is reflected in the lives of his saints,
pour upon you the riches of his grace,
and equip you and strengthen you to proclaim his word.
And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

HYMN 4 [We have a gospel to proclaim](#)

(click on this link to hear the hymn)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Eucharistic Prayer (prayer E)

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Christ has never ceased to call disciples;
he sends them to bring salvation to the nations
by the light of the gospel.

For this work your servant Allen Gardiner was set apart by the Spirit;
in faith and obedience he went to peoples far away.

You called him to be all things to everyone
as a minister of your word,
so that in your sight the nations might become
a holy sacrifice, acceptable to you.
And so we join with all your saints
to sing of your great glory
in this their joyful hymn of praise:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with Allen Gardiner and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All **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.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

All **Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

All We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us. Amen.

Communion is distributed.

Prayer after Communion

Holy Father,
who gathered us here around the table of your Son
to share this meal with the whole household of God:
in that new world where you reveal
the fullness of your peace,
gather people of every race and language
to share with Allen Gardiner and all your saints
in the eternal banquet of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

All Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.