

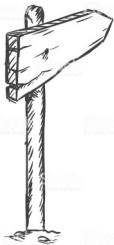
Reflection for Trinity 1

This week's readings show that God is active in saving and healing people who have strayed from Him. In Exodus, God reminds the Israelites how He acted to bring them out of slavery in Egypt. In the letter to the Romans, St Paul makes clear how far Jesus was willing to go, the righteous dying for the decidedly *un*-righteous, in order to open the way for us into His Father's Kingdom. And in Matthew's Gospel Jesus, already busily healing people and proclaiming God's Kingdom, is struck by compassion for the "sheep without a shepherd", and commissions his twelve closest disciples to take this work further.

God clearly wants His people to share in the task of healing and proclaiming. Although in the Old Testament the Israelites too often failed to live up to God's intention for them to be a "holy nation", since the day of Pentecost those who follow Jesus have been taking the good news of the Kingdom around the world, and demonstrating it by their loving actions.

Now, west of the river in Exeter during the coronavirus emergency, that task falls to us. Initiatives like the Community Larder are an example of the way we can fulfil that task, but we should also appreciate the importance of personal interactions (which sometimes could get missed in a busier world). We should not be afraid to be open about the importance of our faith in our lives, nor should we be daunted if we find that we ourselves are the answer to our prayer for more labourers in God's harvest. After all, we have His Holy Spirit to help us.

Ian Totterdell



Even if you cannot join the service by telephone or video on Sunday, it would be good to try to say our prayers in some form **at 10.30** that morning, and to be intentionally holding each other up to God, and praying for the wider community of St Thomas.

NEXT SUNDAY 21st June 2020 TRINITY 2

SERVICES Public worship suspended



READINGS

OT Jeremiah 20:7-13

NT Romans 6:1b-11

GOSPEL Matthew 10:24-39

CONTACT US

Fr. David Nixon 01392 667192. Day off: Mondays
rev.dave@virgin.net

Rev. Sarah Cumming 07543604115
rev.sarahcumming@gmail.com

Rev. Dr. Eliza Getman reveliza@gmail.com

Phil Baker, Reader 07970 216740
lionelbaker@outlook.com

Rev. Terry Litherland 07594633195
tlitherland36@gmail.com

Ian Totterdell Churchwarden 01392 848674
07961621001
ian.totterdell@cantab.net

Email: parishoffice@stthomaschurchexeter.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sttexeter

Website: www.stthomaschurchexeter.co.uk

Twitter: @sttexeter

Office Tel: 01392 437486 Thurs mornings (suspended)



St Thomas, Exeter

Sunday 14th June 2020

1st Sunday after Trinity

So we've begun the long sequence of Green Sundays with a new worship sheet and slightly larger numbers. It's always good to see people on Sunday, and although at the end, one of my favourite bits is what I am calling the '**St Thomas wave**' as we say goodbye. Keep an eye out at the start of July for our Patronal Festival of St Thomas, and into August for the Feast of the Transfiguration and the Feast of the Assumption. We really don't know when this Extraordinary Time or Pandemic Time is going to end. The telephone numbers are the same: 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196, bearing in mind that's it's worth trying a second one if the first isn't very good. **The meeting number is 846 4638 6622 and the access code/password 425499.** These should now remain the same until the end of July.

Fun & Fundraising Do we have a favourite recipe to share—stuff we have perhaps only learnt to cook recently, or improved on? Keep your recipes coming and perhaps we could make a book to sell?

Fr David



Collect

O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; 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**

Exodus 19:2-8a

They had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. Then Moses went up to God; the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, ‘Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.’ So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. The people all answered as one: ‘Everything that the Lord has spoken we will do.’

Romans 5:1-8

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that

has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Matthew 9:35-10:23

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.’ Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him. These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: ‘Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, “The kingdom of heaven has come near.” Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for labourers deserve their food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. As you enter the house, greet it. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace

return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgement than for that town. See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.’

Post-Communion Prayer

Eternal Father, we thank you for nourishing us with these heavenly gifts: may our communion strengthen us in faith, build us up in hope, and make us grow in love; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

NOTICES

The Church of England’s Daily Hope phone line offers hymns, prayers and reflections 24 hrs a day whilst churches are closed. It is particularly aimed at those who are unable to join online services. **0800 804 8044.**
