

Reflection for 2nd Sunday before Lent

The gospel for this Sunday this year is the first 14 verses of St John's Gospel. The Christmas Gospel again! It is not part of the gospel narrative, but essentially a prologue before the story starts.

Stephen Verney in his excellent book on John's Gospel, *Water into Wine*, covers this chapter right at the end because he says that authors will often write the prologue at the end once they have written the story because, until they have written it, they are not sure what they are going to say. At the end he writes the beginning, the prologue, to guide the reader towards the inner meaning of what he has written.

Verney says that John is saying to the reader in the first 18 verses, 'Look! In the light of Jesus, we can see everything in a new way—the physical universe, each bird and flower, human history, ourselves, each other.' The prologue is difficult to understand if we read it at the beginning, he says, but if we read it again at the end the words are charged with the meaning of the story.

Phil Baker



WARM SPACE ST THOMAS PARISH HALL



THURSDAY 3-5PM

Free refreshments in a warm space

NEXT SUNDAY 11.02.2024 Sunday next before Lent
10.30am in the Hall

READINGS: OT 2 Kings 2: 1-12
NT 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6
GOSPEL Mark 9: 2-9



CONTACT US

Fr David Nixon 01392 667192. Day off: Mondays
rev.dave@virgin.net
Revd Sarah Cumming Assistant Priest 07543604115
rev.sarahcumming@gmail.com
Revd Alison Whiting Associate Priest
rev.alisonwhiting@gmail.com
Revd Mike Clark Associate Priest
mike.clark@exeter.anglican.org
Phil Baker, Reader 07970 216740
lionelbaker@outlook.com
Revd Terry Litherland 07594633195
tlitherland36@gmail.com
Ian Totterdell Church Warden 01392 848674
07536459096 ian.totterdell@cantab.net
Liz Pioneer Community Worker
pioneerstthomas@gmail.com

Email: parishoffice@stthomaschurchexeter.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sttexeter

Website: www.stthomaschurchexeter.co.uk

Twitter: @sttexeter

Office Tel: 01392 437486 Messages at any time.



St Thomas, Exeter

4th February 2024

Second Sunday before Lent

10.30am in Hall

Today

10.30am in the Hall

Hymn Numbers

46 At the name of Jesus

124 Father of heaven, whose love profound

305 Light's above, celestial Salem

Tuesday 6th February

7.30pm House Group

Wednesday 7th February

10am Walsingham Mass

Thursday 8th February

9.30—11am St Thomas Tots

10.30-12.30pm Knit & Natter, 19 Maple Rd.

Details from Jenny 01392 498725

3-5pm Warm Space in the Hall

Friday 9th February

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting

Saturday 10th February

9am Men's Breakfast in the Sawyers



Collect

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever.

Amen

Proverbs 8: 1, 22-31

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? The LORD created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth—when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil. When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

Colossians 1: 15-20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was

pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

John 1: 1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Post Communion

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

NOTICES

Community Larder There will be a collection box in the hall on Sundays for food donations.

The need remains great so please be mindful of our wider community.

Pioneering Parishes: A series of four fortnightly webinars to help parishes start to move their energy outwards and become more pioneering.

When: Tuesday 9th January, Tuesday 23rd January, Tuesday 6 & Tuesday 20th February.

Time: 14.00-15.30.

Please refer to weekly email and/or speak to Fr David or Revd Sarah.

House Group will meet fortnightly from 9th January until 13th February in either Helen or John's house. Throughout Epiphany they will study the Book of Proverbs. Details from Mic, John or Ian.

A message from Jenny Tuckett: St Petrock's was delighted to receive all the goods the K & N group had displayed. Many most sincere thanks to everyone who contributed. Everything is much appreciated.

This Sunday 12 noon. Hall Committee

Ash Wednesday 14th February. 10am Mass with Ashing. The Rector says 'are you ready for Lent this year, and please could you bring in last year's palm crosses so that they can be burnt for Ash'.

