



Team Parish of Christ the King St Aidan's, Brunton Park

Sunday 18th July 2021
Seventh Sunday After Trinity

The Gospel reading for today comprises a selection of verses from Mark chapter 6; and if on hearing it you get the impression that some things have been left out, you would be quite right! The compilers of the lectionary have done a “cut and paste” job, choosing to leave for later the two great miracles of the feeding of the 5000, and Jesus coming to his disciples by walking on the water, which Mark places between verses 34 and 53.

You may also feel that the reading really begins in the middle of a story, and indeed it does. When we hear of the disciples gathering around Jesus to tell him what they have been doing, this relates to their return from their travels round the local villages, on which Jesus had sent them some time earlier. We heard about this a couple of weeks ago, and it is a typical technique Mark uses. He begins a story, then inserts some other episode before concluding the first one, to give a kind of “sandwich” effect.

In the verses chosen Mark creates an interesting picture of the life of our Lord as he goes amongst the people. It is a rather hectic life, with hardly time to rest; inspired by his compassion for the people he meets; - “like sheep without a shepherd”. Mark emphasises the air of excitement surrounding Jesus; the people “hurry” to meet him, and “rush” to bring the sick to him. This is Jesus “on the move”, showing through his teaching and healing that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.

In the Ephesians passage Paul speaks of the unifying work of Christ through the cross. Because of his sacrifice the wall of separation between Jew and Gentile has been broken down and those who were once far off are now brought near. Through Christ we all have become part of the household of God who has made us to be a living temple, built on the foundation of the apostles, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.

The themes of both these passages are foreshadowed in the Old Testament reading from 2 Samuel. King David has settled down nicely, and feels it right that God also should have a nice settled abode. So he plans to build a Temple for him, but not a living one as envisaged in Ephesians. God has other ideas however, and through Nathan the prophet he reminds David that he is a God who has always gone with his people. He is a God “on the move” just as Mark shows us Jesus was.

Prayer

O Lord Jesus,
stretch forth your wounded hands in blessing over your people,
to heal and restore,
and to draw them to yourself and to one another in love.
(Prayer from the Middle East)

Reading: 2 Samuel 7.1-14a Ephesians 2.11-22

Gospel: Mark 6.30-34,53-56

The apostles returned from their mission. They gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the market-places, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.



NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – today Revd Bill Miller presides and Revd Ray Devenney preaches for us via video at our live streamed 9.30am service. The link is <https://bit.ly/7Trinity21> Those who wish to attend this service are welcome. As this service is broadcast live from church if you do not wish to be visible to those watching from home please ask a church warden for information on where to sit.

LICENSING OF REVD GERARD RUNDELL - our new Team Rector, Revd Gerard Rundell, will be licensed by Bishop Christine on Wednesday 8th September at 7.30pm at St Aidan's. It would be great to have a good turnout to welcome and support Gerard as he begins this new role.

CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTIONS FOR THOSE IN CHURCH AND THE COMMUNITY ROOM - even though the current restrictions across England with concerning protection against Coronavirus may be eased from next Monday, 19th, it has been decided by the wardens in discussion with Pauline Pearson our acting Rector, that the requirements for those attending St Aidan's and using the Community Room will continue for the time being. We will review the situation in the next few weeks.

For those attending church, you are asked to wear a face mask, sanitise your hands on entering church, maintain at least a one metre distance and are asked not to socialise while in the building. For those hiring the Community Room the supplementary conditions of hire in relation to Covid continue to apply.

COFFEE AND CHAT – thank you to Kathy who is hosting our coffee and chat sessions during July. Everyone is welcome to join us for a catch up over coffee via Zoom at 11:15am on Sunday mornings. This month's code is Meeting ID: 710 0161 7094 Passcode: STACCJUL

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71001617094?pwd=K05XV004K0VGa2IURFh-HeGxjQmJZdz09>

FOOD FOR THOUGHT –Everyone is very welcome to join us. Please note the new Zoom details: Meeting ID: 959 5268 9898 Password: 850865
<https://Universityofexeter.zoom.us/j/95952689898?pwd=VnQ0NWFpSW0xaGN4b3VBQ1VlckZ4QT09>

DONATIONS - If you would like to make a donation to St Aidan's, you can do so using the following link: <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/8a599239-a9bd-4136-8b4b-1dcabb0a2c65>

For Our Prayers...

We give thanks for our church family here at St Aidan's and pray for our Team Parish - for God's upholding in all that lies ahead.

We pray for God's world – in times of upheaval and conflict we pray for peace- for resolutions to tensions between nations and peoples, for all caught up in tragedy, disaster and despair.

In our St Aidan's cycle of prayer we pray for churches in our Deanery: Gosforth Parishes

Within our church we pray for DCC members and officers. Within the wider community we pray for the Snakes & Ladders Playgroup, Brunton Babies, Nursery & Toddler Groups

We remember in our prayers Enid Carera and Kate Clarke along with all others who are unwell at home or in hospital.

We pray for those who have died in recent days remembering especially Val Hay and Marianne Cullen known by many as Billy.

We remember with thanksgiving and joy our loved ones who are now with Our Father in the heavenly kingdom – Kenneth Forrester, Margaret Purcell, David Henderson, Ethel Todd, Dorothy Prest

CONTACTS

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