



St Anne with Holy Trinity, Brondesbury

Confidently sharing the love of Christ

Readings and Notice Sheet **Sunday 6th September 2020** **13th Sunday after Trinity**

Many of us are now returning to worship—and this Sunday marks the beginning of the new academic term. We will continue to keep Notice sheet in a format that provides resources for those who are still worshipping at home. I hope that this is useful.

The Collect

Almighty God,
you search us and know us:
may we rely on you in strength
and rest on you in weakness,
now and in all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord . **Amen.**

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

This week we return to the prophet Ezekiel. Chapter 33 begins a transition in the book of Ezekiel. Verse 21 reports the fall of Jerusalem. This event exposed the false confidence and complacency of the people (Ezekiel 33:24). In the midst of this utter defeat, the words of Ezekiel turn from primarily judgment to restoration. Although Ezekiel had reported God's word of restoration before chapter 33 (Ezekiel 11:19, 18:31), the predominant theme becomes healing and hope after this chapter. Although Ezekiel does not present as tender a God as Hosea (see Hosea 11), God will reform the community (Ezekiel 37), and work within the people, as a community and individually to enable them to form a relationship with God.

First reading - Ezekiel 33: 7-11

So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, 'O wicked ones, you shall surely die', and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: 'Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?' Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Our Second reading

Today we continue our readings from Romans. This passage, part of the larger section of Romans 12-15, has traditionally been called the ethical outworking of Paul's presentation of the gospel in Romans 1-11, or the paraenesis section. This section of Romans is part of the purpose of the extended and very contextually sensitive argument of Romans.

Remember, Romans as a whole is not the presentation of the gospel, but rather a selective and contextual argument rooted in the good news for the purpose of exhortation to live a life that reflects the reconciliation effected by the incarnate God in Christ.

What does this mean? The proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ must land somewhere in real space and time. It cannot remain in the theological stratosphere.

This also means that Christians in first-century Rome (and today) must clearly and directly manifest the good news in a way that is contextually relevant, as modelled by Paul throughout this particular letter.

Romans 13: 8-end

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Gospel reading is Matthew 18: 15-20

In Matthew 18, Jesus does not seem very interested in abstract boundaries or doctrines, or in precise determinations of the lines that determine who is in and who is out. Nor is it likely that Jesus' words are meant primarily to support the development of an ecclesial hierarchy and affirm the authority of church leaders. Matthew's Jesus is, rather, concerned about "the least ones," the vulnerable, the ones at the bottom of the power pyramid. Better to tie a millstone around your neck and jump in the ocean than cause a little one to stumble (Matthew 18:6). Better to leave ninety-nine sheep on the mountains than lose a little one (18:12). The point of Matthew 18 is not that the church or its leaders possess special authority or insight when dealing with disputes, but that whenever it does exercise authority, it must pay ceaseless attention to the least powerful members of the community. Whenever and whatever we bind or loose, the Christian community is called to defend the interests of the least ones in our midst, as well as to create the space and conditions for forgiveness and restoration to flourish.

Matthew 18: 15-20

If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member

refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

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

Take some time to reflect on the readings set for today—what might they be saying to you? What might they be saying to us as a community?

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 upon whose strength we rely:
As we seek to follow your path, help us as we
pray for your Church, that it might continue to follow you.
Give us courage to be your people.
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

God you remind us of the importance of love
in all our thoughts and actions.
Help us as we pray for the world,
for its nations and governments especially those struggling with injustice and
conflict; and all who are struggling in these extraordinary times.
We pray for those situations we have heard about in the news.
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, you show the value of caring for one another.
Help us as 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.
Breathe on all the breath of life and bring them your mercy and grace.
Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

God who knows the secrets of our hearts. Help us as 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 Edgerton, Yvonne, John, 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 and those whose anniversaries fall at this time including Charles Cory.

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

The post communion prayer sums up many of the themes in the readings of the day.

God our creator,

you feed your children with the true manna,

the living bread from heaven:

let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage

until we come to that place

where hunger and thirst are no more;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Notices

Moving Forward

This week marks another change for St Anne's. Mo. Natasha has now been licensed and Mo Christine will no longer have responsibilities at Christ Church; though she will remain the Priest relating to Christ Church School. This week will also mark the time when we begin being a single parish, not in an ecumenical partnership and all that went with this. We have many things to discern as we listen for where God is leading us next. With this in mind from the 1st September we are going to 'revert to factory settings' - so to speak; or revert to some of our service patterns pre-pandemic. In the coming months we will consider things like service times and styles. We will have the freedom to explore options. One of the positive outcomes from being lockdown is that we have had to learn how to do things differently, and to be more flexible. I hope we can continue to embrace this attitude as we move forward.

What all this means in practice is that from **Sunday 6th September** we will return to a Sunday pattern of Morning Prayer at 8.30am; and **Eucharist with Sunday School at 9.30am**. We will continue to have a 'Thought for the Day' on Facebook on Sunday morning, as well as a Zoom Service most weeks at 5pm.

During the week we will have morning prayer at 8.30am on Tuesday and Thursday which will continue to be available on Zoom. We are also hoping to have the Sunday morning service uploaded on Youtube!

I ask that you are flexible with all of this as we learn what these things look like within the current guidance; and also what will work for us now and what God might be asking of us. We may also need to make more changes as the guidance adapts over time.

Also, please pray for all involved in our work in the building during the week. There are lots of things to manage to ensure we are Covid Safe, and that groups can start to return. We are also looking for a couple of people who might be able practically help us on a Monday and Thursday.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

We have planned to have our Annual Meeting in March; but it needed to be postponed due to the Pandemic. We now need to hold our APCM during September. This will take place on **Sunday 20th September** immediately after the service. It will take less than 1 hour. We will need to redo any nomination forms previously completed. We need people willing to be on the PCC, as well as Deanery Synod Representatives and Church Wardens. Forms are available. We are also revising the Electoral Roll, if you are not on it, please can you complete a form.



**The
Children's
Society**

Anglicans in Brent Deanery Synod

You are warmly invited to our next meeting on Thursday 10th September 2020 7.00pm for 7.30pm start St Matthew's Church, St Mary's Road, London NW10 4AU . Jonathan Mann, of Children Society will tell us of the Society's aims and work. This is an open meeting.

Harvest Festival

This year we will keep Harvest Festival on Sunday 4th October. We will have a more interactive service on this day with opportunities for people of all ages to participate! With the need to be Covid Friendly, please bring your Harvest Goods on the Day, preferable in a Paper Bag or box. Some paper bags will be available from church in the coming weeks. As always we loved tinned fish—but also tea bags, coffee, toiletries, meal-in-a-can, things that need no or minimal cooking. Tinned fruit and vegetables are also useful. Our Harvest goods will be shared between Laurence's Larder which is re-opening on the 17th September and Sufra who have been receiving our donations since the start of lock down. Both are supporting local individuals and families in need.



Daily Hope 24hour phonline

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**.



For our prayers Edgerton, Yvonne, John, Rute, Patience, Ron, Evelyn, Linda, John, Josephine, John, Cecilia and Ruth and for those who have died recently; and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time including Charles Cory and Betty Dass.

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

Services this coming week starting 6th September

Tuesday 8th September **8.30am** Morning Prayer in Chapel and on Zoom

Thursday 10th September **8.30am** Morning Prayer in Chapel and on Zoom

Sunday 13th September

8.30am—Morning Prayer in the Chapel and on Zoom

9am—Thought for the Day on Facebook

9.30am—Eucharist with Sunday School

5pm Zoom Service for the day

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. Please do not come to church if you have any symptoms.

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

THE FOODBANK

WAYS YOU CAN HELP IN 2020

