



**A sermon for the Cathedral Eucharist at Wells  
Cathedral, preached on Sunday 3 August 2025 by the  
Reverend Simon Lewis, Sub-Dean.**

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## **Colossians 3.1-11**

*Let me pray. As the rain and the snow come down from above, and return not again but water the earth bringing forth life and giving growth, so may the words that I speak, return to you, Lord, bearing fruit. Amen.*

Let me begin with a strange, beautiful idea God has given us in Colossians: “You have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God” (Colossians 3. 3). Now, I don’t imagine any of us came to worship this morning feeling especially dead - unless we’re talking about too little sleep or too much coffee. And yet, here it is: we’ve died, and somehow our real life is now hidden with Christ. What does that mean, to have a life that is “hidden with Christ”?

I’m going to offer a few reflections - some of which you may agree with. Some may make you go “Whoa, didn’t know that, I want to know more”. And others might make you think, “Don’t be ridiculous, Simon.” I’m open to all responses. Please share it with others, and or come, find me. I’ll have a cup of coffee in my hand - I hope!

This idea - we’ve died, and somehow our real life is now hidden with Christ - isn’t about physical death. And it’s not about earning a spot in some heavenly waiting room. It’s about transformation - right here, right now, as we live our messy lives.

It’s about dying to our Ego - the false self. That part of us that clings to fear, control, performance and survival. The voice that whispers: “I am what I have.” “I am what I do.” “I am what others think of me.” “I am... about me.” That voice is exhausting. And God through Colossians invites you to let it go. Let it die. But I’m not pretending it’s easy. Because the ego clings tightly. It tells you you’re safe if you stay angry, if you stay guarded, if you stay superior. And yet, grace meets you right there - in the middle of your messy life.

Colossians names the old ways: anger, malice, slander, greed. And says, in essence: take them off, like old clothes that don’t fit you anymore. And, at a guess, most of you know what that’s like: wearing something too tight; too small; you tug at it; you twist and fidget; you just want to take it off. That’s what happens when we live from the false self - it doesn’t fit anymore. But the

life of Christ? That life fits. It's roomy. Spacious. Made for the true you - your God-shaped self.

Last week, we heard how Jesus taught his disciples to be rooted in God through the Lord's Prayer - not as a formula, but as a way of life; not of polished words, but with honest need. It feeds us with spiritual nourishment but only if you let it; let it shape you; let it become your breath. In its simple, faithful repetition, it can reshape your life and reflect God's. With the Lord's Prayer shaping you, the truth of who you are, made in the image of God, is this:

- You are patient.
- You are kind.
- You are good.
- You are humble.
- You are forgiving.
- You are honest.
- You are trustworthy.
- You are compassionate.
- You are loving.
- You don't keep score.
- You seek the best.
- You care deeply.
- You long for justice.
- You are pure of heart.

This is the truth of your being, your God-shaped being. This is who you really are.

And here's the surprise at the centre of it all: Christ is all, and is in all. Not just "Christ is in you." - Simon - ... (*the names of people in the congregation are mentioned...* )

But Christ is in everyone. In your co-worker who drives you mad. In your partner whom you love. In your children - who you can have mixed emotions about at various times. In the person who voted differently. In the one you're avoiding. To your left, to your right, in front and behind - Christ is in those people too. And yes, in the mirror too. This isn't about a private little vertical

relationship between “you and Jesus.” This is about waking up to a deeper reality: we are all connected; all held; all invited to become more whole, more alive.

What then, might that mean for today?

Maybe it means letting go of the story you’ve been telling yourself - that you’re too broken, too messed up, too far gone. Maybe it means forgiving. Or loosening the grip of cynicism and trying kindness instead. Maybe it means realising that spirituality isn’t an escape from life - but a way of being fully in it. Because resurrection doesn’t just happen after physical death. It happens after the false self dies. And that means resurrection can... begin... today. And I say Amen to that.

I finish with a blessing for you all. Or maybe it’s a hope. Maybe it’s both:

That each of you would go into the world and live your wonderfully messy, imperfect lives - not with polished perfection, but with the courage to be real. That you would let the false self fall away - let go of the mask, the anger, the need to be right. And instead, put on compassion. Put on humility. Put on grace.

And when you’re forgetting who you are - when you’re slipping into old patterns pray, pray and pray again, the Lord’s Prayer - pray honestly, pray with humility and, as we were encouraged to do last week, pray it backwards. And remember this: Christ is all. Christ is in all. You are held. You are becoming. You are already, deeply loved. So go. Go and live in your messy lives - shaped by God, like Christ.

*Thank you for listening*

Simon Lewis, Sub-Dean

3 August 2025