

Parish of St. Thomas, Apostle & Martyr, Ipswich

Tenth Sunday after Trinity - 16th August 2020

Collect:

Lord of heaven and earth, as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer, give us patience and courage never to lose hope, but always to bring our prayers before you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Psalm 133

1 How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!
2 It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.



3 It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

A reading from the book of Genesis (45.1-15):

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honoured in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (15.21-28)

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said,

“Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly. **This is the gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, o Christ.**

Reflection: Inclusion and Diversity.

Our readings this week have all kinds of implications for those who seek to follow Jesus and his way, but I want to explore the particular implications for us as we think about two words which are much in use in our culture today : Inclusion and Diversity. At first glance the readings may not seem to have much in common, but as we look deeper, perhaps they have.

In the old testament story, a version of which we know so well because of the musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice, Joseph has been sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, and long forgotten about. Years later famine and hardship drive the brothers to seek help from the old enemy Egypt, and on arrival they are met by Joseph, now a powerful prince who administers the famine relief programme. He recognises them, but they don’t recognise him but are overawed by him and his situation. Joseph could easily have taken vengeance on them and refused to help, or worse still he could have had them punished for what they had done all those years before but he doesn’t. He makes himself known to them and offers help and forgiveness. This much we all know.

In the Gospel reading, we are told that this is one of the few occasions when Jesus is actually in a foreign country. He is right up in the north east corner of the country, in the territory of Tyre and Sidon where the sea going Phoenicians live who are related to the Samaritans, despised for having intermarried with the locals some 500 years before. Jesus has gone there with the disciples to take a break from the increasingly nasty struggle he has been having with

the scribes and Pharisees over questions of authority and the interpretation of the Law. He seems to want to spend some time with the disciples preparing them for what lies ahead. But they are plagued by this Gentile woman following them and calling out for him to heal her daughter and, unusually, Jesus is ignoring her. The disciples want him to act “for goodness sake give her what she wants and give us some peace” But Jesus is quite focussed on the belief that his mission is to the Jewish people and not to the rest of the world, and says so to the woman. Quick as a flash the woman comes back with those remarkable words which have come to mean so much to Anglicans over the centuries, through the Prayer of Humble Access in Cranmer’s Book of Common Prayer, ‘Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table’ Jesus responds to her quick wit, cheerfulness and faith, and her daughter is healed.

So what can we learn about Inclusion and Diversity from these stories?

From Joseph we learn that a prerequisite of inclusion is forgiveness and that diversity is made possible when we are willing to share the gifts that we have.

From Jesus we learn that inclusion and diversity means a readiness to think big; to challenge beliefs and ideas that we have previously held for the sake of the good of all.

From both of them we learn that the gifts we have been given are not given us for our own sake, but to be shared with all, even, and perhaps most especially, with those who have hurt us, let us down, opposed us, or are just plain different from us. And that, my sisters and brothers, is perhaps, the hardest lesson of all for we sinful, basically selfish, human beings to learn.

May God, the creator of Inclusion and Diversity give us grace to listen to him and learn from him and trust him more. Amen.

- Canon Christopher Chapman

***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:

Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

*All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and
claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

A brighter dawn is breaking,
and earth with praise is waking;
for thou, O King most highest,
the pow'r of death defiest.

And thou hast come victorious,
with risen body glorious,
who now for ever livest,
and life abundant givest.

O free the world from blindness,
and fill the earth with kindness,
give sinners resurrection,
Bring striving to perfection.

In sickness give us healing,
in doubt thy clear revealing,
that praise to thee be given
in earth as in thy heaven.

*Call this number ↓ for free, to
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



Our services back in Church, combined with ZOOM church at 10am, followed by ZOOM coffee at 11, worked well. **In order to attend church on Sundays, you need to book in, ideally with the electronic booking form or by phoning 01473 742973** (Church answer phone) by Saturday 9 am. **To attend the Wednesday 10am communions**, book in by phone, but you can just come along. We look forward to seeing you soon.

St Thomas Church is open for Private Prayer, on Mondays and Thursdays, between 11 am and 2 pm. The Peace Garden is Open for use every weekday.

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, Juliet Adams, Gloria Elmer, Helen Harlow, Jean Dominy, Leslie Bloomfield, Pete Tancred, Katie (cancer), Peter, Jim, Richard (June's nephew), Sylvia Eley, Dougie, Robert, Andy, Alice (Joan's grandson's wife), Beryl Field

All who are affected by the Coronavirus in the UK and around the world: *For all who have lost their jobs due to Covid19; all who are despairing. For the people of Beirut following the explosion this week—for all who have lost their lives & livelihoods, the injured, the bereaved. For sufficient assistance and recovery. For our government & MP's: for honesty in politics, for wisdom and justice for all.*

Those who have recently died, and their families mourning their loss: Susan Rutter, Sethe Dube R.I.P

Sunday Worship Video & other Worship resources on the Church Facebook page:

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

Sunday 9 August Trinity 9 - 10 am: Eucharist & ZOOM Worship, followed by 11am ZOOM coffee

Wednesday, 12 August, 10am Eucharist in Church with livestream on Facebook/ StThomasipswich

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

Sma & Michael; Christine Perfect; Roger, Janet & Harvey; David Pitt; Helen, Neil, James, Sophie & Adam; Linda Savage, Jackie Rathbone, Rachael Rudge & family



Birthdays this week:

Rev'd Jutta (22nd)

Church website:

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

Please note: Our website is down due to problems with the server. Please go to [facebook/sthomasipswich](https://www.facebook.com/sthomasipswich/) for any updates

Contacts:

Priest in charge: Rev'd Jutta Brueck

m: 07958 360564 (on holiday)

Email: jutta.brueck@cofesuffolk.org

Jutta's days off are: Fridays & Saturdays

Assistant Curate: Rev'd Cat Connolly

m: 07530 412988

Email: revcatconnolly@gmail.com

Cat's day off: Mondays

**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.

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

Rev'd Jutta: 07958 360 564 Rev Cat 07530 412988

Roger Elmer 07810 274586 Sylvia Dickerson 07903 739487

Malcolm Gibbs 07906 663530 Mary Bullass 625135

Gloria Elmer 745590

Rev Jackie 07962172639

Rev'd Pat 01473 464748