

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



**Sunday worship and weekly news
22 August 2021**

Trinity 12

Today, we hear how the message of Christianity can be difficult for people to accept. In our Gospel reading we see many disciples in Jesus' day turning away from him, saying 'this teaching is difficult; who can accept it?'

From the portion of Paul's letter to the Church in Ephesus we hear today, we can see that times were difficult for the early Christians. Paul is encouraging them to put on the armour of God, to know God's protection and strength through the power of prayer. We pray today for Christians in Afghanistan, and other areas in our world where Christians are persecuted.

At the end of our Gospel reading today, Peter's words sum up for us why we are Christians, even though it can feel difficult at times. 'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God' – does the truth of those words resonate for us today?

Rachel

Today's service on You Tube

The service can be accessed from the church website www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk on Monday

Click on the blue banner at the bottom of the page. Enjoy, and sing aloud to your hearts content.

To protect everyone...

Please wear a face mask.
Sanitise your hands as you enter
Observe sensible social distancing indoors, and ...
You can now sing if you wish, but you must be wearing a mask.

Although restrictions are easing...

Covid is still with us. If we are to continue to see a reduction in the effect Covid is having on us we ask you to voluntarily stay at home if you feel unwell.

**Next week we welcome
Canon Andrew Braddock to our services**

Order of Service

One with Christ



Processional Hymn

Ye holy angels bright,
Who wait at God's right hand,
Or through the realms of light
Fly at your Lord's command,
Assist our song,
For else the theme
Too high doth seem
For mortal tongue.

Ye blessed souls at rest,
Who ran this earthly race,
And now, from sin released,
Behold the Saviour's face,
His praises sound,
As in his sight
With sweet delight
Ye do abound.

Ye saints, who toil below,
Adore your heavenly King,
And onward as ye go
Some joyful anthem sing;
Take what he gives
And praise him still,
Through good and ill,
Who ever lives.

My soul, bear thou thy part,
Triumph in God above,
And with a well-tuned heart
Sing thou the songs of love;
Let all thy days
Till life shall end,
Whate'er he send,
Be filled with praise.

Prayer for Today

God of constant mercy,
who sent your Son to save us:
remind us of your goodness,
increase your grace within us,
that our thankfulness may grow,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Ephesians 6 The Armour of God

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole

armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵ As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Prayer: Father, help us always to draw on the armour that is ours through the strength of your dear Son. Amen

Psalm 84 The Joy of Worship in the Temple

1 How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!
2 My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

3 Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

4 Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. Selah

5 Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

6 As they go through the valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools.

7 They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

8 O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah

9 Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed.

10 For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness.

11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield; he bestows favour and honour. No good thing does the LORD withhold from those who walk uprightly.

12 O LORD of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

Prayer: Lord God, sustain us in this vale of tears with the vision of your grace and glory, that, strengthened by the bread of life, we may come to your eternal dwelling place; in the power of Jesus Christ our Lord.

John 6 Jesus the Bread of Life

56 Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. 57 Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. 58 This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” 59 He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

The Words of Eternal Life

60 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” 61 But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? 62 Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? 63 It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. 64 But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. 65 And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.” 66 Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. 67 So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” 68 Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

Prayer: Thank you Lord, that as we take communion in remembrance of you, your Word reminds us we dwell in you, and you dwell in us. Amen

Reflection from Rev'd Rachel

We have a good reminder today in the Gospel reading that the message of the Christian faith can seem a strange one. Jesus' words of 'eat my flesh and drink my blood' offend and alienate most of the people in the crowd gathered around him. Cannibalism was as offensive back then as it is now and drinking the blood of an animal was unthinkable for the Jewish people, as it was a capital crime according to the law. The notion of eating Jesus' flesh and drinking his blood has continued to be controversial ever since, with many debates being held about what we believe happens during the consecration of the bread and wine on the altar during the Eucharistic Prayer. We can easily miss the words that follow from Jesus, 'abide in me, and I in them'. The whole point is that we are united with Jesus.

This is the first passage in the Gospel of John that refers to 'the twelve' and through this we see what united the twelve disciples. It was their willingness to follow Jesus, even though sometimes this was difficult. This is true today too for Christians. We are united not through any particular worship style or mission statement, but through our desire to follow Jesus. The verb 'believe' occurs more than 80 times in the Gospel of John, and suggests that faith is not something you have, but something you do. Through the Gospel of John, we see that believing in Jesus means

accepting the Gospel of the incarnation – that God became flesh and dwelt among us as Jesus, and through the death of Jesus the sin of the whole world is taken away. To believe is to accept this and to live following Jesus - loving God and loving neighbour, even though this is difficult to do at times.

We declare together our commitment to faith:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again, in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory, to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life who proceeds from the Father and the Son who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Intercessions from Linda Medwell

Let us pray.

Loving Lord we share with you our love and concern for our community and Churches. We pray for our continued cooperation with our combined Churches.

We remember today, our young people. We remember those who recently received results, some rejoicing, some disappointed. May they continue to feel valued and go on to fulfil their full potential surround them with such love that they may know they are precious to you and make us willing to be part of your answer to our prayers for them. We pray for a graciousness in our mission and outreach to our communities.

May we always encourage and build up one another in the faith and may each one of us use our talents to the benefit of one another to your glory.

Loving Lord we pray for countries where there is war, random violence or only a fragile peace. We grieve today for all those who grieve over Afghanistan, the people who call it home, the people exiled or suddenly having to leave and the men and women from other countries who have made many sacrifices in recent years in the cause of that country's future. We pray for all who bear responsibility of leadership among the nations of the world.

As the sick were brought to Jesus by their loved ones so we bring to you all those we love and those we long to be healed. May they hear your voice and receive your loving touch. We ask for the bathing love of your presence and the practical caring of hands working in your name.

We remember Lord the slenderness of the thread which separates life from death and the suddenness with which it can be broken. Help us also to remember that on both sides of that division we are surrounded by your love. We remember with deep gratitude those who have left their mark on our lives by giving us love and laughter but have now gone before us to be with Christ.

Merciful father...

Offertory Hymn

Bread of heaven, on thee we feed

For thy flesh is meat indeed;
Ever may our souls be fed
With this true and living bread;
Day by day with strength supplied
Through the life of him who died.

Vine of heaven, thy blood supplies
This blest cup of sacrifice;
'tis thy wound our healing give,
To thy Cross we look and live;
Thou our life! Oh let us be
Rooted, grafted, built on thee.

After Rev'd Rachel says to us all: "the body and blood of Christ keep you in eternal life", we all respond Amen.

A steward will guide you forward.

We each receive a wafer dipped in wine.

We receive Communion in silence with arms outstretched.

Please maintain social distance at all times.

Post Communion Prayer

God of all mercy,
in this eucharist you have set aside our sins
and given us your healing:
grant that we who are made whole in Christ
may bring that healing to this broken world,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Final Hymn:

Fight the good fight with all thy might!

Christ is thy strength, and Christ thy right;
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Thy joy and crown eternally

Run the straight race through God's good grace,
Lift up thine eyes, and seek His face;
Life with its way before us lies,
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize

Cast care aside, lean on thy Guide;
His boundless mercy will provide;
Trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its life, and Christ its love

Faint not nor fear, His arms are near,
He changeth not, and thou art dear;
Only believe, and thou shalt see
That Christ is all in all to thee.

News 22 – 29 August

Tea or Coffee after the Service.

It has been a long time since St George's have had tea or coffee after the service allowing friends to socialise.

Now Covid restrictions are easing St George's will be providing tea or coffee should you wish to stay and fellowship.

A tea/coffee rota is to be established. If you are willing to join the rota, please speak to Mike Brammer.

We need your feedback on your views about Signpost.

Do we retain the hymns, intercessions, and reflection in Signpost or not? Please let your views be known, during August, either in person or by email to
Rev'd Rachel - revrachelbeck@gmail.com
Linda Medwell - linda47medwell@virginmedia.com
or Pete Best - petebest@blueyonder.co.uk

WHAT TO DO for THIS WEEK:

- ❖ Keep bringing items for the Foodbank; new collection point is the Church Centre hallway on a Friday morning from 9.30am until 11.30am.

The Foodbank are in **URGENT NEED OF: -**
TINNED FRUIT, DEODORANT, SHAMPOO

In addition, they need donations of Tinned Fish, Tinned Spaghetti, Tinned Vegetables, Cup-a-Soup, Tinned Potatoes, Tinned tomatoes, Single Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Toilet Rolls, Nappies (Sizes 6 & 6+ only), Bars of Soap.

Please note they have an abundance of: -

Baked Beans, Dry Pasta, Dry Spaghetti and Tea.
 Thank you!

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**

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!



CONTACTING US:

Vicar: Rev'd Rachel Beck	01452 520851
Email: revrachelbeck@gmail.com	07753389865
Reader: Jonathan MacKechnie-Jarvis	01452 502174
Website: www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk	
Facebook: St. George's, Tuffley and St Margaret's Whaddon	
Administrator: Glenda Stevens	01452 307456
Email: stgeorgeschurch1@gmail.com	

The Administration office is open on Friday mornings from 9.30am until 11.30am 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).



News Continued

In Memoriam:

Dennis Vincent, Ruby Jenkins RIP

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

Margaret, Angela, Susan, Mike and Laura, Lynne, Bill, Pat, Daphne, Rosemary, Carol, Angela, Bert, Margaret and Mark, Phil.

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Rose Haill 24th, Mike Brammer 25th.

Banns of Marriage:

3rd calling at St George's of: -

Luke Simon Carter & Krystal Leigh Davenport

Anniversaries of Death:

Violet Meadows, Paul Chaffe, Dennis Evans, Robert Peart, Gertrude Howell, Laura Martin, Gladys Haill, David Bradford, Chris Neale, Anne Waite, Fred Pears.

If you would like your birthday or anniversary mentioned in Signpost, please let Glenda know.

DIARY DATES

Sun 22			TRINITY 12
	9.00am	St M's	Parish Communion
	1030am	St G's	Parish Communion Crucifer: Jayne Readers: Joceline/Derek Intercessions: Linda M
Mon 23			Crossroads' printing
Wed 25	8.15am	Zoom	Morning Prayer
	3.30pm	MH	Slimming World sessions
Thu 26	10.30am	St M's	Parish Communion
Fri 27	2.30pm	St G's	Quiet Prayer Group
Sun 29			TRINITY 13
			September/October Crossroads available
	9.00am	St M's	Parish Communion
	10.30am	St G's	Parish Communion Crucifer: Dot Readers: Jonathan T/Linda Intercessions: Sylvia C
	4.30pm	SH/SL	Private let

St G's = St George's St M's = St Margaret's

MH = Main Hall, SH = Small Hall & SL = Softly

Lounge all located in the Centre

CiT Picnic at English Martyrs

Is today at 2.00pm

The weather forecast is changeable, but for those who have signed up to attend, please bring a garden chair as we hope to meet in the Church garden. If the weather is too wet, we shall meet in EM's church hall.