

**VJ Day 2025**  
for Caroline and Michael © Clare Bryden 27 April 2025

And there was a great light,  
and their clothes became dazzling white  
and the appearance of their faces changed.

And there was a cloud overshadowing them  
and they were terrified as they entered it.  
And they kept silent.

Behold the man!  
A shadow etched into a wall  
Still.

Stand to face his hypocentre.  
See the seared civilian flesh  
on his right hand

and hear the hundreds of thousands of shadows  
prophesying  
an unpeopled future.

Some have tried to lift their voices  
but what voices can be lifted  
when they have been silenced?

Little boy and little girl  
fat man and thin woman—  
we the billions exist in spooked oblivion.

Once a year or perhaps one day a decade  
our shadows tell us it is time  
to pay attention to the remnant on his left hand

crying out crying  
for the rule of law and justice and peace! peace! peace!  
But they too have been silenced.

There has been no peace no peace  
no peace for the shadows  
who cannot submit to such a hollow victory.

Their broken hearts cannot be bound up.  
They were emptied out way back.  
Nor will the blinded recover their sight

when the forces of evil must be unleashed  
to combat the forces of evil.  
And there will be no release for captives released

to stumble their way back  
to an indeterminate existence  
remarking in their silence

that war makes no heroes—  
heroes know only the shame shadowing them  
for pity's sake!

Where the bells of Urakami tolled  
a thousand penitents making their confession  
will be cindered again and again and again until—

Be still.  
Listen.



**NEXT SUNDAY 24.08.25 Bartholomew the Apostle**  
10.30am in the Church

**READINGS:** OT Isaiah 43: 8-13

NT Acts 5: 12-16

GOSPEL Luke 22: 24-30



#### CONTACT US

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# St Thomas, Exeter

**17th August 2025**

**Ninth Sunday after Trinity**

**10.30am in the Church**

#### Today

**Sung Eucharist**

*Hymn Numbers*

*94 Come, let us join our cheerful songs*

*334 May the mind of Christ my Saviour*

*174 God of grace and God of glory*

#### Wednesday 20th August

**10am** Holy Communion (BCP)

#### Thursday 21st August

**No** St Thomas Tots this week - holidays

**10.30-12noon** Knit & Natter. See notices

#### Friday 22nd August

**9.30am** Morning Prayer

**10am** Staff Meeting

#### Saturday 23rd August

**12.30pm** Ladies Lunch at the Royal Oak



## Collect

Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church: open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## Jeremiah 23: 23-29

Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

## Hebrews 11: 29-12:2

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing

to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, without us, be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

## Luke 12: 49-56

'I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on, five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three: they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.' He also said to the crowds, 'When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, "It is going to rain"; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, "There will be scorching heat"; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

## Intercessions

Lead us, Lord;

**To walk in your ways.**

## 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**

## Notices

We are very pleased to welcome back the **Revd Eliza Getman** to preside and preach at our 10.30am service this Sunday. Many of you will remember Eliza as an associate priest here. We thank her for her help during the vacancy and hope you will catch up with her after the service for refreshments.

**Knit & Natter** From the 24th July we shall be meeting in St Thomas Pleasure Ground every Thursday morning from 10.30 till 12 noon, weather permitting. If it's wet, we shall be in Jess and Jimmy's café (118 Cowick Street). Do join us, or just come to say hello, especially if you aren't a regular at Maple Road.

**Thank you** to those people who offered their services for cleaning the church after the call for volunteers last Sunday morning. There are still places available on the cleaning rota and for anyone who is able to help with the occasional arrangement of the flowers.

**Global Week of Prayer** 1st-7th September Churches across St Thomas are encouraged to be united in prayer during this week. A room will be made available at Riverside Church (24 hours a day!) for people to pray for whatever concerns them: our churches, our community, our country, the world. See Ian if you want to sign up for a one hour slot.

**Advance Notice for your diaries.** On **Thursday 11th September** probably starting at 6pm there will be a meeting for the congregation to discuss what qualities we should be looking for in our new Incumbent. The meeting will be led by the Archdeacon of Exeter, the Revd Andrew Beane. This is a very important meeting and we hope that as many people as possible will attend.

