



St Mary Magdalen  
Bermondsey

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**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2020: 10.30 Holy Communion**



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1PaViQ8yCAJwcE572vppng>

## **The Ninth Sunday after Trinity**

Gracious Father,  
Revive your Church in our day,  
and make her holy, strong and faithful,  
for your glory's sake  
In Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**See :**

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**Prayer Course**

**Join us for Session 4 on Zoom. Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Aug, 7.00pm**

# Sermon Summary: Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2020:

Trinity 8

Genesis 32 v 22-31 James 4: 6-8. **Worship as Surrender:** Robin Precey

**INTRODUCTION:** Robin began by saying:

**“I AM THE WORST PERSON TO PREACH ON THIS TOPIC !”**

I am independent, competitive, stubborn - ask my wife, educated, proud not humble...only exam I ever failed was Woodwork O level. Always right - even when I am wrong. I used to think I was Master of the Universe “*I am a rock, I am an island*” Simon and Garfunkel

**WHAT IS IT TO SURRENDER?** We often associate the word “surrender” - fighting, war, dispute, argument - with **giving up** or **giving in**. Been defeated. sign of weakness. Not so - surrender is about who/what you worship. We **all devote** our lives to **something or someone**. We **have a choice: Either:**

**SURRENDER TO THE WORLD** And worship Idols such as:

**MONEY** - greed, **FOOD** - gluttony, **POWER** - fades or corrupts eventually, **IMMORTALITY** - live forever  
**SELF IMAGE** (APPEARANCE, EXERCISE, FASHION AND FITNESS)- vanity. **OTHERS** if you put these at the centre of our lives **and do them to excess** so they become top priority and take over our time, energy and money then you know that: the **more you have, the more you want**. Never satisfied. **Addictive and can only have these on this earth.**

**SURRENDER TO GOD** Genesis 32 22-31: “*When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob’s hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man.*”<sup>30</sup> So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “*It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.*” Neither the first or last person to fight God and then hold onto Him and **emerge as a crippled but stronger person a new man**. God **puts us in difficult situations to test us and then rescues us as new people**. A paradox Lord’s Prayer: **Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil**. Have you noticed that when life gets tough it is then we turn to God and he never fails us. Not necessarily the way would want it then but when we **look back** we can see there was wisdom behind the path he led us down. true **of my life** when struggled with health, career, relationships.

**SURRENDERING TO GOD IS NOT ENSLAVEMENT** - not entering a prison

**UNLIKE SURRENDERING TO WORLDLY THINGS** which leads to self- imprisonment.

**SURRENDERING TO GOD AND BEING A CHRISTIAN IS HAVING A FAITH OF LIBERATION** from being trapped into what this world values. **OF EMANCIPATION. OF SALVATION.**

Many examples in the Bible: **Noah**- ark - **trusting God** Genesis 6-9; **Abraham** - **tested and trusted God** - Genesis 22 sacrifice his son and heir Isaac. **Jesus** surrendered Himself on the cross.

**SUMMARY: SO WHAT?** James tells us to do 5 things in relation to surrendering to God:

- 1. WE DO HAVE A CHOICE** - **make a choice and fix our priorities** - Matthew 6 v21 “*Where your treasure is there your heart will be also*” James v 6 *God opposes the proud but shows favour to the humble*. The things we spend all our lives building up - job, homes, leisure - can be removed in a flash (March 23). **This is urgent:**
- 2. Submit to God**<sup>7</sup> *Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. God has already defeated the devil.* **Our lives are in God’s hands** - we need to trust Him. Unlike those who worship earthly things our lives are in safe hands. **He cares for us now and in the future.**
- 3. We all make mistakes** and make those earthly idols our priorities at times. **We were born human. But our faith enables us to get up again when we fall, dust ourselves off, genuinely and honestly say sorry to God and walk upright** to continue our journey on this earth.
- 4. draw closer to Him**<sup>8</sup> *Come near to God and he will come near to you. How? purify your heart* v7 *Wash your hands, you sinners, and (a) Purify your hearts, you double-minded. Prayer* - course Like Jacob when up against it pray. **PUSH** = Pray Until Something Happens b) Bible c) Notice God Given Moments - show humility. It is Him not us
- 5. This life on earth is but part of a journey.** As Christians we firmly believe that this is not the end - beyond is heaven. if you worship earthly things this life is all there is. If you worship God there is the promise of an unimaginably great future.

**Finally, a word about Covid -19** As Christians our attitude to the pandemic should be special and different to the world’s. I am aware that this is **sensitive** as those among us who have suffered and are suffering directly as a result of this plague. We **need to sensible follow guidance** - masks, social distancing, wash hands until it is over. As Christians, today’s theme has clear messages:

A. **Trust in God**

B. We need to wake up and **consider and perhaps change the way we live whilst we are here on this earth**

FOR WHICH WE ARE GOD’S STEWARDS

C. Life on this earth is fragile and it will end. As **Christians we have a certainty that this life is just part of a journey**. There is life in Heaven after death on this earth. Only God knows where, when and how that day is.

**Do we really believe this and live our lives responsibly as though today may be that day? The best is yet to come.**



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Pray for: **Mary B, Margaret, Jo, Isobel, Iris, Patrick, Amie & Noela, +Karowei.**

With Love + prayers

Charlie



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