



St Anne with Holy Trinity, Brondesbury

Confidently sharing the love of Christ

Readings and Notice Sheet **6th Sunday after Trinity** **19th July 2020**

**We meet in the name of God who is
(+) Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

The Collect

Creator God,
you made us all in your image:
may we discern you in all that we see,
and serve you in all that we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Our first reading today is from the Isaiah . Once again this week, the lectionary invites us to reflect on God's words of comfort to Judean exiles in sixth-century BCE Babylon, as preserved in the middle chapters of the book of Isaiah. As noted in last week's commentary on Isaiah 55:10-13, countless people worldwide are currently experiencing physical displacement and emotional disruption from stressors like the COVID-19 pandemic, racism, political polarization, violence, and climate change. As we consider how Isaiah 44:6-8 might offer good news to these contemporary exiles, it's worth considering how the text brought hope to ancient exiles.

Isaiah 44:6-8

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Our Second reading

This week we continue our readings from the letter to the Romans. When he received the Spirit as his baptism, Jesus was proclaimed to be God's son. Driven by the Spirit, Jesus was tempted; empowered by the Spirit, Jesus exorcised demons. When reading Romans

8, we must keep all this fresh in our minds. Because what we learn in this chapter is that the Spirit grafts us into the story of Jesus. As our lives bear the marks of Jesus' life, we grow in hope that we, too, are God's beloved daughters and sons -- those with whom God is well pleased, and upon whom God will bestow God's glorious, eternal inheritance.

Romans 8:12-25

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Gospel reading is Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43. Last week's text, the parable of the sower, focused on the yield produced by the seed that fell on good soil.

In contrast, the parable of the weeds (sometimes called 'tares') focuses on the judgment that will befall "all causes of sin and all evildoers" (Matthew 13:41). At first read, the parable of the weeds appears to describe a "them-us" situation, tempting us to fill in who are the evildoers and who the children of the kingdom (an easy trap in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic). A closer read, however, reveals that it is a cautionary tale, as well as one intended to offer encouragement..

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

24 He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; 25 but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. 26 So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. 27 And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?" 28 He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" 29 But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. 30 Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn." "

36 Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." 37 He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; 38 the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, 39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. 40 Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, 42 and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

This is the Gospel of our Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

After you have read today's readings you may like to spend some time discussing with those whom you live. If like me you are living alone, you may want to 'phone a friend' and talk them over! There is also a Homily available on the website, and most services on public media will be following the same texts.

Intercessions

We come with our prayers for all the world, for our community and for those who are on our hearts at this time.

Holy God,
who sews the seeds of hope in our lives.
Unite our voices in your love and hope as we
pray for your Church, that it might share your healing throughout the world.
We pray that as we prepare to return to our churches for worship
we will be focused on you, the one to be worshiped and not on ourselves.
We prayer especially for Bishop's Sarah and Pete
and all who offer leadership in these challenging times
Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Gracious God, who protects the earth,
We pray for the world, created by your love,
for its nations and governments especially those struggling with injustice and
conflict; and all who are working to overcome the Pandemic.
We remember all who face discrimination and exclusion each day,
may we truly see each other as made in your image.
Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Holy God, who waters and refreshes,
We pray for all who are in need at this time.
For those who struggle with pain and grief;
for the lonely, the bereaved, the sick and the dying.
For all who are fearful at this time.
Breathe on all the breath of life and bring them your mercy and grace.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Compassionate God
who helps us flourish

We pray for those who are on our hearts and minds, and those who have asked for our prayers. Amongst them we remember before you Eileen, Helen, Yvonne, Pam, Rute, Patience, Ron, Evelyn, Linda, Richard, Josephine, John, Cecilia and Ruth. We pray for all who are in need of your love and grace.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

God who at the last welcomes us into your eternal Kingdom. We give thanks for your promise as we pray for all who have died including Chief Mrs Modupe Dosumu and those whose anniversaries fall at this time including Earl Henderson

Bring us all to the promise of your eternal love and peace.
Rest Eternal Grant unto them O Lord

And let light perpetual shine upon them

May they rest in peace

And rise in glory

Gracious God, in this time of stillness we bring our own prayers before you...

Merciful God,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

While there is no Eucharist at present, the post communion prayer sums up many of the themes in the readings of the day.

God of our pilgrimage,
you have led us to the living water:
refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Notices

The Rev'd Natasha Woodward is making plans to join us as Interim Minister at Christ Church. We are now working towards a date of the 2nd September for her licensing.

Re-opening for Public Worship

Everyone on the Electoral Roll should have received a letter from Mo Christine and the PCC about reopening. It also comes with a best practice guide which highlights some of the changes we are facing.

From next Sunday 26th July we will have a 10am Holy Communion Service at both Christ Church and St Anne's. We will also have a combined Zoom service each Sunday at 5pm, for those who still do not feel they are able to attend worship in person.

While there is no limit on the number of people you can have at worship, we do need to maintain the 2 metre rule. This means we can probably have about 35 people at Christ Church or St Anne's, depending on the number of household groups.

When you come remember to stay close to God and a safe distance from each other!

Prayer windows

The prayer windows are coming along nicely—thanks to those who have already contributed prayers. You are invited to continue to contribute prayers which might be displayed to show that the church is still at work. Hand written prayers of postcard size would be great. Feel free to decorate if you would like, or cut into a shape. Some are already in the shape of candles and flowers. Prayers can be left through letter box of the church or vicarage and we will attach to windows. If you would rather, you can email you prayer requests to Mo C, and she will ensure they make it to the window.



Thank you for making a difference!

A huge thank you to all who have contributed to the life of our parish, especially in these strange times. So much of what has been contributed has been completed without others knowing, but please know that everything you have done has been appreciated. From our secret gardeners and spring cleaners; to our delivery drivers and food collectors; from our 'phone a friend' callers; to all who have prayed for others. For those who have made food, shared flowers, encouraged another—a huge Thank you!!

Congregational Giving

It might be strange to talk about giving at a time when the church building is physically closed, but like all organisations and families the financial commitments of the church continue. Thank you to all who give by Standing Order, some others may like to consider electronic payments while we are unable to meet in church. If you need details please let us know and we can forward them to you. For those who have envelopes, you may like to put them through Vicarage door and she will pass them to Treasurer. Please do not put money through church door.

Daily Hope 24hour phonenumber

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.

Clothes Donations!

Many of us have used the lockdown to clear out cupboards, but this is now placing a great deal of stress on the charity sector. At present many local charity shops have more than they can handle, and Laurence's Larder storage is overflowing. If you are able to store clothes till they are needed that is really helpful, if not please search online for shops that are not at capacity! Please do not just leave clothes either out Christ Church or local shops—this creates a great deal of work for volunteers— and encourages foxes!

Keeping in Touch

You can phone Mo C—020 7624 5306 or email her at motherchristinenw6@gmail.com



For our prayers The NHS and all who are working in essential services; for those who are struggling with being isolated; for all who are volunteers; for those parts of the world where war and famine were already an issue; for our friends, neighbours and congregation **and for:** Eileen, Helen, Yvonne, Pam, Rute, Patience, Ron, Evelyn, Linda, Richard, Josephine, John, Cecilia and Ruth and for those who have died recently including Chief Mrs Modupe Dosumu and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time including Earl Henderson.

*As we return to church, you do not need to wear a mask but please respect those who do. You will be asked to wash your hands, or use hand sanitiser as you arrive! The Priest will do the same! But we do ask that you maintain a safe distance and follow the guidance of the stewards. **Stay close to God and a safe distance from everyone else!***

Services this coming week starting 19th July

Tuesday 21st July 8.30am Morning Prayer at St Anne’s (Max 3 people) - also on **Zoom**.

Wednesday 22nd July —7pm Evening Prayer on **Zoom**.

Thursday 23rd July - 8.30am Morning Prayer at St Anne’s (Max 3 people) - also on **Zoom**.

Sunday 26th July — 9 am Facebook –*thought for the Day*

10am Eucharist at St Anne’s

5pm Zoom Service

THE SERMON

PEOPLE MAY HAVE THEIR EYES CLOSED FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS

