

Sunday 2nd July 2023

Trinity 4



Croeso!

Ласкаво просимо!

Bienvenue!

Willkommen!

Bienvenido!

These are words that mean “welcome” in Welsh, Ukrainian, French, German and Spanish. Do you know the word for “welcome” in any other languages?

What do you think the word “welcome” actually means?

The dictionary defines the word as a “friendly greeting”, or as someone or something that is “gladly received.” When we welcome others, we communicate to them that they are valued and that we are glad to see them and to be with them.

Sometimes, though, these words can be a little deceiving. We might say “welcome,” but only receive people under certain conditions. We see examples in our country’s history, and still today, of mixed message welcomes. Some people do not want to welcome others who aren’t like them.

Sadly, this can even happen in churches. We might say we welcome everyone, but if people look a certain way, or behave differently to us, they might be

treated negatively or unwelcome. This is not what Jesus wanted. We hear, in our gospel reading today, Jesus telling his disciples - and, therefore, us - that when we receive and welcome others, it's like we are welcoming him, and welcoming "the one who sent him." Jesus said that we will receive blessing for welcoming others, whoever they are.

Jesus had a reputation for welcoming people who might otherwise be looked down on. He showed special love for children, even though they were not too valued in his day and culture. He went to people who were sick and hurting, outcasts of society, and to those who had done wrong. Jesus cared for them and loved them. He welcomed them into God's family.

We can rejoice in this, because we know that he welcomes us. His arms are wide open for us to rush into in blessed embrace. We also know that he wants us to welcome others. He wants us to invite people to church, and, when they come, to give them a hearty welcome, letting them know that they are valued and loved.

One of the most wonderful things about God's Kingdom is that we are all different! We should celebrate the different appearance, abilities and gifts that God has given us all. Jesus doesn't want us to be critical or judgemental about others, but to give everyone the same big welcome in his name!

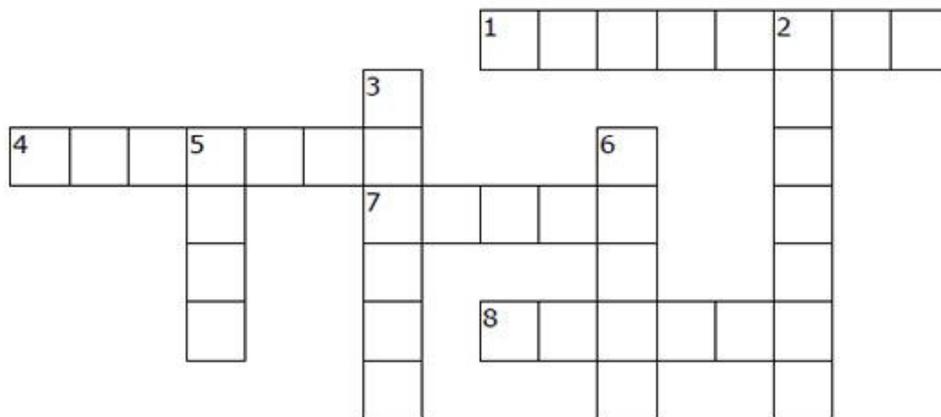
 This week's prayer:

Dear God, thank you for welcoming us into your family.
We know that you value and care for all people.
Help us to be welcoming to others and to demonstrate your love to those in our lives. In Jesus name, Amen!

"Welcome!"

"He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives the one who sent me." Matthew 10:40 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 10:40-42



ACROSS

1. A follower of Jesus
4. To gladly receive someone into your own house
7. An odorless, colorless, tasteless liquid; H₂O
8. Small; not large

DOWN

2. A person who speaks for God
3. Recognition of someone's good behavior
5. The opposite of hot; having a very low temperature
6. A fact that has been proven

PROPHET	TRUTH	DISCIPLE	COLD
LITTLE	WELCOME	REWARD	WATER

"Welcome!"

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R B Q S L O S E K X F S D E O
W A T E R Q N Y Y T S A I V S
D A M K N Q H W B M H Y S H M
L I T T L E P P H F I A C I C
X T R U T H H B S O R V I J L
R T R E W A R D J F I I P V C
R N C G O N E S K X G Q L R W
H G G N Q Z M H Z B H E E E R
Y D I E A G R R R W T T D C X
G I T V U N G U J Z E L J E H
T H B X E T Y F Z H O T U I C
J E W E J S H O P C U I K V U
J P L M Q Q F O N V S L B E P
Q U E L E R R A U E S H Q S T
R V S M O P H J S Q A N I U R

RIGHTEOUS
WATER
RECEIVES
REWARD

LOSE
PROPHET
DISCIPLE
TELL

TRUTH
ONES
COLD
CUP

ANYONE
WHO
GIVES
LITTLE

I can
follow Jesus
by helping
others



