

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP
Registered Charity Number: 1133977
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk
10th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
16th 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

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 – 11th AFTER TRINITY

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

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

SUNDAY 23rd

Isaiah 51:1-6

Psalms 138

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

WEDNESDAY 26th

2 Thessalonians 3:6-10, 16-end

Psalms 128

Matthew 23:27-32

FROM THE VICAR

There are different kinds of tiredness. Being away on holiday I was able to rediscover the wonderful kind of tiredness that one experiences after a day of walking in the countryside with no responsibilities and few decisions other than which ale to choose to accompany one's lunch. This is a very different sort of thing from the emotional weariness of long periods under stress,

when heavy responsibilities and impossible decisions weigh on the mind even at rest.

I was also able to observe a kind of collective tiredness with regard to the pandemic that is affecting people in different ways. We've had enough, haven't we? Only, being tired of it all – the disease itself; the confusing messages about what is and isn't 'safe'; the way that we can't plan anything – doesn't make it go away. The virus still exists and is still dangerous.

And I think there is also a kind of spiritual tiredness, a weariness that affects our determination to pray. Today's collect asks for the grace of perseverance in prayer and it's a timely one for this moment. Never has there been a time, in my view, when it has been more important for Christians to 'pray without ceasing', to cry out to God for mercy even when God may seem distant and mysterious, and God's mercy elusive.

There are seasons in the spiritual life, times (as St Ignatius taught) of desolation and of consolation. Some of these are seasons that we intentionally observe through the Church year. Others become apparent in our lived experience. Sometimes, the doors of heaven seem wide open and our prayers flow with easy confidence. At other times, though, prayer feels like an overwhelming burden, a Sisyphean labour that we undertake more because that is all there is than because we have any great enthusiasm for it or expectation of its efficacy.

It is in times of desolation, when we are spiritually weary, that it is most important to persevere in prayer. In such times it is also, I would suggest, helpful to *simplify* our prayer. In today's gospel, the Canaanite woman's persistent prayer is distilled down to one simple, three word, phrase: Lord, help me. May we continue to be faithful in bringing the needs of the world to God in prayer, and may God bless you all,

Hugh

PARISH INFORMATION

Vicar: Rev'd Dr Hugh Jones

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Parish Office

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Notices for next week's sheet by Wednesday please.

Online & Social Media

🐦 @StNicksLincoln 📘 @stnicholaslincoln

www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk

NOTICES

CHRISTIAN AID LEBANON APPEAL

In Beirut City, today, there are 750,000 people affected by the explosion of 4th August. This includes over 5,000 injured and over 200 dead.

Please support the Christian Aid effort to help these people who are in great need. Christian Aid have partnered 'Mouvement Social' to distribute water, food, hygiene, disinfection materials, mattresses and blankets right now.

Please donate through the Christian Aid website to "The Lebanon Crisis Appeal".

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

You can also donate cash and cheques via the bucket in church starting this weekend and finishing next Sunday (23rd August).

CAN YOU HELP?

We aim to open church for private prayer and visitors from 10.00am to 11.00am each day, Monday to Saturday, but we need volunteers to help us achieve this. The work is not onerous and involves just one or two hours each month. Extending a friendly welcome is the main task. If you can help or if you'd just like more information, please contact me on 01522 520729 or email to joanberesford1@gmail.com. Thank you. *Joan Beresford*

RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC WORSHIP

Face Coverings

It is now 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. As currently phrased the Government's definition of a 'face covering' requires at least two, preferably three, layers of cloth which fit securely against both sides of the face. We are asked to make clear that face coverings should not be seen as a substitute for social distancing and careful hygiene.

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 on Sundays at 5.00pm. Please contact the Vicar if you would like to join in with this act of worship.

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.'

Now that we are back in the church building, we ask those who use the weekly or monthly envelopes to bring their donations with them – many already have, for which heartfelt thanks. Every penny is needed to keep this wonderful church going. Thank you!

READINGS

Sunday 16th August – 10th after Trinity

COLLECT

Lord of heaven and earth, as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer, give us patience and courage never to lose hope, but always to bring our prayers before you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 56:1, 6-8

Thus says the Lord:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.
And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant—
these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt-offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.
Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

PSALM

PSALM 67

God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,
That your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.

**Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.**

O let the nations rejoice and be glad,
for you will judge the peoples righteously
and govern the nations upon earth.

**Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.**

Then shall the earth bring forth her increase,
and God, our own God, will bless us.
God will bless us,
and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

SECOND READING

ROMANS 11:1-2A, 29-32

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel? for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may **now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.**

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 15:21-28

Jesus went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

POST COMMUNION

God of our pilgrimage, you have willed that the gate of mercy should stand open for those who trust in you: look upon us with your favour that we who follow the path of your will may never wander from the way of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Wednesday 19th August

COLLECT

Lord of heaven and earth, as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer, give us patience and courage never to lose hope, but always to bring our prayers before you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

FIRST READING

EZEKIEL 34:1-11

The word of the Lord came to me: Mortal, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel: prophesy, and say to them—to the shepherds: Thus says the Lord God: Ah, you shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fatlings; but you do not feed the sheep. You have not strengthened the weak, you have not healed the sick, you have not bound up the injured, you have not brought back the strayed, you have not sought the lost, but with force and harshness you have ruled them. So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd; and scattered, they became food for all the wild animals. My sheep were scattered, they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill; my sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with no one to search or seek for them.

Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: As I live, says the Lord God, because my sheep have become a prey, and my sheep have become food for all the wild animals, since there was no shepherd; and because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves, and have not fed my sheep; therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: Thus says the Lord God, I am against the shepherds; and I will demand my sheep at their hand, and put a stop to their feeding the sheep; no longer shall the shepherds feed themselves. I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, so that they may not be food for them.

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out.

PSALM

PSALM 23

Refrain: I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

The Lord is my shepherd;
therefore can I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters. **R**

He shall refresh my soul
and guide me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me. **R**

You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil
and my cup shall be full.

Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. **R**

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 20:1-16

'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

POST COMMUNION

God of our pilgrimage, you have willed that the gate of mercy should stand open for those who trust in you: look upon us with your favour that we who follow the path of your will may never wander from the way of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**