



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

Sunday 23rd January 2022
Third Sunday of Epiphany

Today's gospel reading is Luke's counterpart to last week's story in John's gospel of the wedding feast at Cana— it's the opening scene of Jesus' public ministry, in this case in the synagogue in his home town of Nazareth. And as in John, it's an important statement of what Jesus is about. Jesus proclaims himself as the fulfilment of the words of the prophet Isaiah: 'The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, he has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.' But as the story continues beyond the end of the reading, Jesus radically reinterprets that fulfilment, broadening it to include not just the people of Israel but all people, nations and races. He challenges his Jewish congregation to rethink their relationships with those outside their own faith community.

In today's epistle, Paul is likewise speaking about relationships, this time within their own community. And in the continuation of this reading, the famous 1 Corinthians Chapter 13, he challenges the often fractious church members in Corinth to ground their relationships with each other in love.

On Tuesday the church celebrates the feast of the Conversion of St Paul. Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, was the first really to get the point Jesus was making at Nazareth. It's appropriate that the commemoration of this crucial event in the life of the church falls between the Sunday in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (today) and Holocaust Memorial Day (Thursday). And our two Bible readings, with their emphasis on relationships within and without the church grounded in love, form a suitable backdrop to both these occasions, commemorating a history of failure and also presenting both a challenge and an opportunity to work for a different future. For in the words John Oxenham's hymn:

In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 12.12-31a

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

Gospel: Luke 4.14-21

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon 7.30pm, Zoom: **Bible Study Group**
Wed 10.00am, Church: **BCP Midweek Eucharist**
1:30pm, Church: **Funeral of Jean Carson**
Fri 5pm, Zoom (church code below): **Food for Thought**
Sun 30th 9.30am, **Parish Eucharist: Candlemas**
Rev'd Pauline Pearson Presiding, Rev'd Gerard Rundell Preaching
Readings from : Malachi 3.1-5 , Hebrews 2.14-end , Luke 2.22-40

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Sat 5th Feb. 10am-12pm: **Saturday Cafe Fundraiser for the Afghanistan Crisis**

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – today's live broadcast link is <https://bit.ly/3Epiphany2022>

JEAN CARSON – following the sad news of Jean's death we can confirm that her funeral will be held on Wednesday 26th January at 1.30pm at St Aidan's

HEALING SERVICE – this evening (Sun 23rd Jan at 4pm) we have our quiet reflective service, with prayer and anointing oil either for yourself or someone you know who is in need. Do join us if you can.

COFFEE MORNING FUNDRAISER FOR AFGHANHISTAN – due to the very difficult situation in Afghanistan we will be raising funds during Saturday café on 5th February. We'll have a cake stall, raffle and books stall. Please come along and join us to raise funds for this very worthy cause.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP - the group has resumed on Monday's at 7:30pm via Zoom with a series looking at Genesis 1-11 the opening chapters of the Bible the Tower of Babel, chapters that are at the heart of our Christian understanding of the beginnings of our world. But do they have anything to say to us today in the scientific age of the 21st century? Join us using Meeting ID: 881 6875 9104, Passcode: StABSG or <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88168759104?pwd=SFFWOVUzT1p2RXZ2dnBPbXZGMGxWdz09> or contact Ken Newitt (kmnewitt@outlook.com) for more details

ZOOM CODES – all our Zoom sessions will use only the following details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7573778713?pwd=NGVjcTRLQjBEaStqYjFDSm1KOURtQT0>

Meeting ID: 757 377 8713 Passcode: StAidan

BOOKING ZOOM MEETINGS: if you would like to use the St Aidan's Zoom account for a church meeting, please contact Janice

CHURCH CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTIONS – when attending a service, please wear a face mask, sanitise your hands on entering church, and maintain at least a one metre distance.

USED STAMPS – if you have any used stamps, please save them and put them in the box at the back of church to raise fund for St Oswald's Hospice.

CHURCH OPENING – church is now open during the day, every day. Please come in at any time for some quiet time or prayer.

FOOD BANK – a little reminder that we still collect for the foodbank. There is a box at the back of church for donations.

DONATIONS - to make a donation to St Aidan's, please use 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: Fawdon, Kenton and Kingston Park Parishes. Within our church we pray for Food for Thought and those leading it. Within the wider community we pray for Great Park Consortium and ongoing development of the Great Park Town Centre.

We remember in our prayers Gladys Johnston, Sheila Lonie and all others who are unwell at home or in hospital. We pray for those who have died in recent days remembering especially Kenneth Hylton, John Ward and Jean Carson.

We remember with thanksgiving and joy our loved ones who are now with Our Father in the heavenly kingdom – Charles Hobson, Margaret Harris, Peter Anderson, Albert Surtees, Ian Jamieson, David Fraser Denmark

CONTACTS

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 [St Aidan's Church Brunton Park Newcastle www.staidanschurchbruntonpark.co.uk](https://www.staidanschurchbruntonpark.co.uk)