

Reflection on John 15: 9-17

When I read the gospel for this Sunday it immediately brought to mind something I saw on Facebook recently:

"When the Titanic sank, it carried millionaire John Jacob Astor IV. The money in his bank account was enough to build 30 Titanics. However, faced with mortal danger, he chose what he deemed morally right and gave up his spot in a lifeboat to save two frightened children.

Millionaire Isidor Straus, co-owner of the largest American chain of department stores, "Macy's," who was also on the Titanic, said:

"I will never enter a lifeboat before other men."

His wife, Ida Straus, also refused to board the lifeboat, giving her spot to her newly appointed maid, Ellen Bird. She decided to spend her last moments of life with her husband.

These wealthy individuals preferred to part with their wealth, and even their lives, rather than compromise their moral principles. Their choice in favour of moral values highlighted the brilliance of human civilization and human nature."

Jesus says in today's gospel, "*No-one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.*" These people did not let their wealth get in the way of their humanity and sacrificed their lives so that others could live.

Phil Baker.

WARM SPACE ST THOMAS PARISH HALL- THURSDAY 3-5PM



Free refreshments in a warm space

NEXT SUNDAY 12.05.2024 7th Sunday of Easter
10.30am in the Church

READINGS: OT Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26



NT 1 John 5: 9-13

GOSPEL John 17: 6-19

CONTACT US

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St Thomas, Exeter

5th May 2024

Sixth Sunday of Easter

10.30am in Church

Today

10.30am Sung Eucharist

Hymn Numbers

356 O Breath of Life

4 A new commandment I give unto you.

447 Sing to God new songs of worship

12noon Holy Baptism

Tuesday 7th May

7.30pm House Group. Acts of the Apostles.
Promises in Chapter 1.

Wednesday 8th May

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

Thursday 9th May Ascension Day

9.30 –11am St Thomas Tots

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

Details from Jenny 01392 498725

3-5pm Warm Space

7pm Sung Eucharist

Friday 10th May

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting

Saturday 11th May

9am Men's Breakfast in the Sawyers



Collect

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; 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**

Acts 10: 44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, 'Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

1 John 5: 1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood.

And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

John 15: 9-17

Jesus said. 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.'

Post Communion

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **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 or pioneersthomas@gmail.com

Parish Website when we reviewed the website to include more details about the bell ringers we noticed that the last Blog entry was in 2022. 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.

Electoral Roll It is now time to revise the parish electoral roll ahead of the APCM in May. Please see Carolyn Bryant if you wish to be added to the roll or if you have moved house or changed any other details in the past year. Forms will be available from Carolyn or Ian. If you have any questions please contact Carolyn after the Sunday morning service or call 07780 707183.

The APCM will take place on Sunday 26th May following the Eucharist. We are in need of a Churchwarden and there is one vacancy on the PCC. If anyone is interested in any of these important and interesting roles please speak to Ian or one of the clergy. Nomination forms will be at the back of the Church.

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.

Christian Aid Week runs from Sunday 12th-Saturday 18th May.

