

Parish of St. Thomas, Apostle & Martyr, Ipswich

St Luke the Evangelist with Baptisms & Confirmations

18th October 2020

Collect:

Holy Father, by the power of your Holy Spirit you give to your faithful people new life in the water of baptism.

Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit, that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love, and grow into the full stature of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit now and forever.

Amen.



Psalm 147.1-7

1 Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

2 The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

3 He heals the broken-hearted, and binds up their wounds.

4 He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.

5 Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

6 The Lord lifts up the downtrodden; he casts the wicked to the ground.

7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre.

A reading from the book of Isaiah (35.3-6)

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (10.1-9)

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house!’ And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’”

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

Reflection:

**'N, God has called you by name and made you his own'
Confirm, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit'.**

These are the words with which the Bishop addresses Amber, Carol, Julie and Rick at their Confirmation this Sunday. They were said to all of us who were confirmed at some point in our lives:

'God had called you by name and made you his own.'

Let us take this occasion to reflect on the meaning of these words for us. In the Bible, we have many examples of people whom God has called by name: Abraham, Samuel, Ruth, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Mary, Joseph, Peter, James, Andrew, Matthew, Martha, Mary Magdalene, Paul, Priscilla, Phoebe, just to mention a few. God has called them by name and when they said 'yes, here I am,' their lives become part of God's work in the world. God did amazing things through them.

Do you ever think of yourself as someone who could be one of the people in the Bible—one of the women or men who crossed Jesus' path, to whom Jesus may have said 'can I come and eat at your house tonight' or 'will you come and follow me'? I am sure all of the first disciples, whose stories inspire us in the Bible, were wondering as we might 'why has Jesus called me'? And often people respond saying 'Lord, I am not worthy', 'how can it be me, Lord?' In Psalm 139 we read 'O Lord, you have searched me and known me, you know when I sit down and when I rise up; ...you search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.' God knows us deep down, and most importantly, God knows us better than we know ourselves. God knows who we are and wants us to become who God made us to be. So, when God calls us by name, and we say 'yes, here I am' we are beginning to allow God to help us become most fully ourselves, to fulfil our destiny, which is to have a part in God's work in the kingdom. That's amazing! God knows me. God sees who I am. God deeply cares about me and calls me by name. God wants to make me his own.

But, I am not worthy, I am not good enough, I am scared, how can this be? No one is worthy! But we are all created by God, who thinks us worthy and calls us. We can trust that and marvel at it and realise that none of us is perfect or complete. We are invited to surrender and trust God. And, to accept that we are all on a journey invited to learn, to grow, to become the person God made us to be.

When we are baptised and confirmed we become Jesus' disciples—the word 'disciple' derives from latin and means 'learner'. Perhaps, one Sunday in Church we should all turn up with 'learner' plates on our fronts and backs, so none of us thinks we are complete or finished. Being a disciple, a learner with Jesus, means that we don't need to do it on our own. We are part of a community who are all learners—here to support each other and learn from each other. Each one of us will be able to think of people who have helped us on our way; who have encouraged us when we were overwhelmed by doubt and questions; who have taught and inspired us—by the way they live or something they have said. And, as disciples, learners with Jesus, we have Jesus by our side. I am writing this on the day when we remember Teresa of Avila in the church calendar. She wrote 'Jesus Christ seemed to be by my side continually, ...I had a most distinct feeling that He was always on my right hand, a witness of all I did; and never at any time, if I was but slightly recollected, or not too much distracted, could I be ignorant of His near presence'. (*from Bouquet (ed.), A lectionary of Christian Prose, 1965, pp156,7*) The same is true for us: Jesus is by our side continuously—through prayer and grace we learn to trust this. It means, as his disciples, we are never alone. What a gift. What a joy.

And finally, like the people God called in the Bible, we, too, are sent. To be labourers in God's harvest and to trust in God's presence with us, especially when life is challenging or the task in front of us seems too hard, or God calls us in unexpected ways. God, who has called us by name and made us his own, will give us all we need if we rely on him and let him be our strength and goal, and much more!

The prayer we say at the end of our church services: *'Wherever you go, God is sending you. Wherever you are, God has put you there. Christ who indwells you has something He wants to do with you where you are. Believe this, and go in His grace, love and power.'* (Richard Halverson). **Amen.**

Revd Jutta

God is love. Those who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

This week's hymn:

*Bless the Lord oh my soul
Oh my soul
Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before
Oh my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name*

The sun comes up
It's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass
And whatever lies before me
Let me be singing
When the evening comes

Bless the Lord oh my soul...

You're rich in love
And You're slow to anger
Your name is great
And Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness
I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons
For my heart to find

Bless the Lord oh my soul...

And on that day
When my strength is failing
The end draws near
And my time has come
Still my soul will
Sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years
And then forevermore

Bless the Lord oh my soul...

For Our Prayers:

The Bishops are calling on every parish to join them using this prayer at home and at every act of worship for our church, that we grow in trust in God's providence and deepen our own generosity giving of ourselves and of our gifts.

**Loving God,
you are always with us,
and give us all we need to be your church
in Suffolk.**

**Help us, we pray, to give as we have received:
abundantly, generously, and joyfully,
that our worship and our service
may bear witness to your Kingdom of
unfailing love.**

**In the name of your Son
who gave himself for us,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Please pray for:

Those with chronic or long-term illness: Eric Dickerson, Rosemary, Jenny, Andrew Barfield, Kathy Steele, Frank D., Andrew, 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, Trish, Roger Dickerson, Vicky & Matt

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 hospital and health care workers*

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

Those who have recently died, and their families mourning their loss: Gwen Strike (Phyllis' sister), Colin Wells, Rachel Fry

Call this number —> for free.

It's a lovely way to worship from home!



Notices:

Today, we welcome Bishop Tim Stevens for our Baptism & Confirmation Service. We are delighted that **Julie & Amber Purnell, Rick Bayly and Carol Brown** have asked to be baptised & confirmed. We keep them in our prayers as they are fully joining our church family .

Gift Day today and next Sunday : God loves a cheerful Giver (2 Cor.9.7)

We are losing £13,000 because we have no hall hire income, we don't collect money on the plate each week and haven't been able to do any church fayres. We are therefore relying on everyone's generosity to help us through this year. We welcome all forms of donations. It is now very easy and tax efficient to give via our website 'Donations'. **Please, say the Bishops' prayer on the previous page everyday!**

APCM results: Thank You to everyone who attended and to all offering yourselves in the service of our Church: Church Wardens: Roger Elmer & Stephen Marginson; Assistant Church wardens: Sylvia & Russell Dickerson, Alison Gibbs, Jim Startup; Deanery Synod Reps: Emma Knight & Jim Startup; Treasurer: Lucy Drake; New PCC members: Edith Abbott & Carole Groom.

Harvest gifts: Thank you to everyone who has brought gifts to church. You can keep bringing them until next Sunday (leave in bags at the back of church), or give directly to FIND - you can donate online on their website, or send them a cheque—the last newsletter has the address written down.

Christmas cards on sale in the church car park: £2.50 for 5, on Sundays from 18th October and Wednesdays, from 14th October. All proceeds to church funds. Our thanks to Canon Chris for organising this—pick up a flyer in the porch.

This Week:

18th October—St Luke the Evangelist

10am: Eucharist with Baptisms and Confirmations, also on ZOOM & livestream [Facebook/StThomasIpswich](#)

Monday 19th October

7.30pm St Thomas Pilgrim Community Prayer meeting on ZOOM—contact Jutta or Malcolm for ZOOM invite

Tuesday 20th October

7.30pm Meditation Group livestream on [Facebook/StThomasPilgrimCommunity](#)

Wednesday, 21st October

10am Eucharist in Church with livestream on [Facebook/StThomasIpswich](#)

7 pm PCC Meeting (ZOOM)

Next 'Bible from Scratch':

Thursday, 5 Nov, 4pm —on ZOOM
Contact Rev Cat for details

Church website:

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

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

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

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

Simon & Zuzana Pearson, Christine Perfect with Janet, Roger & Harvey; David Pitt; Helen & Neil Pratt, James, Sophie & Adam; Julie, Amber & Rick; Linda Savage, Jacqui Rathbone & family, Rachael with Abigail, Georgina & Ellie, Joan Scott, Judith Scott



Birthdays this week:

Oct 21: Mrs Hughes, Brian Ward

Oct 24: Kat Baker

Contacts:

Priest in charge: Revd Jutta Brueck m: 07958 360564

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Jutta's days off are: Fridays & Saturdays

Assistant Curate: Revd Cat Connolly m: 07530 412988

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Cat's day off: Mondays

Lay Evangelist: Malcolm Gibbs m:07906 665530

Director of Music: Simon Clark BA (Hons) FLCM ARCO

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Church wardens: Roger Elmer m:07810 274586

Sylvia Dickerson 07903 739487

If you would like to chat, you could also ring:

Mary Bullass 625135 Gloria Elmer 745590

Rev Jackie 07962 172639 Revd Pat 464748