



St Anne with Holy Trinity, Brondesbury

Confidently sharing the love of Christ

Readings and Notice Sheet

St Laurence, Martyr

9 August 2020

This week we are joining with Christ Church to celebrate St Laurence's Day. Laurence was a Deacon in Rome around 258. He had responsibility for the material goods of the church. The Emperor Valerian issued an edict that all the Christian clergy were to be arrested and executed. Before he could be executed, Lawrence gave all the goods of the church and its money to the poor of Rome. When Valerian heard what Lawrence had done, he was angry and offered Lawrence a deal - if he would show him where the Church's great treasures were hidden, he would issue an order of clemency, sparing his life so that he could continue his work. Lawrence agreed and said 'Give me three days and I will bring all the treasures together in one place!' For 3 days, Lawrence went throughout the city and invited all the beloved poor, those with disabilities, and misfortunate to come together. When Valerian arrived, Deacon Lawrence presented him with the true gold and silver of the Church, the poor! The emperor was filled with rage! 'Beheading was not enough for this' he cried and he ordered Lawrence to be burned alive, in public, on a griddle. The deacon Lawrence cheerfully offered himself to the God. It is even said that he joked with his executioners saying "Turn me over". Lawrence was one of the earliest recorded martyrs. He is the patron saint of Cooks and The Poor. He is also Patron Saint of School Children. He is remembered each year on the 10th August.

**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

Almighty God,
who made Laurence a loving servant of your people
and a wise steward of the treasures of your Church:
fire us with his example to love as he loved
and to walk the way that leads to eternal life;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Our first reading today is from the prophet Ezekiel. We hear an exert from the start of the book which describes Ezekiel's vision which leads to his following prophecy. This was a very special experience for Ezekiel. He felt the power of God. He saw the special angels called cherubim. He saw God's throne. He even saw an impression of God's glory. And then God spoke to Ezekiel.

First reading - Ezekiel 1.2 -5, 24 -end

On the fifth day of the month (it was the fifth year of the exile of King Jehoiachin), the word of the Lord came to the priest Ezekiel son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of the Lord was on him there. As I looked, a stormy wind came out of the north: a great cloud with brightness around it and fire flashing forth continually, and in the middle of the fire, something like gleaming amber. In the middle of it was something like four living creatures. This was their appearance: they were of human form. When they moved, I heard the sound of their wings like the sound of mighty waters, like the thunder of the Almighty, a sound of tumult like the sound of an army; when they stopped, they let down their wings. And there came a voice from above the dome over their heads; when they stopped, they let down their wings.

And above the dome over their heads there was something like a throne, in appearance like sapphire; and seated above the likeness of a throne was something that seemed like a human form. Upwards from what appeared like the loins I saw something like gleaming amber, something that looked like fire enclosed all round; and downwards from what looked like the loins I saw something that looked like fire, and there was a splendour all round. Like the bow in a cloud on a rainy day, such was the appearance of the splendour all round. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. When I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard the voice of someone speaking.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Our Second reading

In the late-40s A.D., a famine swept across Judea, and Christians in Jerusalem were in need. The leaders of the Jerusalem church, James, Cephas, and John requested Paul “to remember the poor—which very thing I (Paul) was also zealous to do” (Galatians 2:9-10; see also Acts 11:19-30). Paul responded by encouraging Christians to contribute to an offering to provide relief for Jerusalem Christians. In 2 Corinthians 8-9, Paul continues to emphasize the offering for the Jerusalem church, encouraging the Corinthian Christians to “arrange ahead of time the generous gift that you promised before” (9:5). Through the images in his passage Paul is trying to counter objections from the Corinthian Christians that they can’t afford to contribute generously. He says that, if they give generously, they can expect to receive generous blessings in return.

2 Corinthians 9.6-10

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, ‘He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.’

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

The Gospel reading is Matthew 17: 22-end

For the second time Jesus warns his disciples about what is to come: his suffering, death and resurrection. Once again the word 'delivered' or 'handed over' is used. It is a kind of refrain running right through the Gospel and applied to John the Baptist, to Jesus, to the disciples and the giving of the Body of Christ in the Eucharist.

We are told that the disciples are overwhelmed with grief over what Jesus says.

Whether that is purely out of sorrow for Jesus or whether it represents their disillusionment, is hard to say. This was not the kind of end they were expecting to the coming of the Messiah.

The second part of today's reading is a peculiar scene, only to be found in Matthew. The collectors of the Temple tax want to know whether Jesus pays it or not. Peter assures them he does but the following phrases seem to indicate otherwise—though Jesus does ensure payment is made.

As we reflect on the example of Laurence we are reminded that there is a cost to faith which is not to be denied regardless of the form it takes.

Matthew 17: 22-end

As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, 'The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised.' And they were greatly distressed.

When they reached Capernaum, the collectors of the temple tax came to Peter and said, 'Does your teacher not pay the temple tax?' He said, 'Yes, he does.' And when he came home, Jesus spoke of it first, asking, 'What do you think, Simon? From whom do kings of the earth take toll or tribute? From their children or from others?' When Peter said, 'From others', Jesus said to him, 'Then the children are free. However, so that we do not give offence to them, go to the lake and cast a hook; take the first fish that comes up; and when you open its mouth, you will find a coin; take that and give it to them for you and me.'

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 reflecting on what God is saying to you!

Intercessions

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

God of all creation, we come to you reminded of the example of Laurence who held fast to his faith in you.

As we pray for your Church, that it might continue to follow his example of justice to the poor.

We pray 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 feeds us in body and in spirit
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 longs for us to respond to the need around us,
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

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 Helen, Yvonne, Rute, Patience,
Ron, Evelyn, Linda, John, 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 recently including Richard and Eileen
Dunford; and those whose anniversaries fall at this time including Patricia Harris,
Lionel Gubbins, Fredrick Grant, Marjorie Bray, Melvina Akers and Theodora Gordon.

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.



Eternal God,
who gave us this holy meal in which we have celebrated
the glory of the cross and the victory of your martyr Laurence:
by our communion with Christ in his saving death and resurrection,
give us with all your saints the courage to conquer evil
and so to share the fruit of the tree of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Notices

The Rev'd Natasha Woodward will be licensed as the Interim Minister at Christ Church. At 8pm on the 2nd September.

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

Services during August

During August things at St Anne's are very quiet. The combination of holiday time and the pandemic. We are trying manage things as safely as possible. With all this in mind, on **Sunday 23rd August there will only be a morning service at Christ Church.** The 5pm Zoom Service will continue throughout August. There will be a 10am Service at St Anne's on all other Sunday's.

Also, Mo C is going to be taking a bit of a break over the next two weeks so there will be no weekday services during this time. Please use online resources during this period.

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.

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.

Keeping in Touch

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



For our prayers Helen, Yvonne, Rute, Patience, Ron, Evelyn, Linda, John, Josephine, John, Cecilia and Ruth and for those who have died recently including Richard Simms and Eileen Dunford; and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time including Patricia Harris, Lionel Gubbins, Fredrick Grant, Marjorie Bray, Melvina Akers and Theodora Gordon.

*As we return to church, we are now asked to wear a mask and to keep a safe distance. 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. **We are all asked to wear facemasks!***

Stay close to God and a safe distance from everyone else!

Services this coming week starting 9th August

Sunday 16 th August — 9 am Facebook –thought for the Day

10am Eucharist at St Anne’s

5pm Zoom Service

THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS

THE FAITHFUL REMNANT REMEMBER THE DEARLY DEPARTED

