



St Martin of Tours Chelsfield

*St Martin's worships and serves a loving God,
reaching out to the community in the name of Jesus Christ.*

Sunday 23 August 2020

THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Whilst eating lunch the other day, I caught the end of 'Bargain Hunt' on the television which brought back many memories for there was an 'old' – well 1960's - record player which failed to meet its auction estimate of £20. That was about the same price that was paid for the one on which I listened for hours to Lonnie Donegan, Cliff Richard and the Shadows and later the Beatles. Listening was what we did in those days, and I still find much pleasure in listening to the radio, especially to old favourite plays, drama and comedy.

Listening features in our Old Testament reading this week, as the prophet Isaiah urges the exiles to listen to their history, and to remember God's promise and provision in times of darkness and difficulty. He also encourages the people to listen to the teaching of God that will bring justice, deliverance and salvation.

Our culture is obsessed with the present, we live for today and stagger from crisis to crisis, consuming everything in our path for the sake of wealth, power and success. It often seems, especially in the media, that greed, condemnation, hatred and revenge have taken over from sacrifice, mercy, love and forgiveness. We seem oblivious to the damage we are causing to our environment – environmental, political, cultural and religious.

As I get older I find myself increasingly nostalgic for the simpler, steady experiences based on the teaching of Jesus and an awareness of God's faithfulness that permeated much of society in my post-war upbringing.

As St Paul also appeals to us in today's epistle. 'Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect'. He also reminds us not to think too highly of ourselves, but to remember that we are part of a larger world – in which we all have a part to play.

So here is another challenge for the church today; how can we follow Jesus as we encourage the world to live in the present, yet to listen to and learn from the past, and to hope for the future.

Revd John



*You are invited to spend a quiet time with these prayers,
readings and reflection.*

Prayers for the week

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

[Collect for the Eleventh Sunday after Trinity]

Lord of all mercy, we your faithful people have celebrated that one true sacrifice which takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace: by our communion keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel and preserve us from all sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[Post Communion for the Eleventh Sunday after Trinity]

Today's psalm

Psalm 138

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;
I bow down towards your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love
and your faithfulness;
for you have exalted your name and your word
above everything.
On the day I called, you answered me,
you increased my strength of soul.

All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.
They shall sing of the ways of the Lord,
for great is the glory of the Lord.
For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly;
but the haughty he perceives from far away.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;
you stretch out your hand,
and your right hand delivers me.
The Lord will fulfil his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O Lord, endures for ever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.

Today's readings

Isaiah 51:1-6

Blessings in Store for God's People

¹ Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,
you that seek the Lord.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

² Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

³ For the Lord will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places,
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the Lord;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴ Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation;
for a teaching will go out from me,
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,
my salvation has gone out
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats;
but my salvation will be for ever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

The Letter of Paul to the Romans 12:1-8

The New Life in Christ

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The Gospel according to Matthew 16:13-20

Peter's Declaration about Jesus

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' ¹⁴ And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' ¹⁵ He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Saint Bartholomew's Day, 24 August

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, who gave to your apostle Bartholomew grace truly to believe and to preach your word: grant that your Church may love that word which he believed and may faithfully preach and receive the same; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Reading

The Acts of the Apostles 5:12-16
The Apostles Heal Many

¹² Now many signs and wonders were done among the people through the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. ¹³ None of the rest dared to join them, but the people held them in high esteem. ¹⁴ Yet more than ever believers were added to the Lord, great numbers of both men and women, ¹⁵ so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on cots and mats, in order that Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he came by. ¹⁶ A great number of people would also gather from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all cured.

Prayers for Return

How generous is your goodness, O God,
how great is your salvation,
how faithful is your love;
help us to trust you in trial
and praise you in deliverance,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

King of the universe,
you show the bright glory of your reign
in acts of mercy and enduring love;
raise the spirits of the downcast
and restore those who have fallen away,
that we may sing forever of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve;
bless all who, following in his steps,
give themselves to the service of others;
that with wisdom, patience and courage,
they may minister in his name to the suffering and needy;
for the love of him who laid down his life for us,
your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Creator God,
may every breath we take be for your glory,
may every footstep show you as our way,
that, trusting in your presence in this world,
we may, beyond this life, still be with you
where you are alive and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

Scriptural Comfort

'Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand'

(Isaiah 41:10)

'Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.'

(Philippians 4:6,7)

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.'

(John 3:16)

As we do not know how long this situation will last it is important that we look out for one another.

Please let Revd John know of anyone who is ill or in distress.

***Or if you need prayer or spiritual support,
or are lonely and just need a short chat please phone***

St Martin's is open for public worship as follows:

Sundays 10.00am Family Worship
(a Communion service or Service of the Word)
Wednesdays 9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

- Please follow the signed instructions on notices.
- Stewards will be there to offer direction.
- There will be a one-way entry and exit system.
- You will need to register your attendance and provide contact details for tracking* when you arrive — please bring your own pen to sign in with.
- Please use the hand sanitizer provided.
- Please wear a face covering if you are able.
- If you cannot wear a face covering or have another vulnerability please let a sidesman know, so that you can be directed to a more spacious area
- Please take all your belongings home with you.

* Your contact details are required in case anyone who attended the same service as you is subsequently diagnosed with Covid-19; if necessary they will then be passed to the track and trace service. Your details will be held in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations and will be destroyed after 21 days. If you do not wish your details to be recorded please let us know.

Worship from St Martin's will continue to be available online:

- A Sunday service on the web site
- Daily prayer on Facebook at 8.15am on Tuesdays and Thursdays

In addition, there will continue to be a quiet meditation in the churchyard on Thursday evenings at 7.00pm and Revd John will continue to celebrate Holy Communion on your behalf in the churchyard on Friday mornings at 11.30am.

Please note that to accommodate pastoral offices or with any changes to Diocesan or Government guidelines these arrangements are subject to change at any time.

For more information on St Martin's please visit our web site and Facebook page:

www.stmartinchelsfield.org.uk www.facebook.com/ChelsfieldStMartins

Other resources

Daily HOPE is a national, free phonenumber from the Church of England on **0800 804 8044**.

The line is available 24 hours a day and offers music, prayers and reflections, as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone.

For today's online Sunday service from the Church of England visit:
www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online

For other Church of England resources please visit:
www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer-resources

Bible readings are from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible (Anglicized Edition)* copyright © 1989, 1995 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. All rights reserved.

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, material from which is included here, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000 and published by Church House Publishing.