

Reflection

One particular sentence stays with me from the Archbishop of Canterbury's sermon at the Queen's funeral; 'Jesus does not tell his followers how to follow, but WHO to follow'.

Whatever people's views may be on the monarchy, in the Queen, we saw someone who clearly followed and loved God. This was shown, not least, through her dedicated, and pretty much life-long service to others. In her Christmas messages she has spoken of how her faith sustained her. This faith spilled out into her life through her special, radiant 'way of being', with people. The recent large-scale outpourings of grief, are testament to the impact her life has had on others – even on those who had never met her.

St Teresa of Avila wrote; 'Our Lord asks but two things of us: love for him and for our neighbour... I think the most certain sign that we keep these two commandments is that we have a genuine love for others. We cannot know whether we love God although there may be strong reasons for thinking so, but there can be no doubt about whether we love our neighbour or no'.

May God help us to see others as He does, and so love and serve them as He desires.

Revd Alison Whiting



FRIDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER

10am—12noon in the Church.



There is also a Tots Group Coffee Morning on 29th September.

NEXT SUNDAY 02.10.2022 Trinity 16

SERVICES: 10.30am in Church

READINGS: OT Habakkuk 1: 1-4, 2: 1-4
NT 2 Timothy 1: 1-14
GOSPEL Luke 17: 5-10



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St Thomas, Exeter

25th September 2022

Trinity 15

10.30am in Church

Today

10.30am Sung Eucharist. With Baptism of
Holly Matilda Mann

Hymns for today

242 Immortal, invisible, God only wise.

231 I heard the voice of Jesus say.

467 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of
the Lord.

Tuesday 27th September

7.30pm House Group. See notices.

Wednesday 28th September

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

2pm Young at Hearts

Thursday 29th September

9.30—11am St Thomas Tots and Coffee
Morning.

10.30am Knit & Natter. See notices.

Friday 30th September

9.30am Morning Prayer.

10am Staff Meeting.

10am-12 noon Macmillan Coffee Morning in
Church.



Collect

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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**

Amos 6: 1a, 4–7

Alas for those who are at ease in Zion, and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria, the no-tables of the first of the nations, to whom the house of Israel resorts! Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory, and lounge on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock, and calves from the stall; who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David improvise on instruments of music; who drink wine from bowls, and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile, and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

1 Timothy 6:6–19

Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains. But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the pres-

ence of many witnesses. In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honour and eternal dominion. Amen. As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

Luke 16.19–31

‘There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, “Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.” But Abraham said, “Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.” He said, “Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s

house—for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.” Abraham replied, “They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.” He said, “No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.” He said to him, “If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.” ’

Post Communion

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy; and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

NOTICES

For our services in Church, **mask wearing** is not now compulsory but we would still advise it while infection numbers remain high.

Knit and Natter. September 29th in the Church Hall for the later part of Tots Group for a joint Macmillan Coffee Morning. Details from Jenny on 01392 498725.

Community Larder is receiving donations on Tuesdays from 10-11am. On Sundays there will also be an opportunity to bring donations to the 10.30 service.

House Group will be meeting fortnightly on zoom, starting at 7:30pm. The group is beginning a new course on Christian Discipleship, “Surprised by Change”; this course, by American Pastor John Ortberg, is rather unusual and quite challenging! New people are always welcome; see Ian, Phil or John Payne for zoom details.

We pray for the parents and family of Holly Matilda Mann who is being baptised today.