

Welcome to the
Anglican Parish of Saint George
Thames

Fourth Sunday in Lent, 22nd March 2020

Call to Worship:

Grace and peace to you from God

God fill you with Truth and Joy

The Lord be with you

The Lord bless you

This is the day which the Lord has made

Let us rejoice and be glad in it

Opening Hymn: All People That On Earth Do Dwell

All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice:
Him serve with fear, His praise forth tell,
come ye before Him, and rejoice!

The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;
without our aid He did us make;
we are His folk, He doth us feed,
and for His sheep He doth us take.

O enter then His gates with praise,
approach with joy His courts unto;
praise, laud and bless His name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

For why? The Lord our God is good;
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
the God whom heaven and earth adore,
from men and from the angel host
be praise and glory evermore.

Psalm 100 W Kethe (d 1594) A&M 100

Collect For Purity:

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom no secrets are hidden, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, so that we may truly love You and worthily praise Your Holy Name; through our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.

Prayer of Confession: *(Please sit or kneel)*

Merciful God, we have sinned in what we have thought and said, in the wrong we have done and in the good we have not done. We have sinned in ignorance: we have sinned in weakness: we have sinned through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to You. Forgive us, for our Saviour Christ's sake and renew our lives to the glory of Your name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

Through the cross of Christ, God have mercy on us, pardon us and set us free. Know that we are forgiven and be at peace. God strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in life eternal, Amen.

Sentence of the Day

‘I am the light of the world,’ says the Lord; ‘those who follow me will have the light of life.’

John 8:12

Collect of the Day

**God of healing and sight, we long to see with eyes of faith.
Heal all that blinds us, renew our vision, and grant us
to see afresh all that You are doing;
For You are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and for ever. Amen**

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Read by Raewyn Grey

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king." But Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me." The LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have

come to sacrifice to the LORD.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate." Samuel did what the LORD said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, "Do you come in peace?" Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed stands here before the LORD." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either." Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the LORD chosen this one." Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The LORD has not chosen these." So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives." So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features.

Then the LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one." So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Thanks be to God

Psalm: 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside still waters,

he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely your goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Read by Sharon Cordery

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible - and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. This is why it is said:

"Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading: John 9: 1-41

Read by Leslie Wilkinson

Praise and Glory to God

As He went along, He saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of Him who sent Me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." After saying this, He spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. "Go," He told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. His neighbours and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him." But he himself insisted, "I am the man." "How then were your eyes opened?" they asked. He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see." "Where is this man?" they asked him. "I don't know," he said.

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see."

Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for He does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner perform such signs?" So they were divided. Then they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about Him? It was your eyes He opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet." They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?" "We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner." He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" Then they asked him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become His disciples too?" Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where He comes from." The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where He comes from, yet He opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does His will. Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing." To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when He found him, He said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" "Who is He, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in Him." Jesus said, "You have now seen Him; in fact, He is the one speaking with you." Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped Him. Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind." Some Pharisees who were with Him heard Him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?" Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

This is the gospel of Christ

Praise to Christ, the Word

Sermon: Brought to us by The Rev'd Brendon Wilkinson

Intercessions: Given through Beth Philip

Peace: Please turn to page 419 in the Prayer book

Offertory Hymn: You Are My Hiding Place

You are my hiding place, You always fill my heart
with songs of deliverance.

When-ever I feel afraid I will trust in You.

I will trust in You; let the weak say "I am strong
in the strength of the Lord".

You are my hiding place, You always fill my heart
with songs of deliverance.

When-ever I feel afraid I will trust in You. *Ylw Fldr*

Communion: *(prayer is available near the High altar during communion)*

Closing Hymn: The Lord's My Shepherd

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie
in pastures green; He leadeth me
the quiet waters by

My soul He doth restore again,
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
e'en for His own name's sake

Yea, thou I walk through death's dark vale,
yet will I fear none ill;
for Thou art with me, and Thy rod
and staff me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnished
in presence of my foes;
my head Thou doest with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me;
and in God's house for evermore
my dwelling-place shall be.

Psalm 23 in Scottish Psalter, 1650 A&M 426

Sending Forth:

Go now to love and serve the Lord; go now in peace.

Amen. We go in the name of Christ.

"The LORD bless you and keep you;
The LORD make His face shine upon
you, And be gracious to you;
The LORD lift up His countenance
upon you,
And give you peace."

Numbers 6:24-26

Ministry Team for 22nd March, 2020

Liturgist: The Rev'd Liam Phillips

Server: Margaret MacKay

Intercessor/Prayers: Beth Philip

President: The Rev'd Brenda Deed

Preacher: The Rev'd Brendon Wilkinson

Welcome Team: Sharon Cordery, Lee Bisset

Morning Tea: Denise Norris, Kate Jones

Parish Community News

Sadly today will be our last Sunday service meeting in this church until such times as the Archbishop allows it. The church will remain open for prayer, reflection and solitude during the hours of 10:00—3:00pm. Please be assured of God's absolute love, and faithful protection over each one of us.

Please encourage one another and pray for constant vigilance while this sickness pervades the world. Pray for those who are struggling with the way things are at present and for what may come.

Please pray for increased trust in our living God, He alone knows all things and He alone is our constant strength and upholder.

He alone is all and in all.

Prayer Needs

"Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10

Please remember in your prayers, the Rev'd Arthur Mead, Diana Brokenshire, Margaret Williamson.

This week, 22nd - 29th March, 2020

Tuesday, 24th, Bible Study, 1pm at the home of Fiona Harden, 101 Warahoe Road, R.D.1, Thames. 868 1136.

Thursday, 26th, Service at 10am Holy Communion, Saint George's Chapel.

Vicar: The Rev'd Brendon Wilkinson **Assistant Priest:** The Rev'd David Cooper

Curate: The Rev'd Liam Phillips **Office Administrator:** Sharon Cordery

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