

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP
Registered Charity Number: 1133977
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk
4TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
27th June 2021

NOTES

Please continue to let us know if you plan to attend worship in church. We still need to keep records of those who attend as well as making sure our numbers are within safe limits.

TODAY

9:00 am Said Eucharist
10:30 am Said Eucharist

THIS WEEK

MONDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer
10:00 am Church open for private prayer

TUESDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer
10:00 am Church open for private prayer

WEDNESDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer
9:30 am Said Eucharist
10:00 am Church open for private prayer

THURSDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer
10:00 am Church open for private prayer

FRIDAY

10:00 am Church open for private prayer

SATURDAY

10:00 am Church open for private prayer

NEXT SUNDAY – 5TH AFTER TRINITY

9:00 am Said Eucharist
10:30 am Said Eucharist

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

SUNDAY 4th JULY

Ezekiel 2:1-5
Psalm 123
2 Corinthians 12:2-10
Mark 6:1-13

WEDNESDAY 7th JULY

Genesis 41:55-end,
and 42:5-7, 17-end
Psalm 33:1-4, 18-end
Matthew 10:1-7

FROM THE VICAR

The image that I've used in this weekend's e-Church is one that I've found myself returning to over and over again since the first lockdown. It is an ancient and simple wall painting of a woman kneeling and reaching out to touch the hem of Jesus' garment. It depicts the scene described in the gospel reading for this morning, the story of a woman healed of an illness of many years' duration.

The painting is in the Catacombs of Marcellinus and Peter, so named because of a legend that it was the final resting place of two Christian martyrs of those names.

What keeps drawing me back to this image? It is certainly beautiful. For me at least it is also an aid to prayer. I find a simple sung chant from the Iona Community springs to mind when I contemplate it: 'Lord Jesus Christ, lover of all, trail wide the hem of your garment. Bring healing, bring peace.' All of that, yes, but also this – she reaches for his cloak; he offers her his hand. They say that every picture tells a story, and if that's so then *this* picture tells *that* story. She reaches for his cloak; he offers her his hand.

This is more than the Bible tells us, it must be said, an artist's licence, an interpretation beyond the strict letter of the gospel. Never mind. Every visual depiction of a Bible story is an interpretation. In a sense, even the Bible story itself is an interpretation of the events it describes. What matters is whether the interpretation bears faithful witness to Jesus Christ.

And I think this image does that. Like the Father in the parable of the Prodigal Son(s), like the actions of God towards the people of Nineveh in the book of Jonah (also extensively illustrated in those same Catacombs), Jesus gives us 'infinitely more than we can ask or imagine'. We come with our needs, our prayers, our slender hope that if we can just get near enough something might happen. We touch his cloak; he offers us his hand.

I wonder also if the artist has given us a very gentle reminder that not everybody is given the miracle that they ask for. The woman with the issue of blood was healed of her illness and I would be the last to suggest that things like that cannot be part of our own lived experience of faith. Nevertheless, not everybody is given the miracle that they ask for, but I think that everyone is given the miracle they need, the hand of Jesus offered to raise them up and lead them onward.

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

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www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk

NOTICES

VICAR HUGH NOW PRIEST IN CHARGE OF ST MARY

MAGDALEN

Our neighbouring Parish of St Mary Magdalen recently petitioned the Bishop to request that I be made their Priest-in-Charge. This was enacted at a short and simple ceremony on Tuesday evening. We look forward to working in closer partnership in the months and years to come.

DAMAGED NOTICEBOARD – WORKING PARTY

Thanks to the speedy action of Roger Hansard in dismantling and disposing of the damaged external noticeboard, there is no longer a need for a working party. Thank you, all those who volunteered to help.
Sue Humphrey

ANNUAL MEETINGS – CASUAL VACANCIES

Warmest congratulations to those elected to hold office in the Parish in the coming year! We ended up having a bit of a switch around, which resulted in two short-term vacancies for elected PCC representatives. If you would be interested in serving on the PCC for a one-year term, please speak to the Vicar.

ST NICK'S NIPPERS

St Nick's Nippers will now resume in September. Please speak to Alice if you are able to be on the team of volunteers. Please also spread the word about this excellent opportunity for children under 5 and those who care for them to spend a happy morning in church.

CHURCH CLEANING

As we look forward to re-starting activities and opening up more spaces, we need volunteers to keep our church clean. Can you spare an hour or two each month to join our team of cleaners? You don't have to be super-fit, just let me know what you are happy to contribute. Phone me on 01522 520729 if you can help. Thank you. *Joan Beresford*

READINGS

Sunday 27th June

COLLECT

Gracious Father, by the obedience of Jesus you brought salvation to our wayward world: draw us into harmony with your will, that we may find all things restored in him, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

FIRST READING

WISDOM 1:13-15; 2:23-24

God did not make death,
and he does not delight in the death of the living.
For he created all things so that they might exist;
the generative forces of the world are wholesome,
and there is no destructive poison in them,
and the dominion of Hades is not on earth.
For righteousness is immortal.
For God created us for incorruption,
and made us in the image of his own eternity,
but through the devil's envy death entered the world,
and those who belong to his company experience it.

CANTICLE

LAMENTATIONS 3:23-33

Refrain: The Lord is good to those who wait for him.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;

they are new every morning;

great is your faithfulness. **R**

'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul,
'therefore I will hope in him.'

The Lord is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul that seeks him.

It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the Lord. **R**

It is good for one to bear
the yoke in youth,

to sit alone in silence

when the Lord has imposed it,

to put one's mouth to the dust
(there may yet be hope),

to give one's cheek to the smiter,
and be filled with insults. **R**

For the Lord will not reject for ever.

Although he causes grief, he will have compassion
according to the abundance of his steadfast love;

for he does not willingly afflict
or grieve anyone. **R**

SECOND READING

2 CORINTHIANS 8:7-END

As you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. And in this matter I am giving my advice:

it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something—now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. As it is written,

‘The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.’ But thanks be to God who put in the heart of Titus the same eagerness for you that I myself have. For he not only accepted our appeal, but since he is more eager than ever, he is going to you of his own accord. With him we are sending the brother who is famous among all the churches for his proclaiming of the good news; and not only that, but he has also been appointed by the churches to travel with us while we are administering this generous undertaking for the glory of the Lord himself and to show our goodwill. We intend that no one should blame us about this generous gift that we are administering, for we intend to do what is right not only in the Lord’s sight but also in the sight of others. And with them we are sending our brother whom we have often tested and found eager in many matters, but who is now more eager than ever because of his great confidence in you. As for Titus, he is my partner and co-worker in your service; as for our brothers, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ. Therefore, openly before the churches, show them the proof of your love and of our reason for boasting about you.

GOSPEL READING

MARK 5:21-END

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered round him; and he was by the lake. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, ‘My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.’ So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, ‘If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.’ Immediately her haemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, ‘Who touched my clothes?’ And his disciples said to him, ‘You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, “Who touched me?”’ He looked all round to see who had done it. But the woman,

knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, ‘Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.’

While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader’s house to say, ‘Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?’ But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, ‘Do not fear, only believe.’ He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, ‘Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.’ And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, ‘Talitha cum’, which means, ‘Little girl, get up!’ And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

POST COMMUNION

Eternal God, comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken, you have fed us at the table of life and hope: teach us the ways of gentleness and peace, that all the world may acknowledge the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Wednesday 30th June

COLLECT

Gracious Father, by the obedience of Jesus you brought salvation to our wayward world: draw us into harmony with your will, that we may find all things restored in him, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

FIRST READING

GENESIS 21:5, 8-20

Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, 'Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac.' The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, 'Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named after you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring.' So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, 'Do not let me look on the death of the child.' And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, 'What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.' Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink.

God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow.

PSALM

PSALM 34:1-12

Refrain: O taste and see that the Lord is gracious.

I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.

My soul shall glory in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad. **R**

O magnify the Lord with me;
let us exalt his name together.

I sought the Lord and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.

Look upon him and be radiant
and your faces shall not be ashamed. **R**

This poor soul cried, and the Lord heard me
and saved me from all my troubles.

The angel of the Lord encamps around those
who fear him
and delivers them. **R**

O taste and see that the Lord is gracious;
blessed is the one who trusts in him.

Fear the Lord, all you his holy ones,
for those who fear him lack nothing.

Lions may lack and suffer hunger,
but those who seek the Lord
lack nothing that is good. **R**

Come, my children, and listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

Who is there who delights in life
and longs for days to enjoy good things? **R**

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 8:28-END

When Jesus came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demoniacs coming out of the tombs met him. They were so fierce that no one could pass that way. Suddenly they shouted, 'What have you to do with us, Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?' Now a large herd of swine was feeding at some distance from them. The demons begged him, 'If you cast us out, send us into the herd of swine.' And he said to them, 'Go!' So they came out and entered the swine; and suddenly, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and perished in the water. The swineherds ran off, and on going into the town, they told the whole story about what had happened to the demoniacs. Then the whole town came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighbourhood.

POST COMMUNION

Eternal God, comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken, you have fed us at the table of life and hope: teach us the ways of gentleness and peace, that all the world may acknowledge the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**