



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

**Sunday 8th October 2023**  
**Trinity 18**

Our reading from the Old Testament carries on the Lectionary's journey through the book of Exodus and draws near to its end. This week we're told of perhaps the greatest encounter with God in the whole biblical text. Moses asks to see God's glory, and is allowed to see his back.

As Christians, used to the idea of Jesus as God-with-us, Jesus who calls us 'friend', we maybe risk slipping into complacency in the presence of God. But this encounter with the glory of YHWH reminds of a different side to God. Even Moses, the greatest prophet of Israel, the trusted mouthpiece of God, the faithful receiver of God's law, cannot see his full glory. If he sees the face of YHWH he will die, such is the power of God's holiness. Perhaps as we read this text, we're asked to remember the otherness and mystery of God. To let God be God.

Shortly before this passage, the Israelites have created a Golden Calf to worship in place of God. In place of mystery and otherness, they want a God they can understand and control. Yet Moses opts for something different. He wants to know the true God, even if that encounter is less safe, less tame, and less on his terms. Perhaps as we read this passage today we're asked to embrace the same. It's been said that often the experience of prayer is to approach the Almighty and simply say: 'You are God, and I am not.' There is a wonder in embracing that mystery. Not trying to grasp and control it, but allowing God to be God.

But there is also another side to this story. We're reminded of the raw power of God, that no mortal can fully know and live. And yet we're also reminded that God goes as far as he possibly can to be known by his people. He so longs to be in relationship with us, that he will reveal his glory as far as we're able to stand it. Jesus, of course is the fulness of that promise as the presence of God is made flesh in our world. There will always be mystery and awe, even fear, in the presence of God. There will always be experience of unknowing, and questioning. But there is also profound relationship. God passes by Moses, and in the most dramatic self-revelation in the entire Hebrew Scripture, Moses sees his glory, even if only it's back. However God reveals himself in our lives, may we too catch a glimpse of his glory passing us by as he makes himself known.

### **Exodus 33.12-end**

Moses said to the LORD, 'See, you have said to me, "Bring up this people"; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, "I know you by name, and you have also found favour in my sight." Now if I have found favour in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favour in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.' He said, 'My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.' And he said to him, 'If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favour in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth.'

The LORD said to Moses, 'I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favour in my sight, and I know you by name.' Moses said, 'Show me your glory, I pray.' And he said, 'I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, "The LORD"; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But,' he said, 'you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.' And the LORD continued, 'See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.'

### **Matthew 21.33-46**

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people: 'Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance." So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.'

Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

"The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;

this was the Lord's doing,

and it is amazing in our eyes"?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.'

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

### **TODAY**

9:30am: **Trinity 18:** Rev'd Gerard Rundell presides and preaches

### **THE WEEK AHEAD**

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

7.30pm, Community Room: **Alpha**

**Thurs** 2:00pm, Community Room: **Film Club – Still Mine**

**Sat** 10am, Community Room – **Children's Society Coffee Morning**

**Sun 15<sup>th</sup>** 9:30am, **Trinity 19** Rev'd Gerard Rundell leads our service with readings from James 2.14-26 and Matthew 28.16-20  
4:00pm: **Healing Service**, Church

### **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

Fri 27<sup>th</sup> 3.30-5.30: **Halloween Family Fun**, Church

6.30-8.30: **Beetle Drive**, Church

### **NOTICES**

**SUNDAY SERVICE** – today's live link: <https://bit.ly/18Trinity>

**BIBLE STUDY GROUP** – there will be no Bible Study group on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> October.

**HEALING SERVICE** - our healing service will be next Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Oct at 4pm. This is a quiet reflective service with the opportunity to receive prayer and anointing with oil either for yourself or someone you know who is in need. Do join us for this special service.

**UKRAINIAN REFUGEE** – we are aware of a Ukrainian refugee who is seeking refuge, and we wondered if anyone here at St Aidan's would be able to offer shelter within their home. If you feel this is something you could help with, please let Gerard know and he will be able to pass your details on.

**CHILDREN'S SOCIETY COFFEE MORNING** - and opening of the collection boxes will be held on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 10am to 12pm. Please return your boxes to church or a church warden.

**HALLOWEEN AND BEETLE DRIVE** – On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October we've got a busy day! For the younger ones we're planning some Halloween Family Fun at 3.30-5.30pm as we remember the light of Christ on All Hallows Eve (come in fancy dress if you can!). Then later in the evening, from 6.30pm will be our next Beetle Drive with a Fish and Chip dinner. All ages are welcome at both, but younger children will need an adult to help them at the Beetle Drive!

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

**FOOD BANK** – any items placed in the box at the back of church will be donated to Kenton Foodbank.

**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** – St Nicholas' Cathedral. Churchwardens and all involved in looking after our building

**For the community** - Groups using our Community Room and the Community Centre

**For the world** – all countries facing hardship and conflict. For our own national and political life

**For those being baptised:** Scarlett and Amelia

**For those in need** - Gladys Johnston, Esther Wooler, Alan Gregg, Martin Seaton, Jack Murgatroyd

**For those who have died** –and on their anniversaries: Pat McIntyre, Diane Beavers, Amy Cook, Mollie Rickaby, Sheila Fawcett, Ernest Terry, Denis Jockelson, Roy Dryburgh

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