

## Reflection on Matthew 22: 15-22

'Living as If' by Malcolm Guite

The Giver of all gifts asks me to give!  
The Fountain from which every good thing flows,  
The Life who spends himself that all might live,  
The Root whence every bud and blossom grows,  
Calls me, as if I knew no limitation,  
As if I focused all his hidden force,  
To be creative with his new creation,  
To find my flow in him, my living source,  
To live as if I had no fear of losing,  
To spend as if I had no need to earn,  
To turn my cheek as if it felt no bruising,  
To lend as if I needed no return,  
As if my debts and sins were all forgiven,  
As if I too could body forth his Heaven.

*Revd Alison*



**NEXT SUNDAY 29.10.2023 Bible Sunday**

10.30am Sung Eucharist in Church

**READINGS:** OT Nehemiah 8: 1-4a, 5-6, 8-12

NT Colossians 3: 12-17

GOSPEL Matthew 24: 30-35



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# St Thomas, Exeter

22nd October 2023

**Trinity 20**

*10.30am in Church*

### Today

**10.30am** Sung Eucharist

*Hymn Numbers*

81 Christ triumphant, ever reigning

464 Take my life, and let it be

532 We have a gospel to proclaim

### Wednesday 25th October

**10am** Holy Communion (BCP)

**2-4pm** Young at Hearts

### Thursday 26th October

**9.30—11am** St Thomas Tots

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

Details from Jenny on 01392 498725

### Friday 27th October

**9.30am** Morning Prayer

**10am** Staff Meeting

### Saturday 28th October

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



## Collect

God, the giver of life, whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church: by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ and make us eager to do your will, that we may share with the whole creation the joys of eternal life; 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**

## Isaiah 45: 1-7

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed: I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things.

## 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only,

but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of people we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place where your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

## Matthew 22: 15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?' But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' They answered, 'The emperor's.' Then he said to them, 'Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.' When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

## Post Communion

God our Father, whose Son, the light unfailing, has come from heaven to deliver the world from the darkness of ignorance: let these holy myster-

ies open the eyes of our understanding that we may know the way of life, and walk in it without stumbling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## NOTICES

We are considering having a **warm space** again this year. If you would like to volunteer to help with this, please speak to Revd Sarah.

**Community Larder** There is no longer a donation point on Thursdays. There will be a collection box in church on Sundays for food donations. The need remains great so please be mindful of our wider community.

**House Group** has started meeting again when we will study the Book of Proverbs. Meetings will be held at Perridge Close at 7.30pm. Please ring Helen on 410400 for details.

The Rector and Ian are meeting Zoe next week to talk about the **future of the Library**.

**All Souls** service is on Sunday 5th November. If you have a relative or friend you wish to be remembered please add their name to the list of the back of the church before Sunday 29th October. The names included last year will be read out automatically.

There will be an **inter-cultural celebration of All Souls** on Sunday 29th October starting at 1pm until 5pm. There will be an afternoon of food, music, talks and workshops. A cultural celebration of life and death centred around the theme of grief, loss and love. Come and join us, light a candle in memory of your loved ones that have passed away. See the notice for the programme of events.

