



**The Team Parish of Christ the King
St Aidan's Church Brunton Park**

**Sunday 26th October 2025
Trinity 19**

In this week's Gospel, Jesus gives us a picture of two ways of praying. One is self-satisfied and self-congratulatory. The other is a humble prayer in need of grace. It's no surprise which one is commended and which condemned!

But perhaps, even if we think we'd never be like the Pharisee, we need to see how easily his mindset can creep into our faith. We often think we need to work our way into God's good-books. We often think the point of faith is to do the right things, and behave in the right ways. We often think that turning up to church is what will get us into heaven. Even if we wouldn't admit it, we often think that what defines our relationship with God is not his grace towards us, but our ability to earn his approval. And if we're lucky enough to be doing well at the moment, and feeling holy, we give ourselves a pat on the back, not unlike our self-congratulating Pharisee.

But Jesus has no time at all for that. He tells his disciples that the only truly important thing in the life of faith is a desire for grace. None of us can climb the ladder to heaven. We need heaven to come to us. So perhaps we need to check ourselves, if we think we've got this Christianity business sorted. Because in the end none of us are truly holy, but all of us can receive grace. All we need do is ask!

Joel 2:25-end

O children of Zion, be glad
and rejoice in the Lord your God;
for he has given the early rain for your vindication,
he has poured down for you abundant rain,
the early and the later rain, as before.
The threshing-floors shall be full of grain,
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

I will repay you for the years
that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
my great army, which I sent against you.

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
and praise the name of the LORD your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,
and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other.
And my people shall never again
be put to shame.

Then afterwards
I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.
Even on the male and female slaves,
in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.

Luke 18:9-14

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: 'Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, "God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income." But the tax-collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.'

TODAY Trinity 19. Rev'd Emma Duff presides and preaches.
Gerard at St Columba's

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon	7.30pm Bible Study Group on Zoom
Tues	3.30pm –5.00pm; After School Drop-Off Club
Wed	10.00am Church: BCP Midweek Eucharist
Fri	31 st Oct 3.30-5pm Halloween Family Event
Sat	10.00am Community Room: Saturday Café
Sun	9.30am: All Saints Family Service Rev'd Gerard Rundell leads and preaches 7.00pm: All Souls Service

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thurs	6 th Nov 7.30pm	St Columba's, licensing of Rev'd Ruth Stradling
Sun	9 th Nov 9.30am	Remembrance Sunday
Tues	11 th Nov 11.00am	Outdoor Service of Remembrance
Sat	29 th Nov 10am	St Aidan's Christmas Fair

NOTICES

TODAY'S SERVICE LINK <https://bit.ly/StAidan2025BibleSunday>

ALL SOULS SERVICE – Sunday 2nd November 7.00pm when we remember and pray for deceased family, friends and loved ones. There is a sheet at the back of church to add names of those you would like read out at the service.

REV'D RUTH STRADLING LICENSING – On Thursday 6th November, 7.30pm at St Columba's, Rev'd Ruth Stradling will be licensed to the team as Team Vicar and incumbent of St Columba's. Please do join us if you're able to welcome her to the Parish and pray for her as she takes up a new ministry.

REFRESHMENTS ROTAS – There are new rotas at the back of church for Saturday morning café and Sunday morning refreshments after the service. The Saturday café is a popular much appreciated place for the local community male and female to meet up with friends and get to know members of St Aidan's whilst also supporting our chosen charities. Sunday morning refreshments are a good opportunity to catch up and meet visitors after the service. It would be appreciated if able volunteers could add their names to the list. Thank you, Catherine,

EVERYDAY NORMAL: REV'D SARAH JONES – St Hilda's Jesmond, Monday 3rd November, 7pm. Rev'd Emma Duff, LGBTQI+ Chaplain to the Diocese, has sent an invitation to anyone wanting to know more about being trans, and for congregation members who hold some uncertainty on how to respond to trans people. Sarah Jones was the first trans person to be ordained in the Church of England. In her own words: 'These sessions offer an entertaining exploration for those who would like to understand trans issues for themselves from someone who can speak from personal experience on the everyday reality of being trans.' More details, and booking, can be found here: <https://bit.ly/SarahJonesEverydayNormal>

CHRISTMAS FAIR – Saturday 29th November 10am to 12pm in church. Volunteers are needed to help on the day and donations for the raffle and stalls would be much appreciated.

Living on God's Good Earth: October

Use Your LOAF

When we go to the supermarket, it can feel like a minefield of choice. How do we know what counts as a 'good' or 'ethical' product when there are so many competing brands and issues to consider? If you're not sure where to begin, a helpful guide is the LOAF principle: wherever possible, look out for products which are Local, Organic, Animal friendly, or Fairtrade. Start with one or two LOAF swaps and see where it takes you!

SUNDAY SERMONS

For anyone who would like one, written copies of the Sunday sermon are available from the preacher on request. Please contact either Gerard or the preacher of the day to be sent a copy

For the church. Archdeacon Rachel Wood and Area Dean Paul Baker.
Churchwardens: Catherine, Susan and Dorothy.

For the community. Snakes and Ladders Play Group, Brunton Babies and Brunton Toddlers, Uniformed Groups.

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

For those in need – Esther Wooler, Sue Bates, Sheila Lonie, Christine Crompton, Charlie Bennett, Pat Lawson, Lindsay Miller, Marion Newitt

For those who have died – Anne Sadler, remembering Bill, Sandra, Hannah and Matthew

and on their anniversaries : Thomas Atkinson, Pauline Kalas, Joan Rockiffe.



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