

Worshipping, Caring, Pioneering
'Growing God's Kingdom'



Sunday worship and weekly news
5 July 2020

Worshipping Together at Home

Dearly loved worshipping community

With the announcement that places of worship can open from Saturday 4th July, many of us will be eagerly awaiting the moment when we can gather together again in worship. But we have also been reminded over the past few months that worship is not confined to a specific building or time of day.

In the gospel today Jesus invites us to come to him, to walk alongside him as we navigate the contours of the path ahead. He's reminded us too that He is the one who knows his Father intimately and who is able to reveal his Father to us.

In the 17th century Brother Lawrence, a Carmelite monk, wrote a book, "The Practice of the Presence of God". Whatever he was doing, washing dishes or going for a walk, he focussed on being with God.

He sought to turn mundane moments into prayer. Let us also remember that we can practise the presence of Jesus daily, wherever we are, whatever our circumstances.

Rosie

Keep picking up the phone!

People are finding phone calls with friends invaluable to combat loneliness. Thank you everyone; please keep up the good work!



Overcoming sin, walking with Jesus

We light a candle...

Prayer for Today

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



Hymn

How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds

In a believer's ear!
It soothes his sorrow, heals his wounds,
And drives away his fear.

Jesus, my shepherd, brother, friend,
My Prophet, Priest, and King;
My Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
Accept the praise I bring.

Till then I would Thy love proclaim
With every fleeting breath;
And may the music of thy Name
Refresh my soul in death.

Romans 7 The Inner Conflict

Read by Georgina Wood

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Faith in *Christ* brings us



Prayer

Lord we pray for your
guidance in our thoughts and actions that we will do what
is right and lead us away from sin.

Amen

Psalm 45

Read by Jonathan and Carol MacKechnie-Jarvis

- ¹⁰Listen, daughter, and pay careful attention:
forget your people and your father's house.
¹¹Let the king be enthralled by your beauty;
honour him, for he is your Lord.
- ¹²The city of Tyre will come with a gift,
people of wealth will seek your favour. ¹³All glorious
is the princess within her chamber;
her gown is interwoven with gold. ¹⁴In embroidered
garments she is led to the king;
her virgin companions follow her those
brought to be with her.
- ¹⁵Led in with joy and gladness,
they enter the palace of the king.
¹⁶Your sons will take the place of your fathers;
You will make them princes throughout the
Land.
- ¹⁷ I will perpetuate your memory through all
generations;
therefore the nations will praise you for ever
and ever.

*Prayer: Lord our God, bring
your bride, your holy Church,
with joy to the marriage feast
of heaven, and unite us with
your anointed Son, Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen*



Matthew 11

Read by Jonathan MacKechnie-Jarvis

Jesus Praises John the Baptist

Jesus said, 'But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another,
"We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn."
For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon"; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.'

Jesus Thanks His Father

At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.'



'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

Prayer: Father help us to worry less about what others may be saying and instead focus on the teaching of your dear Son. Amen.

Song

All I once held dear, built my life upon
All this world reveres, and wars to own
All I once thought gain I have counted loss
Spent and worthless now, compared to this

*Knowing you, Jesus
Knowing you, there is no greater thing
You're my all, you're the best
You're my joy, my righteousness
And I love you, Lord*

Now my heart's desire is to know you more
To be found in you and known as yours
To possess by faith what I could not earn
All-surpassing gift of righteousness

Oh, to know the power of your risen life
And to know You in Your sufferings
To become like you in your death, my Lord
So with you to live and never die
Graham Kendrick Copyright © 1993 makeWay Music

Reflection from Revd Sarah Todd, Vicar of St Barnabas

"I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate". How often is that the case? The advice is clear, we know it is right and good—yet we fail to follow it... or only give a nod here and there... "sticking to the letter of the law".



This inner conflict is what Paul is concerned with in his letter to the Romans. Romans chapter 7 that we hear an excerpt from today, has to be read with Romans 6... in Romans 6, Paul teaches that we can only live in Christ through God's grace...

Romans 7 talks of the very real tension for Paul and other Jewish Christians around this extravagant concept of grace and the Jewish teaching that righteousness came only from obedience to the law... and that is a question for us too – how does our salvation that comes only from God's grace and mercy relate to our best attempts to live good and moral lives as human beings?

Paul wants the believer to rejoice in the salvation, the freedom won by Jesus for each person who follows him. Paul teaches that it is the gospel that transforms those who follow Jesus, it is the gospel alone that changes and transforms our behaviour. In Chapter 12 we read of this transformation, this renewing of the mind... that comes solely from grace of the gospel through Jesus Christ.

Rather than being bound to obedience to the law, Christian believers are free through the power of the gospel to live in obedience to the God of love. Christians are called to live lives guided by grace – rather than bound by Moses' law. We will constantly fall short of God's law – it is all about the grace! When we live by grace we begin a lifelong process of becoming more like Jesus – and it is only that process that can help us live a good life, life in all its fullness as it says in John 10:10, in this world and the next.



Prayer: God of grace, we give thanks for your Son Jesus who freed us from the slavery of sin, and through grace freed us to live in obedience to the law of love. Help us through the power of the Holy Spirit to keep our eyes on Jesus and day by day walk ever closer to him.
Amen

Intercessions from Linda Medwell

Lord we ask your blessing on the week ahead. May its challenges not discourage us, and in all things may we remember you are with us on our journey, your love our fuel, your words our guide, today and always.



Lord we offer our prayers for our community. We pray for all concerned for their future employment, for all who continue to isolate and for those fearful of coming out of lockdown. For those with mental health challenges who feel isolated, anxious and helpless.

For the young fit and strong, give them the necessary caution to keep them from unwittingly spreading this disease; inspire them to help. Lord, pour out your blessings on all and envelop them in your love.



Lord we pray for Your disordered and fragile world. Forgive us for allowing the world to overwhelm us and help us to be a consistent source of light to

all around us. While our world seems to be crumbling You remain the same, steadfast, loving, defending and protecting.

Bless and heal the whole world Lord and bring hope to the hopeless and unity where there is conflict.

Lord, take into Your gentle embrace all who are ill and in need at this time amidst their physical and mental suffering, may they find your consolation and shelter them in the shadow of your wings. In a moment of silence we name those known to us and those known only to you.

Lord we pray for those today, whose hearts overflow with grief at the loss of their loved ones, for some unanswered questions and such a sense of loss. Grant them the space to express their tears through the coming days and weeks and may they know your presence in the stillness of the day and through the love of good friends and family.
Amen

Hymn

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus,
His the sceptre, his the throne
Alleluia! His the triumph,
His the victory alone
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood
Jesus out of every nation
hath redeemed us by his blood.

Alleluia! Not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now
Alleluia! He is near us,
faith believes nor questions how
Though the cloud from sight received him
when the forty days were o'er
Shall our hearts forget his promise,
I am with you evermore

Alleluia! King eternal,
thee the Lord of Lords we own
Alleluia! Born of Mary,
earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne
Thou within the veil hast entered,
robed in flesh, our great High Priest
Thou on earth both Priest and Victim
in the Eucharistic Feast...

This week's News

In memoriam:

John Harrison, John White, Kath Senior RIP.

We pray for all who are ill or in need at this time mentioning by name

Margaret Rowell, Mike, Ann and Steve, Jonathan, Bill, Julia, Brian, Mike and Laura, Dianne, Brian Webster, Lynne, Angela

Anniversaries of death:

Clive Marks, Vera Williams, Eva Jordan, Chris Watts, David White, Chris Davis, Peter Garnham, Ann Smith, David Morgan, Frank Blewitt, Megan Evans, Alexandra Hay, Terrence Maley, Elizabeth Townsend, Dennis Freeman, Lorraine Morgan.

Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Roger Meadows 5th, Hans Rackham 11th, Bruce Clifford 12th.



Where is God in a coronavirus world?

"Where is God in a coronavirus world?" is a small new book [62 pages] by the retired Oxford University professor, John C Lennox. I found it easy to read and helpful to make sense of what is happening during the current pandemic from a Christian viewpoint. There are several copies available to borrow in the vicarage porch.

Many thanks to Sarah Kingscote.

Pass it on... Can you help unload food (Tuesdays 2.00pm until 4.00pm) or sort food parcels (Thursdays from 9.00am until 12.00noon) at St Barnabas Church hall for delivery to vulnerable people. **If yes**, phone 01452 396396 and ask for Gupti Gosine, Community Volunteer Support Appeal Manager, or email: Community.wellbeing@gloucester.gov.uk

Don't forget...

Refresh via ZOOM on Wednesday 15th July at 7.30pm until 8.30pm. Ask Bruce for your invitation.



Pray with us

As the Church in Tuffley, we are continuing to pray for Tuffley. You can find resources to help on our website or pick up a booklet from the vicarage porch or book a time with Linda 01452 302590.

WHAT TO DO for THIS WEEK:

❖ Keep bringing items for the **Foodbank** –Thank you!

❖ Borrow a good book (some are new) from Sarah's church library –in vicarage porch (we can deliver)

❖ Book yourself a comfortable spot and prepare some tasty snacks ready to watch **Tuffley Festival**.

How?... read on....



If you've not tuned in yet, you still can.

There are **six 15 to 20 minute videos** to enjoy;

Find Tuffley Festival on YouTube:

https://youtu.be/QilpQTuY4_A

or search for Tuffley Festival on Facebook,

or see it on our website

www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk

Know someone who:

❖ is stuck at home without support?

❖ can't make ends meet?

❖ Just wants to talk?

Then Contact **Gloucestershire Community Help Hub** on **01452 583519**

CONTACTING US:

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The Administration office is not open until further notice. Please contact the Church Administrator by email or leave a message on the office telephone and our Administrator will get back to you.

We are part of the **Church in Tuffley**, working in partnership with English Martyrs (Roman Catholic), Grange (Baptist) and St Barnabas (Anglican).



THE CHURCH IN TUFFLEY