

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

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.

Romans 5.1-8

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

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.

Matthew 9. 35-10.8



Christ Church West Wimbledon

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Readers: Farhad Hedayati & Flis Banks

Pastoral Visitor (SPA): Sarah Castle

Director of Music: Tom Theakston



Sunday 14 June 2020
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY



Collect

God of truth,

help us to keep your law of love
and to walk in ways of wisdom,

that we may find true life
in Jesus Christ your Son. **Amen.**

Post Communion

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.

Green Prayer

God the Holy Spirit

Come as the wind and cleanse us;

Come as the fire and burn;

Come as the dew and refresh;

Convict, convert and concentrate many hearts
and lives to your greater glory and our greater good.

This we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.



FOR OUR PRAYERS

Those who are ill or in need: Michael Green; Jenny Smith; Sarah Pitman; Joyce Smith; Sachin Shah.

Pray also for those who have the COVID-19 virus and those who are working to treat them, particularly those members of Christ Church who work for the NHS.

Those who have died: John Wilson

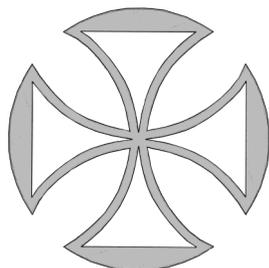
We also pray for those known and unknown who have died from the COVID-19 virus

Those whose anniversary of death falls this week: Gloria Trevisan and Marco

Gottardi and all the other victims of the Grenfell Tower Fire (2017); Myrtle Ross (2011); Robert Grainger (1998); Peggy Grainger (2008); Elizabeth Cuckney (1993); Dorothy Roberts (2000);

Link Parish of St Francis of Assisi, Barham Green, Zimbabwe

NEXT SUNDAY 21 JUNE 2020 THE FEAST OF ST ALBAN, MARTYR



Today, in the calendar of the church, we begin what is called 'Ordinary Time'. The great festivals of Easter, Ascension and Pentecost are over – and we now continue to properly and faithfully live out our ordinary lives – with nothing special in the calendar till we approach Advent and Christmas – though we will be celebrating the lives of some of the saints in the coming months – for example, Alban next week and Peter the week after.

This morning, we begin at the beginning, as Jesus sends his ambassadors out to proclaim God's kingdom and bring hope and peace of mind to those who are lost and harassed – and some of those will be us! If you don't feel awkward, just place your hand flat on your tummy. This is often the place when we can tell if we are anxious or stressed, because it feels 'uptight'. When we are at peace and not tensed up, this place is where we can feel calm and relaxed. In fact, often we know it is good to breathe slowly in and out a few times to calm us down.

Down the years of our pilgrimage as Christians, we know what religion isn't. It isn't telling God he is Lord of our life and behaving quite differently. It isn't worshipping him without showing love and compassion to other. So today we are looking at what religion is. Amongst other things it is all about being at peace with God. In the reading from Matthew, we feel Jesus' longing, his compassion, for the people whom he describes as being harassed and helpless, people without peace. Then the twelve are sent out in the role of ambassadors to proclaim the kingdom of God and go about healing. This they must do with a loving commitment which is without ambition, personal gain or personal comforts – and that still holds true today. We are called simply to love people into the kingdom where they can know the joy and hope of being at peace with God.

Hope is an intriguing word. It is a mixture of desire for something and expectation of getting it. As one writer has said "if either of these is missing, it isn't hope and if either is overbalanced, there is no peace. But when we have both in balance, hope makes us very happy and contented in the present as well as in the fulfilment". Paul, in his letter to the Romans, reminds us that 'suffering produces endurance, 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'. The longer collect for today goes like this, which perhaps can help us in our resolve to be people of hope:

"O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, because through the weakness of our human nature we can do nothing good 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". So, in the words of another prayer, may we be strengthened in faith, built up in hope and grow in love. Amen.

DR JOHN WILSON, long-time member of Christ Church, died peacefully on Tuesday morning in St George's Hospital. We give great thanks to God for his distinguished working life and his involvement at Christ Church and pray for Mildred and the family.

VIRTUAL ART EXHIBITION— run by the Cynthia Corbett Gallery, this exhibition, called 'Carry on Creativity' has pledged that 25% of any sales go to The Trussell Trust, which is the force behind many of our foodbanks. The exhibition, running to June 30, can be accessed at <https://www.thecynthiacorbettgallery.com/exhibitions/252/>

FINANCES AT CHRIST CHURCH – an update from our Treasurer on 3 June. The present lockdown is seriously affecting the financial position of many individuals, charities, businesses and other organisations. At Christ Church we are attempting to support our congregation and the wider community as best we can. The church's financial position is being adversely affected mainly by the loss of our Sunday cash collections and by the ongoing closure of the hall. The net result could be a loss of £20,000 for the year. We are continuing to make our promised contribution to the Diocese of £7,000 per month, for which they are most grateful, as well as paying salaries, insurance etc. However, as a parish we are relatively well placed as we have cash to cover the losses of this year. Other churches are not in such a strong position. Thank you to those of you who are continuing to contribute financially to the life of Christ Church. We are very grateful to you. If you are someone who usually gives via the collection plate and are not in financially difficult circumstances, we wonder if you might consider taking out a standing order via your bank or by sending a cheque? In recent weeks around 10 people who give through envelopes have donated electronically and by cheque. We would welcome it if these contributions could be made regularly. Additionally several generous contributors have recently died—and to make this up we will need an extra £3,500 per year in new funding. The church bank details are: **The PCC of Christ Church, West Wimbledon: CAF Bank. Sort code: 40-52-40. Account number: 00029176.** Cheques can be made payable to **PCC of Christ Church West Wimbledon and sent to the Planned Giving Officer, Christ Church West Wimbledon, 2 Cottenham Park Road, West Wimbledon, London SW20 0RZ.** If you require any further help, please do feel free to contact in confidence our Planned Giving Officer, Lynda Coleman at lynda.coleman1@btinternet.com We will keep you updated as the position changes. Thank you very much. John Davey (Hon Treasurer)

WIMBLEDON FOODBANK is very busy and need these items: toilet rolls, cereal bars, chocolate bar snacks, crisps, squash/juice, pasta sauce, curry sauce, shampoo, baked beans, tinned hoops, tinned meat (curries, meatballs or pies), tinned vegetables (eg peas or carrots), breakfast cereal, ketchup and small packs of rice. Items can be left on the doorstep of Liz Errington's house at **31 Somerset Avenue on WEDNESDAYS** or in the box in the porch of **46 Pepys Road at any time.** For those unable to drop off donations, you can fill in this form for doorstep collection at this link - bit.ly/wimfood