

Parish of St. Thomas, Apostle & Martyr, Ipswich

Second Sunday after Trinity - 21st June

Collect:

Faithful Creator, whose mercy never fails: deepen our faithfulness to you and to your living Word, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Psalm 86.1-11

1 Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.

2 Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you; save your servant who trusts in you. You are my God;

3 be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you do I cry all day long.

4 Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

5 For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.

6 Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; listen to my cry of supplication.



7 In the day of my trouble I call on you, for you will answer me.

8 There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours.

9 All the nations you have made shall come and bow down before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.

10 For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.

11 Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

A reading from the book of Genesis (21.8-21):

The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink. God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (10.24-39)

“A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. “Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

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

Reflection:

Good morning - Peace be with you. Today we have scriptures that are part of the story of salvation - names we are familiar with. The underlying message today is ‘do not be afraid, or distressed’ God knows you and who you are. We have all experienced fear or distress of late but God says: Is 43:1 ‘Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you - I have called you by name, you are mine’. In the Genesis reading, we read of some confusion and distress by Abraham - about his first son, Ishmael - born to Hagar a servant - and what place his son, Isaac born to Sarah his wife, have in God’s plan. God reassures him that all will be well. And then in the GOSPEL of Matthew - we hear a familiar phrase used many times in scripture, often by Jesus, when speaking to the disciples - and that is ‘do not be afraid’...or do not fear... Jesus seems to give a few reasons for saying ‘do not be afraid’...’fear not’. Last week our scripture told us that Jesus had sent the 12 disciples out to spread the good news of the kingdom - and to know what to say, how to behave and what to do. So they must have experienced some difficulties during their mission to the towns and villages to offer healing and hope, for Jesus to start telling them not to fear. This was all part of their and our discipleship training!

• He told them that as his disciples that they would be hounded in one way or another - by the authorities; he said they would suffer emotional and physical violence; and they would be called offensive names, and accused unjustly - just as Jesus was in his ministry. So why does he tell them not to be afraid? There were plenty of reasons for them to have fear. What reasons does he give?

Firstly 1: Jesus suggests that we shouldn’t be afraid of what the world thinks - but only what God sees and thinks. Remember in (1 Samuel 16:7). We recall what is written - ‘man looks on the outward appearance but God looks at our hearts’ . So he will know of our loyalty and faith - and how we have followed the Messiah - Jesus Christ. So do not be afraid.

2: Jesus was aware of the power and authorities - and also of the work of the evil one - and how the work of the disciples and Jesus would be undermined. As disciples of Jesus, we are the people of light - and our spiritual lives are often under threat. But do not fear, Jesus said.

3: The main emphasis that Jesus is teaching his disciples - is not to be afraid of confessing openly that Jesus is their Lord and Saviour - that he is the Way, the Truth and the Life - and in prayer we grow closer to him. It seems that He is preparing them for the time when he will no longer be with them. We all have times of being afraid, both of people around us, and of situations that may happen in our lives. But the only person who can give us courage and trust is God himself. So don’t be afraid to embrace where we are now - and trust God himself to be our guiding hand. Life is unpredictable. We can be happy one day and sad the next, healthy one day and sick the next, rich one day and poor the next, alive one day and dead the next. So who is there to hold on to? Who is there to feel secure with? Who is there to trust at all times? The answer of course is: Only Jesus, the Christ. He is our Lord, our shepherd, our rock, our stronghold, our refuge, our brother, our guide, and our friend. He came from God to be with us. He died for us, he was raised from the dead to open for us the way to God, and he is seated at God’s right hand to welcome us home one day. We read in I John 4:18 that God is perfect love, and “Perfect love drives out fear” And Jesus’ central message is that God loves us with an unconditional love, even every hair on our head - and in return desires our love, free and trusting him in return. So do not be afraid, but trust in Him who is Lord of all. **Amen.**

- Revd Jackie Sears

*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:**

Great is thy faithfulness,
O God my Father;
there is no shadow
of turning with thee;
thou changest not,
thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been
thou forever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning
new mercies I see:
all I have needed
thy hand hath provided--
Great is thy faithfulness,
Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter
and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars
in their courses above
join with all nature
in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness,
mercy, and love.

Pardon for sin
and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence
to cheer and to guide,
strength for today
and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine,
with ten thousand beside!

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing every blessing,
if our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us:
all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
lone and dreary, faint and weary,
through the desert thou didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy:
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.

*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



St Thomas Church is opening for Private Prayer from this Monday,

22 June, every Monday and Thursday, between 11 am and 2 pm.

Two members of the congregation will be there to supervise. **If you are under 70 and willing to volunteer, please contact the church wardens.**

The Peace Garden is Open for use during the day.

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, Jim, Richard (June's nephew), Sylvia Eley, Dougie, Robert, Andy (Lynne's neighbour)

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 and in the UK

Those who have recently died, and their families mourning their loss, among them: Jason Wilcox (funeral this week); Sbusiso Ntuli (Sma's step-father), Hazel Messenger **R.I.P**



Birthdays this week:

Millie Harrison (28th-next Sunday)

Pray for members of the St Thomas Congregation

(each week we will include a dozen names)

Andrea McDonald with Fiona & Patrick, Nigel & Karen with Gemma, Darren, Hayden & Harrison, Sma & Michael, Simon and Zuzana, Christine Perfect with Janet & Roger & Harvey

Online Church Services:

Sunday 21 June Trinity Sunday - 10am

ZOOM Worship St Thomas (Please, let us know if you want to join by phone)

Tuesday 23 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
m: 07958 360564

Email: jutta.brueck@cofesuffolk.org

Jutta's days off are: Fridays & Saturdays

Assistant Curate: Revd Cat Connolly
m: 07530 412988

Email: revcatconnolly@gmail.com

Cat's day off: Mondays

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

Revd 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 Revd Pat 01473 464748