



St Anne with Holy Trinity, Brondesbury

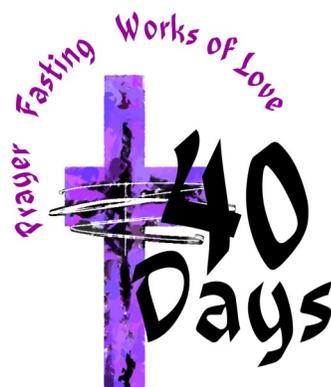
Confidently sharing the love of Christ

Readings and Notice Sheet **Sunday 28th 2021** **Second Sunday of Lent**

As we continue in lockdown we find ways to worship in many different ways. There are lots of options, but this service sheet provides prayers and readings for Sunday, along with notices for the coming week.

The Collect

Almighty God,
you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,
that they may return to the way of righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted
into the fellowship of Christ's religion,
that they may reject those things
that are contrary to their profession,
and follow all such things as are
agreeable to the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**



Reading from the book of Genesis

Last week's Old Testament reading featured God's covenant with Noah and "all flesh." This week's reading looks at another iteration of covenant, this time God's covenant with Abraham (who is called Abram until v.5). Throughout Genesis 17, "covenant" serves as a "catchword", appearing thirteen times in the chapter; that is, the word "covenant" here is a literary device that emphasizes the theme of the chapter and links all of its sections together.¹ At first glance, God seems to establish this covenant with Abraham alone — "between me and you (singular)" (17:2). It becomes clear again, however, that God's relationship with the one becomes a blessing for the many, the family of Abraham: "I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you" (17:7). God's covenant with Noah was clearly unconditional: a promise. However, God's covenant with Abraham as presented in Genesis 17 involves more action.

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Our Second reading from the letter to the Romans

The overarching focus of Paul’s letter to Christian communities in Rome is the multifaceted nature of faith.

In Romans 4, Paul goes on to present Abraham as the human paradigm for living in a right covenant relationship (i.e., righteousness) with God because Abraham trusts (or believes) God will fulfill God’s promise (4:1-5). Indeed, Abraham is not just the human paradigm for faith and right relationships. Abraham is the forebearer for all (both circumcised and uncircumcised) who are to live in right covenant relationships with God because the key to such a relationship is faith (4:9-12).

Our text seeks to explain this fundamental and foundational claim regarding God’s promise and Abraham’s faith forming the contours of a right relationship. God’s promise to Abraham and Abraham’s inclusive descendants did not come through the law.

Romans 4:13-25

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the

heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel is today taken from Mark

Narrative context is so important.

When this passage is taken out of context, it seems to suggest that the mission of Jesus and his disciples is to suffer and die. However, when we read it within its narrative context, we come to see that the mission of Jesus and his disciples is to give life—knowing that earthly powers will violently oppose them.

The passage picks up in the middle of a private conversation between Jesus and his disciples. Jesus has just acknowledged that he is the Messiah, the anointed king through whom God will deliver God’s people (Mark 8:27-30). We can imagine that the disciples associate this title with earthly glory.

So the real epiphany of Mark 8:31 is not that Jesus’ mission is to die, but that his faithfulness to God’s healing mission will inevitably result in his death. In Mark, Jesus “must” die because his commitment to human healing will not falter. With two millennia of Holy Weeks under our belts, we can easily underestimate the power of this epiphany. Essentially, Mark is saying that the Son of God will not dial down his ministry to spare his own life, or even to ease his suffering. His commitment to the healing of humanity literally knows no limits. And neither—Easter tells us—does God’s life-giving power.

Mark 8:31-38

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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

Most Holy God, during this season of Lent
we are reminded to take up our cross and follow you.

Give us the courage to never be ashamed to be called your disciples,
and to live our lives faithfully with you.

We pray for the church, that it may keep its mind
and heart in the divine understanding of Christ

We pray especially for Bishops Sarah and Pete,
and for our life together as a community of faith

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for peace on earth and all who work for justice;
give us strength and hear our prayer.
We pray for an end to all war and hatred,
praying for peacekeepers and peace makers;
may our hearts be open to the possibility peace
We prayer for the global response to the pandemic;
and for equal access to vaccines for all. (allow brief silence)

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for the communities in which we live.
For all who make decisions that effect the lives of others;
for those who offer care and compassion;
for those who provide services and goods;
For all who remind us that we are not alone.
We continue to pray for an end to the pandemic,
to all those most effected by its harshness.
(allow brief silence)

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Holy God give us strength and comfort
Be with us in these uncertain times,
and will all in need of our compassion and care.
We pray for all who mourn, for those who are unwell or in need of
support; amongst them we pray for Adam, Jean-Anne, Isobel, Peter, Pearl,
Yvonne, Rute, Ron, Josephine, John, Cecilia and Ruth....

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

May the wounded hands of Jesus bring his healing touch, and the light of
his presence fill their rooms. Give us the courage to give up our fear of
death and to rejoice with those who have died in faith. We remember
those who have died recently including Evelyn, as well as those know to
us and those whose anniversaries fall at this time including George Faul,
Florence Hicks and Henry Russell

(Allow a moment to reflect)

Rest Eternal, Grant unto them O Lord
And may light perpetual shine upon them.
May they rest in peace
And rise in Glory

You may want to take some time to offer your own prayers to God

Almighty God,
you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves:
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,
and inwardly in our souls;
that we may be defended from all adversities
which may happen to the body,
and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul;
this we ask as we pray in the words you taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give
us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen**

Notices

Response to National Lockdown January 2021

As you St Anne's PCC reflected not only on what might be legal; but the plea from our community leaders to stay home as much as possible; and also the feedback from members of our congregation who work in frontline services. We also reviewed the guidance from the Church of England. This was reviewed at our PCC meeting on the 11th February and agreed that while progress is being made we are not in a position to re-open for in person services until the current lockdown is lifted. Instead we will continue to offer services online via Zoom, as well as other ways to connect with each.

We continue to be committed to the 'Stay at Home' message and the need to

stop the spread of the virus. We acknowledge and share the sadness many are feeling at not being able to meet together as we would usually do at the moment. We are committed to praying for an end to the pandemic, and look forward to better times ahead.

We will not be opening the Church at all, but if you need someone to speak to, or prayer with, please contact Mo C either by email or phone and she can arrange to see you safely in person; or talk with you over the phone or Zoom.

St Anne's and St Andrew's will remain closed to all groups.

The Nursery may be open and is following the Early Years Guidance.

The building will remain closed.



Prayer Window

We are once again creating window of prayers in the rotunda at the front of the church. If you would like to contribute a prayer, either drop in through the letter box at the church or vicarage—postcard size or smaller is best. *(current prayers are on heart shapes, but any shape is fine)* **OR** email you prayer request to Mo C and she will ensure that it is added to the window.

Confirmation Classes

All being well Bishop Pete will join us on Sunday 18th April for a service of confirmation. If you would be interested in being confirmed at this time please speak with Mo C. Classes or conversations for Adults and Young people are on offer starting in late February. In the first instance these will take place on Zoom.

Keeping a Holy Lent 2021

Lent begins on the 17th February and will continue to our celebration of Easter on 4th April. During Lent our faith is focused through prayer, charity and fasting.



Stations of the Cross on Zoom

Stations of the Cross is traditionally a series of meditations which follow through the story of the last hours of Jesus life. Using images and prayers which lasts around 30 minutes. This will take place on ***4pm Sunday 14th March and 7pm Thursday 25th March***



Lent Reflection—Meditation on 40 bags in 40 days

We are each invited to declutter our lives of things, issues or concerns during the 40—one small bag each day!

Lent Study—7pm Monday Evenings in Lent on Zoom

The sessions will include input, reflection and discussion. This year we will explore five themes outlined in the Bishop of London's Lent Book *Rooted in Love*. Each session will last around 45mins to an hour. Study will take place on 22nd February, 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd March.

Check out our Lent Page on our Website!

News from Laurence's Larder and Sufra

Laurence's Larder will remain open on a Thursday for a takeaway - though they are currently not cooking on site—food is being distributed.

Donations can be left in the green box by Mo C's front door, or at the Larder on a Thursday Morning. Please see their website : <https://www.laurenceslarder.org.uk>

We are also sharing our food donations with Sufra. You can read all about what they are doing during this period on their website <https://www.sufra-nwlondon.org.uk/> **We have some wonderful volunteers from St Anne's supporting both Laurence's Larder and Sufra.**

If you need assistance getting to an appointment, or you need things dropped off, we have some drivers who are willing to help.

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**.



For our prayers Adam, Jean-Anne, Isobel, Peter, Pearl, Yvonne, Rute, Ron, Josephine, John, Cecilia and Ruth;. We remember those who have died including Evelyn; and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time including George Faul, Florence Hicks and Henry Russell

Services this coming week starting 28th February 2021

Monday 1st	2pm —Christian Contemplation on Zoom
	7pm —Lent Study—session 1on Zoom
Tuesday 2nd	8.30am Morning Prayer on Zoom
Thursday 4th	8.30am Morning Prayer on Zoom
Friday 5th	10am Coffee and Chat on Zoom

Sunday 7th March 2021—Lent

8.30am —Morning Prayer on Zoom
9am—Thought for the Day on Facebook
9.30am — Morning Service on Zoom
5pm—Service for the day on Zoom