

THE PARISH OF THAMES

Welcomes you to

SAINT GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Sunday 23rd February, 2020

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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: Jubilate Everybody

Jubilate, everybody,
serve the Lord in all your ways
and come before His presence singing;
enter now His courts with praise.
For the Lord our God is gracious,
and His mercy everlasting.
Jubilate, jubilate, jubilate Deo!

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Fred Dunn (1907-1979) P in S 222*

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

Your Father in heaven makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous.

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Matthew 5:45, Luke 6:36

Collect of the Day

Bountiful God,

You send sun and rain to the righteous and the unrighteous.

Let Your grace fall upon Your people, enable us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us so that we may truly be Your children. Through Jesus Christ our Liberator, who is alive and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

1st Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

Read by Diana Maher

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the LORD your God.

You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another. And you shall not swear falsely by My name, profaning the name of your God: I am the LORD.

You shall not defraud your neighbour; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a labourer until morning. You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbour. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not

profit by the blood of your neighbour: I am the LORD.

You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbour, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself: I am the LORD.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Thanks be to God

Psalm: 119:33-40

Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, and I will observe it to the end.

Give me understanding, that I may keep Your law and observe it with my whole heart.

Lead me in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it.

Turn my heart to Your decrees, and not to selfish gain.

Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; give me life in Your ways.

Confirm to Your servant Your promise, which is for those who fear You.

Turn away the disgrace that I dread, for Your ordinances are good.

See, I have longed for Your precepts; in Your righteousness give me life.

***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***

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23

Read by Alan Hartley

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness," and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile."

So let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future - all belong to you, and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn: E te Atua

1. E te Atua aroha mai, (*O God love us*
 ake ake tonu e *forever and ever*)
2. E te Atua manaaki mai ... (*O God bless us ...*)
3. E te Atua awhina mai ... (*O God help us ...*)

Arr. Nicola Jansen & Guy Jansen AA 31

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:38-48

Read by Sharon Cordery

Praise and Glory to God

"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who

4 persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven;

for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

This is the gospel of Christ

Praise to Christ, the Word

Sermon:

Brought to us by The Reverend Jim Neilson

Intercessions:

Given through Stephen Williams

Peace:

Please turn to page 419 in the Prayer book

Offertory Hymn: Let There Be Peace On Earth

Let there be peace on earth
and let it begin with me;
let there be peace on earth,
the peace that was meant to be.
With god as our Father
we're one family.
Let us walk with each other
in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me,
let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step I take,
let this be my solemn vow:
to take each moment
and live each moment
in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth
and let it begin with me.

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Sy Miller and Jill Jackson NJ 89*

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

Closing Hymn: Praise My Soul The King Of Heaven

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
to His feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me His praise should sing?
Alleluia, Alleluia,
praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise Him still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless;
Alleluia, Alleluia,
glorious in His faithfulness.

Father-like, He tends and spares us,
well our feeble frame He knows;
in His hands He gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
widely as His mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore Him;
ye behold Him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before Him,
dwellers all in time and space:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
praise with us the God of grace.

Leonard Blake; H F Lyte A & M 192

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

Amen. We go in the name of Christ.

Thoughts From The Office:

*Some Lovely Extracts From Paul's Letter To The Believers in Phillippi
(and also in Thames!)*

~ From the Mirror Word Paraphrased Bible ~

The thought of you always inspires me with joy and gratitude to God. Praying for you is certainly not a job – it is more like poetry; I joyfully anticipate the outcome of my prayers for you!

In Christ our association is most intimate; we articulate His love story entwined in spirit communion and tender affections. Your Christ mindedness completes my delight! You co-echo the same agape; we are soul-mates, resonating the same thoughts. No hidden agenda with a compromised mixture of leaven or empty philosophical flattery can match a mind that genuinely values others above oneself. To discover your own completed-ness in Christ frees you to turn your attention away from yourself to others!

Jesus being God's equal in form and likeness was official; His Sonship did not steal the limelight from His Father. Neither did His humanity distract from the deity of God! His mission however, was not to prove His deity, but to embrace our humanity. Emptied of His reputation as God, He fully embraced our physical form; born in our resemblance He identified Himself as the servant of the human race. And so we have the drama of the cross in context: the man Jesus who is fully God, becomes fully man to the extent of willingly dying mankind's death at the hands of His own creation. He embraced the curse and shame of the lowest kind in dying a criminal's death. From this place of utter humiliation, God exalted Him to the highest rank. God graced Jesus with a name that is far above every other name. Every knee in heaven and upon the earth and under the earth shall bow in spontaneous worship! Also every tongue will voice and resonate the same devotion to His unquestionable Lordship as the Redeemer of life! Jesus Christ has glorified God as the Father of creation! This is the ultimate conclusion of the Father's intent. Considering this amazing outcome of what our faith sees and celebrates, I strongly urge you my darling friends to continue to have your ears tuned to that which inspires your conduct to give full expression to the detail of your own salvation in a most personal and practical way. See salvation in its earth-shattering awesome and ultimate conclusion.

I know that my personal presence encourages you greatly but now I want you to realise an inspiration in my absence that supersedes anything you've known before. This would mean that even if you were never to see my face again or receive another Epistle from me, it would make no difference at all to your faith. Discover God Himself as your inexhaustible inner source. I want you to see my ministry to you as wine poured out upon the alter of your faith. I rejoice in the thought that we drink from the same source and therefore celebrate a mutual joy! Paul.

Ministry Team for 23rd February

President: The Reverend Brendon Wilkinson
Preacher: The Reverend Jim Neilson
Liturgist: Leslie Wilkinson **Server:** Margaret MacKay
Intercessor/Prayers: Stephen Williams
Welcome Team: Diane Buchanan, Lee Bisset
Morning Tea: AnneMarie Hartley, Allan Judd

Parish Community News

Shrove Tuesday: 25th February, 7pm. Pancakes, coffee & tea, in the church hall.

BBO: After the service, 1st March. All welcome.

World Day Of Prayer: 6th March, 7pm, Thames Baptist Church.

Prayer Needs

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32.

Please keep Lois Robinson in your prayers for the sad loss of her brother this week.

Please pray for Margaret Williamson, currently in Waikato Hospital.

Please keep all our clergy in your prayers and the people who lead us in our services from week to week, that they will be sustained and encouraged in all they do in the love and service of God.

This week 23rd Feb—1st March, 2020

Tuesday, 25th: Bible Study, 1pm at the home of Fiona Harden, 101 Warahoe Road, R.D.1, Thames. 868 1136.

Wednesday, 26th: Selwyn Group, 9:30-12:00, Church Hall. All welcome.

Thursday, 27th: Service at 10am Holy Communion, (1662), St George's Chapel.

Sunday 1st March, 9:30

First Reading: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 Beth Philip

Psalms: 32

2nd Reading: Romans 5:12-19 Stephen Williams

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:1-11 Allan Judd

Preacher & President: The Reverend Brendon Wilkinson

Liturgist: Ruth Kowalewicz

Server: Raewyn Grey

Music Ministry/organist: John Mounsey

Intercessions: Leslie Wilkinson

Sanctuary Guild/Flowers: Fiona Harden, Celia Newby

Morning Tea: Kate Jones, Denise Norris

Welcome Team: Christina Philip, Vivienne Baggaley, Sharon Cordery

Ngatea: The Reverend Liam Phillips

Vicar: The Reverend Brendon Wilkinson **Assistant Priest:** The Reverend David Cooper

Curate: The Reverend Liam Phillips

Office Administrator: Sharon Cordery

People's Warden: Lynne Mounsey **Vicar's Warden:** Kate Jones

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