

## Reflection for the 3rd Sunday after Trinity

I love this morning's post communion prayer and encourage you to reflect on it this week. Here are some of my thoughts:

*O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining and whose power we cannot comprehend:*

Our imaginations can be pretty vivid! Even the most beautiful, stunning, staggering sight we have ever seen or can imagine seeing is just a tiny hint of God's beauty. The universe is in many ways amazing place- whether we look to the tiniest creature or the clouds of a million galaxies of billions of stars that the latest telescopes show us. All of that is just the tiniest fraction of the smallest part of the truth about God.

*show us your glory as far as we can grasp it, and shield us from knowing more than we can bear*

The reason we cannot see God and fully grasp the truth about God is because the sheer reality of God is way beyond our capacity to understand. And if we could see more then we would not be able to bear it. In the Old Testament it was believed that if someone saw God then they would probably die- so overwhelming would it be! (E.g. Exodus 33:20).

*until we may look upon you without fear; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.*

But it will not always be like that. In Jesus we can see and understand more of who God is and what God is like, and bit by bit God will change us so that we can gradually see and understand more, until we finally meet face to face.

As St Paul brilliantly summed up chapter 13 of 1 Corinthians:

"For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known."

Rev Mike



**NEXT SUNDAY 23.06.2024 Trinity 4**  
10.30am in the Church

**READINGS:** OT Job 38: 1-11  
NT 2 Corinthians 6: 1-13  
GOSPEL Mark 4: 35-41



### CONTACT US

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# St Thomas, Exeter

16th June 2024

Third Sunday after Trinity

10.30am in Church

### Today

**10.30am Sung Eucharist**

*Hymn Numbers*

17 All people that on earth do dwell

138 For the fruits of his creation

296 Let all the world in every corner sing

### Tuesday 18th June

**7.30pm** House Group. I see the heavens opened.

### Wednesday 19th June

**10am** Holy Communion (BCP)

### Thursday 20th June

**9.30 –11am** St Thomas Tots

**10.30-12 noon** Knit & Natter, 19 Maple Rd.

Details from Jenny 01392 498725

### Friday 21st June

**9.30am** Morning Prayer

**10am** Staff Meeting

### Saturday 22nd June

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



## Collect

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father: give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God; 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**

## Ezekiel 17: 22-24

Thus says the Lord God I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. All the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourishing. I the Lord have spoken; I will accomplish it.

## 2 Corinthians 5: 6-10 (11-13) 14-17

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. [Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the

heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.] For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

## Mark 4: 26-34

He also said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.' He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.' With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

## Post Communion

O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining and whose power we cannot comprehend: show us your glory as far as we can grasp it, and shield us from knowing more than we can bear until we may look upon you without fear; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

## NOTICES

**Community Larder** There will be a collection box in the Church on Sundays for food donations. The need remains great so please be mindful of our wider community.

**Summer walks** Call out for help for summer project of community, reflective walks of hope! We're looking for people with IT, graphic design or project coordination skills to help produce walk leaflets and online content. Please call/text Ian's mobile, or email: [jenifertuckett@gmail.com](mailto:jenifertuckett@gmail.com) or [pioneersthomas@gmail.com](mailto:pioneersthomas@gmail.com)

**Parish Website** We are looking for a small team of people who would be prepared to write something occasionally for this Blog. Please speak to one of the staff team.

**House Group** meets on the 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesdays of each month at Helen's house. The group will be studying the Acts of the Apostles. New members are welcome. For information please see Ian or Helen.

As you know the **General Election** has been called for 4th July 2024. If you have not registered to vote the last date is 18th June. The last date for a postal vote is 19th June and the last date for a proxy vote is 26th June. Photo ID is required.

**We thank** the sides people for volunteering to stand again. New people are always welcome. A list of duties is available and is posted on the notice-board.

