



St Anne with Holy Trinity, Brondesbury

Confidently sharing the love of Christ

Readings and Notice Sheet Sunday 25th October 2020 A Celebration of All Saints

Many of us join worship in person now, and some at home and some at a distance. However you worship the readings and prayers for this Sunday help us share together with a common heart before God.

The Collect

God of holiness,
your glory is proclaimed in every age:
as we rejoice in the faith of your saints,
inspire us to follow their example
with boldness and joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Reading from the Revelation of John

Today's text portrays the multitude of God's people standing before the throne of God, "sheltered" by God's tabernacling presence. The scene divides into two sections, a heavenly vision (Revelation 7:9-12) and its interpretation (7:13-17). Worship and praise are central to both sections. Since those who belong to the lamb are said to be a multitude "that no one could count" (7:9), any literalistic fixation on the number 144,000 in the earlier vision of twelve tribes (7:4) is thus undermined. Prior to the opening of the dreaded seventh seal, Revelation delivers an amazing and hope-filled surprise: a "salvation interlude," assuring God's people they are protected.¹

Just when we are expecting even more destruction with the opening of the seventh seal there is a delay. The scene shifts. Four angels stand at the four corners of the earth, holding back destructive winds. Their mission is to hold back the judgments until God's people can be "sealed" (7:1-8).

Revelation 7: 9-end

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!'

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and

the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing,
'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honour
and power and might
be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?' I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.'

For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;
for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Our Second reading from the first letter of John

1 John 3 is a fitting text for All Saints Day. It gives us hope for the saints who have preceded us in death, while reminding us of our current identity as God's children in the midst of what can be an overwhelming world. First John 3:1-3 is part of a hinge that flows from the author's admonition about antichrists in 2:18-27 into a later section describing the differences between God's children and those of the devil in 3:7-18. The larger context of our passage shows the seriousness of the sermon, as well as the intensity of the crisis as felt by our author. Nevertheless, it should also be clear that the overall focus is on encouragement for the audience, rather than a loss of faith. They are reminded of their identity as God's children and called to live out that identity in love (3:16-18).

1 John 3:1-3

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel is today taken from Matthew

What does it mean to be happy? This question is central to individuals yearning for fulfilment. For centuries, it has also been a key question in philosophical debates about the meaning of human life. Ancient Greek philosophers debated how humans could align their own will with the created order in order to be happy or blessed, makarios. The Greek word, makarios, which is central to the Beatitudes, is a fairly common word. It's not really hard to understand, but it's difficult to translate into English. The New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) translates "blessed," which is by far the most common translation of the Beatitudes. The problem with blessed is that it sounds a little unreal, like a quality that applies only to those saints whose stories we celebrate on All Saints Day and whose example may appear a bit unattainable to us. New Testament professor Margaret Aymer has translated makarios as "greatly honoured." This is another good option for translating this word because it emphasizes the theme of reversal that is implied in the Beatitudes. The meek and the merciful are not revered by the world's standards, but they are honoured by God and by those who would align their lives with God's ways.

Matthew 5: 1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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

United in the company of all the faithful
and looking for the coming of the kingdom,
let us offer our prayers to God, the source of all life and holiness.

Merciful Lord,
strengthen all Christian people by your Holy Spirit,
that we may live as a royal priesthood and a holy nation
to the praise of Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Bless our bishop's Sarah and Pete and all ministers of your Church,
that by faithful proclamation of your word
we may be built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets
into a holy temple in the Lord.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Empower us by the gift of your holy and life-giving Spirit,
that we may be transformed into the likeness of Christ
from glory to glory.
Help us to see you in each other, and to treat each other
with care and compassion
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Give to the world and its peoples
the peace that comes from above,
that they may find Christ's way of freedom and life.
We pray for all effected by the pandemic
for all who face difficult decisions and circumstance...
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Hold in your embrace all who witness to your love in the
service of the poor and needy;
all who minister to the sick and dying;
and all who bring light to those in darkness.

We pray for those who seek you healing and comfort at this time including Piers, Tiffany, Edgerton, Yvonne, John, Rute, Patience, Ron, Evelyn, Linda, John, Josephine, John, Cecilia and Ruth.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Remember in your mercy all those gone before us who have been well-pleasing to you from eternity; preserve in your faith your servants on earth, guide us to your kingdom and grant us your peace at all times. We pray for those who have died recently including John Yomi Afolabi and those whose anniversary fall at this time including Hilda Buckels Seymor, Michael Smith, Peter Gordon, Katherine Gordon, Charles Harris and Viola Akers

Rest Eternal Grant unto them O Lord
And let light perpetual shine upon them
May they rest in peace
And rise in glory

Hear our prayer.
Hasten the day when many will come from east and west, from north and south, and sit at table in your kingdom.
So in this moment of stillness we lift our own petitions to God.....

We give you thanks for the whole company of your saints in glory, with whom in fellowship we join our prayers and praises; by your grace may we, like them, be made perfect in your love. Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honour and power, be to our God for ever and ever.
Amen.

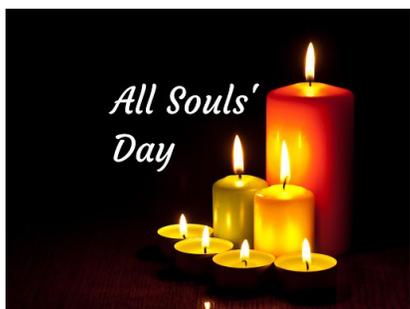
Post Communion Prayer

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

God, the source of all holiness and giver of all good things:
may we who have shared at this table
as strangers and pilgrims here on earth
be welcomed with all your saints
to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Notices

Mother Christine will now be available on **Monday's**. Instead her 'day off' or 'rest day' will be each **Wednesday**—at least for the foreseeable future.



All Souls Day

On All Souls Day we remember those who have died and give thanks for the promises of Christ that lie at the heart of our faith and our hope.

This has been a tradition within the church dating back to the 10th century when intercessions (prayers) were offered for those who had died on the

2nd November. Though initially abolished in the Church of England at the Reformation the keeping of a day of prayer for the dead has become common again. It encourages us to live in the hope which is offered to us in faith, that death is not and we can look forward to God's gift of eternal life.

This year St Anne's Brondesbury will be keeping All Souls Day as part of our worship on **Sunday 1st November**.

During our worship we will be praying for family members and friends who have died. Usually there is a sign up sheet at the back of church to list those you would like to pray for. This is not possible this year.

Instead can you please either email Mother Christine the names you would like included OR write the names down and leave them through the Vicarage door **by Wednesday 28th October** please.



Remembrance Sunday

This year is Sunday 8th November. We will observe a 2 minute silence at the end of the service, but like everything else this year we will need to do this in a slightly different way. We will still remember however.

London's Move to Tier Two of Covid Restrictions

We are now in Tier Two of Covid restrictions. This means we must not socialise with anybody outside of your household or support bubble in any indoor setting, whether at home or in a public place. Despite this places of worship are allowed to remain open provided that they limit mixing of

households AND we follow Covid Safety Guidance. We are still learning what this all means, but we may need to further restrict the number of people in the church at any one time, but it is really important that when you enter and leave church you do so safely. Please be patient as we unpick which this will look like.



Advent Windows

This year Advent begins on Sunday 29th November. To make Advent and Christmas very visible this year we are going to be building up a picture in the rotunda windows. Each there will be a new light, and then a new part of a story. There will be different bits to make and display; culminating with a full nativity by Christmas Eve.

As part of this we would like to make a Christmas Tree. To make the tree we are asking people to make— knit, crochet, or stich squares which are 20cm x 20cm. These are used to create a tree. On the 12th Night (6th January) the tree will come down and squares sewn together and given to local Nursing Homes and Vulnerable Adults. If you can't craft a square you can contribute socks, gloves or hats which will be included in the tree and distributed at the same time. All squares or contributions need to be completed by 11th December please!

New Group— Monday Christian Contemplation

The Christian contemplative tradition is as old as the faith itself. Many Gospel stories tell of Jesus removing Himself from the crowds and going to pray to His Father.

Contemplative Prayer is the opening of mind and heart – our whole being – to God, the Ultimate Mystery, beyond thoughts, words and emotions, whom we know by faith is within us, closer than breathing, thinking, feeling and choosing, even closer than consciousness itself.

Starting Monday 11th Mo C will host an hour of contemplation from 2-3pm. (with optional sharing time from 3-3.30pm).

Initially this group will begin on Zoom, with the expectation that it will move into the church later in the year. While doing it at home you may want to locate yourself in a quiet space, or one which is not full of distractions for you. The hour will have much silence but also invites us to reflect, or draw to close to God using readings from the bible, and traditional prayers. At the end of the time you may like to share your experience or slip away quietly.

There is no experience necessary to participate—just willingness to sit with God.



News from Laurence's Larder

As many of you know Laurence's Larder re-opened on 17 September. It has opened to provide a 'takeaway' hot meal every Thursday. Preparation is taking place each Wednesday. If you would like to help out, please contact them first as they have to limit the number of volunteers at present to ensure they can work within the parameters of the guidance. Please see their revamped website : <https://www.laurenceslarder.org.uk/>

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 Piers, Tiffany, Stephen, Edgerton, Yvonne, John, Rute, Patience, Ron, Evelyn, Linda, John, Josephine, John, Cecilia and Ruth and for those who have died recently including John Yomi Afolabi ; and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time including Hilda Buckels Seymor, Michael Smith, Peter Gordon, Katherine Gordon, Charles Harris and Viola Akers.

Services this coming week starting 25th October

Monday 26th October **2pm**— Christian Contemplation on Zoom

Tuesday 27th October **8.30am**— **Morning Prayer** in chapel and on Zoom.

As it is half term there will be no Public Morning Prayer on Thursday. You can join Morning Prayer on the Church of England website at— <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

Sunday 1st November — All Souls Day

8.30am—**Morning Prayer** in the Chapel and on Zoom

9am—Thought for the Day on Facebook

9.30am— **Eucharist**

5pm Zoom Service for the day

When you come to church, please 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. If you are using the NHS Track and Trace App—please use the code adjacent. We also ask that you 'sign in' as you enter the building for church,

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

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

Please keep believing and praying for us all!