

Parish of St. Thomas, Apostle & Martyr, Ipswich

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity - 20th September 2020

Collect:

Lord God, defend your Church from all false teaching and give to your people knowledge of your truth, that we may enjoy eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Psalm 105.1-6,37-end

1 O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

2 Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

3 Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

4 Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually.

5 Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered,

6 O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

37 Then he brought Israel out with silver and gold, and there was no one among their tribes who stumbled.

38 Egypt was glad when they departed, for dread of them had fallen upon it.

39 He spread a cloud for a covering, and fire to give light by night.

40 They asked, and he brought quails, and gave them food from heaven in abundance.

41 He opened the rock, and water gushed out; it flowed through the desert like a river.

42 For he remembered his holy promise, and Abraham, his servant.

43 So he brought his people out with joy, his chosen ones with singing.

44 He gave them the lands of the nations, and they took possession of the wealth of the peoples,

45 that they might keep his statutes and observe his laws. Praise the Lord!

A reading from the letter to the Philippians (1.21-end)

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

This is the word of the Lord.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (20.1-16)

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received

their daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last." **This is the gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, o Christ.**

Reflection:

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

*To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons :
[2] Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. AMEN.*

'Philippians' is Paul's joy letter. The church in that Macedonian city had been a great encouragement to Paul and Timothy. Paul's letter exudes joy throughout all 4 chapters - like a stratum of strength to uphold them. He spoke to them as partners in the gospel. In a life dedicated to serving Christ, Paul had faced deep poverty, wealth and everything in between. Through all this he had learnt to be content - deeply seeking his longing to serve Christ. If you get a chance to read Philippians from start to finish (4 chapters) you will get the sense of his longing to know Christ more and more.

I have a story to tell: About 20 years ago I was asked to help lead a retreat on Holy Island - a favourite place. I didn't hesitate - and said yes. I spent some weeks preparing.

We arrived on Friday afternoon - and settled in. The first evening session was a gathering of approx 15 people - we ate, prayed, read Scripture, and talked of the Lord and how we had got to that place and time on our journey. We broke bread together, and slept well from our journey.

The weekend was going well - and on Saturday afternoon, we had free time. I decided to walk around Holy Island. I wanted to hear from the Lord about our evening session and seek his guidance. Overall it takes about 2 hours or so on the easy route.

I walked alone thinking and praying. As I returned to the retreat house - I stopped and entered a URC church which was also a museum. As I walked in - I noted the layout and a young man standing at the lectern. He was about 14 - and I guessed he had special needs.

I sat - and he was reading Scripture. When he saw me his face lit up - and he continued to read from Philippians. Then he stopped and asked a question - and said: **"Do you know Jesus"?**

Without waiting for my answer - he taught me the gospel and became more and more passionate. I had tears, he had tears and his face was shining with the Holy Spirit of our Lord speaking through him.

Then his father spoke up - I hadn't seen him at that point. He said - 'come on, son - the lady has heard you now'. The young man didn't want to stop - and to be honest I didn't want him to either. But it was time to pause. He, his father and I prayed together and then I excused myself as I had planning to do for the evening.

It will be no surprise to you that, in our evening retreat session, we explored what it meant to Know Christ in all his fullness. And how could we serve him best? God had directed us so clearly.

What I learnt was:

That it is God's will that we should know him fully. We have been designed by our creator with an inbuilt need and capacity to know him and we will wander restlessly through life unless we do know him.

'Augustine of Hippo - wrote **'you have made us for yourself and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in you'...**

As you read Paul's letter to the Philippians - rejoice with him - and maybe re-dedicate yourself in finding joy in Christ Jesus.

Ask yourself - how well do I know Jesus Christ?

How can I live and serve him to the best of my ability?

-Rev Jackie

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

Take my life and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in endless praise.

Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King.
Take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

1—As the deer pants for the water
So my soul longs after you
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship you

Refrain- *You alone are my strength, my
shield
To you alone will my spirit yield
You alone are my hearts desire
And I long to worship you*

2- I want you more than gold or silver
Only you can satisfy
You alone are the real joy giver
And the apple of my eye

3- You're my friend and you are my Father
Even though you are my King
I love you more than any other
so much more than anything.
Martin Nystrom, based on psalm 42.1-2

*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 at 10am are working well. **In order to attend church on Sundays, you need to book in, ideally with the electronic booking form, or by phoning 01473 742973 (the Church answer phone) by Saturday 9 am.**

To attend the Wednesday 10am communions, 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.**

Notices:

Our **prayer lists** have been refreshed. Let Revs Cat or Jutta know if you would like a name added to the list.

Electoral Roll: please hand your electoral roll forms back to Alison today. The new roll will be available for inspection from Wednesday until next Sunday.

We pray for Malcolm, to be licenced as an Evangelist on the 27 September at 6pm at the Cathedral. Next Sunday Malcolm will speak about the ministry of an Evangelist in the 10 am service.

Please, watch out for the **St Thomas Newsletter with info on Harvest & APCM!**

Please pray for:

Those with chronic or long-term illness: Eric Dickerson, Rosemary, Jenny, Andrew Barfield, Kathy Steele, Frank D., Andrew Derrett, Peggy, Natacha, Christine, Stephen, Samantha, Rex, Margaret Christian

Those undergoing treatment or currently ill: Emily, Gloria Elmer, Helen Harlow, Jean Dominy, Leslie Bloomfield, Katie (cancer), Jim, Alice (Joan's grandson's wife), Vincent Lightbody, Colin Wells, Trish

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 all who have lost their lives & livelihoods, the injured, the bereaved.*

For our government & MPs', and local councillors: for honesty in politics, for wisdom and justice for all. For refuges across the world & diplomates and peace makers, working to end conflicts

Those who have recently died, and their families mourning their loss: Gwen Strike (Phyllis' sister), Carl Leonard R.I.P

Sunday Worship & other Worship resources on the Church Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/stthomasipswich/>
20th September—Trinity 15 No video—livestream of Eucharist on facebook
10 am: Eucharist & ZOOM Worship & chat

Tuesday 22nd September

7.30pm Meditation Group livestream on Facebook/StThomasPilgrimCommunity

Wednesday, 23rd September, 10am Eucharist in Church with livestream on Facebook/StThomasIpwich

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

Canon Chris, Phyllis Chevous, Margaret Christian, Simon & Chris, Ian & Helen Davey with Freddie & Frankie, Val & family, Rebekah, Kirsty Dexter & family



Birthdays this week:

Jim Startup (23rd); Georgina Rudge (25th), Zoe Lowe (26th)

**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.

Church website:

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

Please note: The NEW website is up!

Contacts:

Priest in charge: Revd Jutta Brueck
m: 07958 360564

Email: jutta.brueck@cofesuffolk.org

Jutta's days off are: Fridays & Saturdays

Assistant Curate: Revd Cat Connolly
m: 07530 412988

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

← Revd Jutta or Rev Cat

Roger Elmer 07810 274586

Gloria Elmer 745590

Sylvia Dickerson 07903 739487

Malcolm Gibbs 07906 663530

Mary Bullass 625135

Rev Jackie 07962 172639

Revd Pat 464748