

Service for Week 11th- 17th Aug 2025

By Chaplain Andy

Our Opening Prayer.

Loving God, we know that nothing can ever separate us from your love revealed in Christ Jesus. Help us to serve as he taught, to love as he urged, and to trust as he instructed to the glory of your name. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name.....

Amen

Bible Reading Heb 11:29-38 & Ch12v2

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days.

By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.

And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies.

Women received back their dead, raised to life again.

Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a

better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Holy words, Holy wisdom,

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

In our reading the author of this letter to the Hebrews is writing about some of the great and miraculous things in the past that were achieved through faith in God. Miraculous things such as the dead being brought back to life like Lazarus and Dorcus. Also, those whose lives were restored not in this world but in the next. Those who faced persecution, suffering and being outcast from society that believers have had to endure because of their faith.



Here in the UK and in many countries throughout the world, the 10 commandments as given to Moses and the wider teachings of Jesus has formed the bedrock of our legal system and has been very much a part of our society's values and tradition for hundreds of years. Even when times have changed, we have aspired to keep to these basic moral rules such as 'Thou shalt not kill' which follows the principal that that all life is sacred. This and other laws such as not stealing or telling lies about your neighbour have been described as Gods moral laws for how people living together – society - can successfully get along. These laws and moral truths are part of all major religions and obeying them has been part of putting our faith into the way we live out our lives.

But in our world today moral standards and laws based on faith are under attack. 'Relativism' is often taken into account and traditional moral truths are called into question. 'Relativism' is the view that moral truths are not absolute and universal, but can depend on, or are relative to something else, such as the local culture, an individual's perspective, or even how things have been decided in the past. The writer of the letter to the Hebrews from which our text is taken urges his readers not to get hindered or entangled in sinful thoughts and acts which go against the will of God.

Instead, in a very moving passage he writes 'let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.' And he tells them to fix their eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. Then he goes on to remind them that Jesus endured the shame of the Cross, but was brought back to life before returning to God in glory.

His message for the Hebrews, and us, is when our faith in God is under attack by the society in which we live we should persevere to live out our faith by following the teachings of Jesus. Remembering that it was through Jesus' death and resurrection that he demonstrated God's love and forgiveness for each one of us and gave us the promise of eternal life. That is the basis of our faith.

Amen

There is a great modern worship song
It goes:

**Lord you are the author of my life
You have begun a work in me,
You have predestined me
To do Your perfect will.**

the chorus is our Closing Prayer
**So, Lord, finish in me what You've begun,
Guide me by Your mighty hand,
Lord: Let me trust in You.
And Lord, let me seek Your holy face,
May I always walk with You, Lord,
And let Your will be done.**

Amen. Opening prayer inspired by 'Prayerfully Yours' by Nick Fawcett, Closing Prayer 'Lord you are the author of my life' lyrics Matt Redman.