

Parish of St. Thomas, Apostle & Martyr, Ipswich

First Sunday after Trinity - 14th June 2020

Collect:

God of truth, help us to keep your law of love and to walk in ways of wisdom, that we may find true life in Jesus Christ your Son. **Amen.**

Psalm 116.1,12-19

1 I love the Lord, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy.
12 What shall I return to the Lord for all his goodness to me?
13 I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.
14 I will fulfil my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.
15 Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants.
16 Truly I am your servant, Lord; I serve you just



as my mother did; you have freed me from my chains.

17 I will sacrifice a thank offering to you and call on the name of the Lord.

18 I will fulfil my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people,

19 in the courts of the house of the Lord— in your midst, Jerusalem. Praise the Lord.

A reading from the book of Genesis (18.1-15; 21.1-7):

The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground. He said, "If I have found favour in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by. Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant." "Very well," they answered, "do as you say."

So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. "Quick," he said, "get three seahs of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread." Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree. "Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked him. "There, in the tent," he said. Then one of them said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son." Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?" Then the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son." Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, "I did not laugh." But he said, "Yes, you did laugh."

Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him. When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me." And she added, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (9.35-10.8)

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

This is the gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, o Christ.

Reflection: I wonder if you have a good imagination? Imagination is a wonderful gift that allows us to change the society we live in, because we can imagine treating people better, and then find practical ways of making it happen. Imagination allows us to develop the person that we are, because we can envision what it might be like to behave in ways that we admire in others. We can imagine futures for our children, and we might daydream about the future for ourselves. Imagination also comes into play when we pray for our neighbourhood, when we speak out for justice, and when we realise that the world is not how it could be. But, often, our imaginations can also be very limited. I wonder how the disciples felt when Jesus sent them out to heal and to proclaim the good news. Did they feel scared, empowered, bold, nervous? Did they imagine that they were beginning to bring in the Kingdom of God? And in our reading from Genesis, when Sarah hears that she will have a son, despite already being old, her reaction is to laugh it off. She cannot imagine something that seems impossible.

Perhaps this reaction is familiar to us. It's so easy for us to imagine a limit to what God can do. We think we know what is possible, what is realistic, and sometimes we never look outside of this box. But God is so much bigger than that. Even our wildest imaginings cannot contain all that God could and does do. Because God specialises in dealing with the impossible. It happens again and again in the Bible - Sarah has a baby; the disciples are able to do miracles; Jesus walks on water, calms storms, feeds crowds with nothing, dies and comes back to life.

God constantly challenges our assumptions of what is possible. We are often anxious when we can't predict what the future might look like, and perhaps a reason we are often so scared of change is that we aren't sure if the change will be better or worse. We think that we'd rather stick with how things are, than risk life becoming harder in some way. But to imagine a changed world is what Jesus invites us to do. And as Christians, we are asked to take part in re-imagining the world into a better place. God's vision for us is one of fullness, of completeness of life and joy. A vision of love beyond anything we have known before. So as we wonder what life will look like in the next few months and years, take a moment to think about what you would long for. What is the best-case scenario you can possibly think of, and what could you do to help it become reality? It may well be that your imagining looks a lot like the Kingdom of God. - Rev Cat

We are the body of Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.

Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.

Alleluia! The peace of the Lord be always with you.

Here are the words of two hymns you may like to sing or pray this week:

Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare,
will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
In you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

There is a Redeemer,
Jesus, God's own Son,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Holy One.

*Thank you, O my Father,
for giving us your Son,
and leaving your Spirit till
the work on earth is done.*

Jesus, my Redeemer,
name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
O for sinners slain.

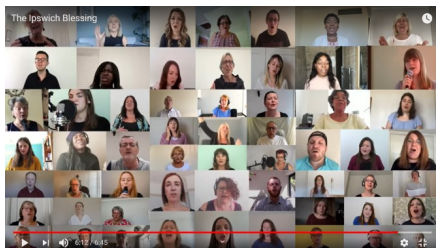
When I stand in glory,
I will see his face,
and there I'll serve my King for ever,
in that holy place.

Call this number ↓ for free,
for a greeting from Justin Welby,
Archbishop of Canterbury!

Then listen to hymns being sung,
prayers, or reflections. Give it a
go, it's a lovely way to worship
from home!



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers



The Ipswich Blessing: in case you have not listened to it, here is the link: it cheers me up every time I watch it :) <https://youtu.be/yLtP3r69j0I>

We are thinking of organising 'Songs of Praise' on ZOOM soon. It is easy to join ZOOM with a phone—Mary Bullass is the expert. Let us know, if you would be interested.

Please pray for:

Those with chronic or long-term illness: Eric Dickerson, Rosemary, Sophie, Adam, Jenny, Andrew Barfield, Kathy Steele, Frank D., Andrew Derrett, Peggy, Pat, Natacha, Christine, Stephen, Julie, Samantha, Jill, Rex, Molly Johansen, Margaret Christian, Marion (Val's sister-in-law)

Those undergoing treatment or currently ill: Emily & family (9 years old with cancer), Juliet Adams, Gloria Elmer, Helen Harlow, Jean Dominy, Leslie Bloomfield, Pete Tancred, Katie (cancer), Peter, Hazel Messenger (cancer, very ill), Jim, Richard (June's nephew), Sylvia Eley, Dougie, Robert

All who are affected by the Coronavirus in the UK and around the world: For the **International Rescue Committee and other aid agencies** working to curtail the spread of Covid19 in developing countries; **for all health care staff, esp. those in care homes.** Pray for our Schools, teachers & staff.

For racial justice and peace in the USA following the death of George Floyd

Those who have recently died, and their families mourning their loss, among them: Jason Wilcox (*our deep sympathy and prayers for Amber & Natacha*) ; Sma's stepfather **R.I.P**



Birthdays this week:

Susan Dickerson (20th)

Pray for members of the St Thomas Congregation
(each week we will include a dozen names)

Jo Goddard & family, Carole & Frank, Emma with Steve, Bradley & Esmae, Jill Last, Zoe with Conrad, Kurt & Rebecca, James Matthews, Stephen Marginson

Online Church Services:

Sunday 14 June Trinity Sunday - 10am
ZOOM Worship St Thomas (Please, let us know if you want to join by phone)

Tuesday 16 June –6.00 pm LiveStream
Meditation on facebook/
StThomasPilgrimCommunity

Wednesday 24 June:

10 am Livestream Eucharist facebook/
StThomasIpswich

Thursday 25 June: 4 pm –Bible from
Scratch on ZOOM Contact Rev Cat to join.

Sunday Worship Video & other Worship resources on the church facebook page.

Church Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/stthomasipswich/>

Church website:

<http://stthomasipswich.org.uk/>

**YOUR SUPPORT NEEDED FOR NWIPSWICH
FOODBANK organised by the Big Local Trust:**

Please drop non-perishable food at
Castlehill Community Centre, Highfield Road
on MONDAYS between 9.30 and 11.00am.

Contacts:

Priest in charge: Revd Jutta Brueck
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Jutta's days off are: Fridays & Saturdays

Assistant Curate: Revd Cat Connolly

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Cat's day off: Mondays

If you would like to chat, please do give us a ring:

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