



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

Sunday 31st July 2022 Seventh Sunday after Trinity

This morning's passage from Hosea makes for uncomfortable reading, but I think it's one worth exploring as we're given a picture of God as the faithful lover of a faithless spouse. Hosea is called by God to take 'a wife of whoredom' and bear children by her. He's being asked, in the life of his family, to enact the drama of Israel's abandonment of their God. Just as a faithless spouse has chased after other lovers, so Israel has longed for other Gods. Each child that Hosea and Gomer, his wife, bear is named after this faithlessness. Jezreel – the site of unjust bloodshed by the house of Israel; Lo-ruhamah – lit. 'she is not pitied', a judgement on Israel; Lo-ammi – lit. 'not my people', as the judgement widens.

In the most dramatic of ways Hosea is asked to show Israel the consequence of their unfaithfulness, and that difficult message is what we're asked to hear today. We're asked to recognise the ways in which we turn away from the goodness of God and seek our solace elsewhere. The ways we turn the good gifts of God into idols to be chased after. Whether it's our idolising of wealth, or power and status. Whether it's the idolising of sexuality we see in shows like Love Island or the images that flood today's Instagram or TikTok feeds. Whether it's in the hundred distractions that flood our modern life and can chip away at our faithful love of God. Hosea reminds us that we are called to one great love, but our affections are all too easily pulled away. And Hosea also reminds us, that this faithlessness has all the destructive power of adultery. Our relationship with God is torn and broken as we turn to other loves. The message of a prophet has never been an easy one, and we need to hear its force.

But the other side of Hosea's message is that despite the faithlessness of the spouse, God always remains a faithful lover. Hosea enacts a love that knowingly loves a straying wife, and yet chooses to continue in that love. God's love is never taken away. We may break and tear the relationship from our end, but the offer of restoration is never removed. Those of whom it was once said 'You are not my people', shall be called 'Children of the living God.' Hosea enacts that love in his love for Gomer. But yet more, Jesus enacts it in a loving embrace that stretches out its arms on a cross. The God who loves as a faithful lover, would give up even his life to bring us back to love for him.

Hosea 1.2-10

When the Lord first spoke through Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea, 'Go, take for yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the Lord.' So he went and took Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

And the Lord said to him, 'Name him Jezreel;- for in a little while I will punish the house of Jehu for the blood of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel. On that day I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel.'

She conceived again and bore a daughter. Then the Lord said to him, 'Name her Lo-ruhamah,- for I will no longer have pity on the house of Israel or forgive them. But I will have pity on the house of Judah, and I will save them by the Lord their God; I will not save them by bow, or by sword, or by war, or by horses, or by horsemen.'

When she had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she conceived and bore a son. Then the Lord said, 'Name him Lo-ammi,- for you are not my people and I am not your God.'

Yet the number of the people of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which can be neither measured nor numbered; and in the place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people', it shall be said to them, 'Children of the living God.'

Luke 12.13-21

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.' But he said to him, 'Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?' And he said to the crowd, 'Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.' Then he told them a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.'

TODAY

9.30am: 7th Sunday After Trinity Rev'd Gerard Rundell presides and preaches from Hosea 1.2-10 and Luke 12.13-21

THE WEEK AHEAD

Wed 10.00am, Church: **BCP Midweek Eucharist**

Thurs 2:00pm, Community Room: **Prayer and Praise**

Sat 10.00am - 12.00pm, Community Room: **Saturday Cafe**

Sun 7th 8:00am - Church: **Said Holy Communion**

9.30am, Church: **Family Service** (no communion): Rev'd Gerard Rundell presides and preaches the Transfiguration from 2 Peter 1.16-19, Luke 9.28-36

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Wed 10th Aug 12:00pm: **Lunch Group**

Thurs 11th Aug 2:00pm: **Film Club in the Community Room**

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – today's live broadcast link <https://bit.ly/7Trinity22>

TECH TEAM VACANCY – A vacancy has arisen in one of our Tech Teams. If you are interested in learning more about what these teams do, and would like to take over the position, please contact Gerard or one of the church wardens.

HOLIDAY POSTCARDS – are you going on holiday this year? We'd love it if you'd bring a postcard back for our noticeboard to share with everyone where you've been.

LUNCH GROUP - will meet again on 10th August at 12.00pm for a 12:30pm lunch. Please see Pat or Pauline if you would like to join us.

MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE FUNDRAISING – Susan Armstrong planned to walk a total of 70 miles to raise money in celebration of her birthday later in the year. In May she actually walked just over 90 miles and has raised £335 plus £57 in Gift Aid. The charity is close to her heart, as she lost a very close friend to the disease, and a cousin is suffering from it. If you are able to donate some money, however small, she would be very grateful. The link is: www.just-giving.com/page/susan-armstrong-1651472117480.

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7573778713?pwd=NGVjcTRLQjBEaStqYjFDSm1KOURtQT09>

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 – face masks are optional, please 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: St Aidan's Cycle of Prayer

For the church – Churches in our Deanery: Centre of Newcastle Parishes and City Centre Chaplaincy. Sidespeople, our Saturday Café, and all involved in our ministry of welcome.

For the community – Uniformed groups

For the world – particularly for Ukraine, her people, refugees and the Ukrainian community in the UK, and our own national and political life.

For those in particular need - Gladys Johnston, Esther Wooler

For those who have died and those who grieve: John Hewett, and on their anniversaries: Peter Mearns, Jennifer Long, Elizabeth Bibby, Frank Tinlin

CONTACTS:

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