

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP
Registered Charity Number: 1133977
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk
9th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
9th August 2020

Please read the Notices below carefully with regard to all services and events.

TODAY

9:00 am Said Eucharist
10:30 am Said Eucharist
5:00 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom

THIS WEEK

MONDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer in the Sanctuary
10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer

TUESDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer in the Sanctuary
10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer
5:00 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom

WEDNESDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer in the Sanctuary
9:30 am Said Eucharist
10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer

THURSDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer in the Sanctuary
10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer



*Please keep an eye on our Facebook Page,
or speak to Hugh,
for information about St Nick's Nippers*

FRIDAY

8:45am Morning Prayer in the Sanctuary
10:00am Church Open for Individual Prayer

SATURDAY

10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer
Weekend e-Church available from Noon

NEXT SUNDAY – 10th AFTER TRINITY

9:00 am Said Eucharist
10:30 am Said Eucharist
5:00 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

SUNDAY 16th

Isaiah 56:1;6-8
Psalm 67
Romans 11:1-2a;29-32
Matthew 15:21-28

WEDNESDAY 19th

Ezekiel 34:1-11
Psalm 23
Matthew 20:1-16

FROM THE VICAR

Over the last few weeks I have been using this column to explore some 'lessons of the lockdown'. I began by reflecting on the painful privilege of prayer. A fortnight ago I shared some thoughts about the importance of places and things in our spiritual lives. Last week, my observations centred on the way in which crisis brings out both the best and the worst in human nature, and

on the need for the love of God in Christ to overcome our fear. In this fourth and final reflection, which accompanies the sermon in this weekend's e-Church my theme is the need to keep Christ at the centre.

This seems obvious, in a way. What, after all, is the point of being a Christian, or belonging to a Christian church, if one ignores Christ? Yet it is also obvious that Christian people and Christian churches have a peculiar susceptibility to distraction. That has always been the case, but my impression is that the Covid crisis has aggravated this tendency. Christians have always been tempted to give more energy to winning arguments and defeating enemies than to loving their neighbours, but the pandemic has exposed our fractious factionalism in a new way. We have always been at risk of paying more attention to our financial problems and organisational models than to the 'still, small voice' of God's Holy Spirit, but the present troubles have redoubled this problem.

The problem occurs whenever we imagine that our role is to make amazing things happen for God, rather than to allow ourselves to be the people in whom God does amazing things. This is, unfortunately, a very easy mistake to make, and all the easier if we have an excess of confidence in our understanding of God. So it is that a willingness to allow God to *surprise* us turns out to be much more important than it might at first appear. As today's Bible readings make clear, God often does things that we don't expect. In my experience as much as in my theology, God still does.

When this truth really sinks in, we discover in a new way how essential *all* the lessons of the lockdown are. We pray, with a sense of painful privilege, because our need is overwhelming and prayer is the only thing that we can do with it. We furnish our lives with places and objects of spiritual significance because we need all the help we can get in placing Christ at the centre. We try to allow the love of Christ to conquer our fear because that is the *only* way that anything really changes for the better, that is the way (as a modern hymn puts it) that the Holy Spirit changes life by changing lives. We keep Christ at the centre of our attention, because to take our eyes of him is to sink beneath the waves of confusion, fear and despair.

May God bless you all,

Hugh

PARISH INFORMATION

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Notices for next week's sheet by Wednesday please.

Online & Social Media

🐦 @StNicksLincoln 📘 @stnicholaslincoln

www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk

NOTICES

THANKS

I am so grateful to those who have provided service cover during my Annual Leave. My thanks also to the Churchwardens, Stewards and other volunteers who have worked so hard to keep public worship going in a radically constrained format.

RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC WORSHIP

Face Coverings

As of this weekend, it is a legal requirement for those attending public worship to wear face masks. It is also a legal requirement for those conducting public worship to wear face masks at those points in the ceremony where physical distance cannot be maintained, most particularly during the distribution of communion. There remain some points of detail to be clarified, but as currently phrased the Government's definition of a 'face covering' does not recognise a plastic visor, but rather requires at least two, preferably three layers of cloth which fit securely against both sides of the face. It is also worth reiterating that face coverings should not be seen as a substitute for social distancing and careful hygiene. As this is now a matter of law, we risk not being permitted to remain open for public worship unless we comply.

Morning Prayer

The morning office is taking place in the Sanctuary. If you want to come along you will need a device with the Common Worship Daily Prayer App installed. Please get in touch with me, Alice or Peter Elsmore if you need help with this. If attending, please sit only in the seats provided, and do not move the chairs.

Private Prayer

The building continues to open daily for private, individual prayer. Please follow the instructions on the various signs around the church, and of the stewards on duty.

Eucharists

It remains essential that you contact the Parish Office in advance of a Eucharist if you wish to attend. If possible, please do so **by email**. The Administrators will be keeping a list, and stewards will give priority to those who have registered. Services will offer communion in one kind only, and various social distancing measures will be in operation. Please follow the instructions given in church by the Priest and stewards.

The order of service for the eucharist is available on the parish website and the link has been published by email circulation. **We encourage as many people as possible to download the service at home and bring it with them, either as a print out or on a phone or tablet.** There will be a very limited number of freshly printed service booklets in church for each service. If you need to use one of these, please do

not hand it back in. Take it away with you, and be prepared to use it again.

e-Church

e-Church continues, but there is now only one video each week. This video will appear on a Saturday. Anyone who can access the internet can see these videos. If you need help with this, please do get in touch.

DAILY OFFICE ONLINE

With the resumption of Morning Prayer in church, our online daily office will now change. Evening Prayer will happen on Zoom twice a week, on Tuesdays and Sundays at 5.00pm.

While I am away on holiday, Alice will be hosting this. Please get in touch with her if you would like to join. Please do *not* use the previously published link. We are also exploring the possibility of streaming Morning Prayer in church via YouTube Live. This would allow those at home to listen to the daily office as it is being said in church. Watch this space for more information.

CHURCH FINANCES – THANK YOU

We are so grateful for the continued generosity of our many regular supporters during the lockdown period. Members of congregation have continued with their monthly standing orders and direct debits, and without their support we would not be able to meet our monthly commitments. Sandra says, 'I am very grateful to them all for helping me keep the books balanced and me sane.'

We need to continue to ask those whose regular giving is by cash in the collection plate or by weekly or monthly envelopes to continue to put their donations on one side ready to bring when we finally reopen. Every penny will be needed. Thank you!

READINGS

Sunday 9th August – 9th after Trinity

COLLECT

Gracious Father, revive your Church in our day, and make her holy, strong and faithful, for your glory's sake in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

FIRST READING

1 KINGS 19:9-18

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.'

He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.' Then the Lord said to him, 'Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.'

PSALM

PSALM 85:8-13

Refrain: Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

I will listen to what the Lord God will say,
for he shall speak peace to his people and to the faithful,
that they turn not again to folly.
Truly, his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land. **R**
Mercy and truth are met together,
righteousness and peace have kissed each other;
Truth shall spring up from the earth
and righteousness look down from heaven. **R**

The Lord will indeed give all that is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness shall go before him
and direct his steps in the way. **R**

SECOND READING

ROMANS 10:5-15

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that 'the person who does these things will live by them.' But the righteousness that comes from faith says, 'Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?"' (that is, to bring Christ down) 'or "Who will descend into the abyss?"' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? 'The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 14:22-33

Immediately after feeding the crowd with the five loaves and two fish, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

POST COMMUNION

Holy Father, who gathered us here around the table of your Son to share this meal with the whole household of God: in that new world where you reveal the fullness

of your peace, gather people of every race and language to share in the eternal banquet of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Wednesday 12th August

COLLECT

Gracious Father, revive your Church in our day, and make her holy, strong and faithful, for your glory's sake in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

FIRST READING

EZEKIEL 9:1-7;10:18-22

Then he cried in my hearing with a loud voice, saying, 'Draw near, you executioners of the city, each with his destroying weapon in his hand.' And six men came from the direction of the upper gate, which faces north, each with his weapon for slaughter in his hand; among them was a man clothed in linen, with a writing-case at his side. They went in and stood beside the bronze altar. Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up, from the cherub on which it rested, to the threshold of the house. The Lord called to the man clothed in linen, who had the writing-case at his side, and said to him, 'Go through the city, through Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of those who sigh and groan over all the abominations that are committed in it.' To the others he said in my hearing, 'Pass through the city after him, and kill; your eye shall not spare, and you shall show no pity. Cut down old men, young men and young women, little children and women, but touch no one who has the mark. And begin at my sanctuary.' So they began with the elders who were in front of the house. Then he said to them, 'Defile the house, and fill the courts with the slain. Go!' So they went out and killed in the city.

Then the glory of the Lord went out from the threshold of the house and stopped above the cherubim. The cherubim lifted up their wings and rose up from the earth in my sight as they went out with the wheels beside them. They stopped at the entrance of the east gate of the house of the Lord; and the glory of the God of Israel was above them.

These were the living creatures that I saw underneath the God of Israel by the river Chebar; and I knew that they were cherubim. Each had four faces, each four wings, and underneath their wings something like human hands. As for what their faces were like, they were the same faces whose appearance I had seen by the river Chebar. Each one moved straight ahead.

PSALM

PSALM 113

Refrain: From the rising of the sun to its setting let the name of the Lord be praised.

Alleluia.

Give praise, you servants of the Lord,
O praise the name of the Lord.
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
from this time forth and for evermore.
From the rising of the sun to its setting
let the name of the Lord be praised.

The Lord is high above all nations
and his glory above the heavens. **R**
Who is like the Lord our God,
that has his throne so high,
yet humbles himself to behold
the things of heaven and earth?
He raises the poor from the dust
and lifts the needy from the ashes,
To set them with princes,
with the princes of his people.
He gives the barren woman a place in the house
and makes her a joyful mother of children.
Alleluia. **R**

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 18:15-20

'If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

POST COMMUNION

Holy Father, who gathered us here around the table of your Son to share this meal with the whole household of God: in that new world where you reveal the fullness of your peace, gather people of every race and language to share in the eternal banquet of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**