

Welcome to the
Anglican Parish of Saint George
Thames

Second Sunday in Lent, 8th 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: **Lead Us, Heavenly Father Lead Us**

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but Thee;
yet possessing every blessing,
if our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us:
all our weakness Thou dost know;
Thou didst tread this earth before us,
Thou didst feel its keenest woe;
lone and dreary, faint and weary,
through the desert Thou didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy:
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.

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:

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life.

John 3:16

Collect of the Day :

**Holy Spirit of God,
You blow where You will.
Blow once more through us Your chosen people.
Enliven us with Your power,
and move us with Your strength,
that we might be born of the Spirit into eternal life.
With the Father and the Son,
You live and reign,
one God, now and for ever. Amen**

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

Read by Kate Jones

¹ The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Thanks be to God

Psalm: 121

I lift up my eyes to the mountains - where does my help come from?

My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot slip - He who watches over you will not slumber;

indeed, He who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD watches over you - the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.

The LORD will keep you from all harm - He will watch over your life;

the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

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: Romans 4:1-5,

Read by Margaret MacKay

¹ What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about - but not before God. What does Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. ⁵ However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.

¹³ It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, because the law brings

wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring - not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. ¹⁷ As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed - the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn: We are an offering

We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
We lift our lives up to You, we are an offering.
Lord, use our voices, Lord use our hands.
Lord use our lives, they are Yours, we are an offering.
All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be we give to You, we give to You.
We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
we lift our lives up to You, we are an offering.
We are an offering.

Chris Christian Ylw Fldr

Holy Gospel Reading: John 3:1-17

Read by Paul Jennings

Praise and Glory to God

¹ Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs You are doing if God were not with him."

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

"How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is

with everyone born of the Spirit." "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

"You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven - the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in Him."

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.

This is the gospel of Christ

Praise to Christ, the Word

Sermon:

Brought to us by Pip Harry

Intercessions:

Given through Stephen Williams

Peace:

Please turn to page 419 in the Prayer book

Offertory Hymn: Here O My Lord

Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face;
here faith will touch and handle things unseen;
here grasp with firmer hand the eternal grace,
and all my weariness upon Thee lean.

Here would I feed upon the bread of God;
here drink with Thee the royal wine of heaven;
here would I lay aside each earthly load;
here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.

I have no help but Thine; nor do I need -
another arm save Thine to lean upon:
it is enough, my Lord, enough indeed,
my strength is in Thy might, Thy might alone.

Communion:

(prayer is available near the High altar during communion)

Closing Hymn: Great Is Your Faithfulness

Great is Your faithfulness
O God my Father,
You have fulfilled all Your promise to me;
You never fail
and Your love is unchanging,
all You have been You forever will be.

Refrain:

*Great is Your faithfulness (x2)
Morning by morning new mercies I see
all I have needed Your hand has provided;
great is Your faithfulness,
Father, to me.*

Summer and winter, and springtime and
harvest, sun, moon and stars
in their courses above,
join with all nature in eloquent witness
to Your great faithfulness, mercy and love. R

Pardon for sin and peace everlasting,
Your living presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today, and bright hope for
tomorrow these are the blessings
Your love will provide. R

Thomas O Chisholm NJ 48

Sending Forth:

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

Amen. We go in the name of Christ.

Holy Week Services at Saint George's

Palm Sunday, 9.30am

The Blessing of the Palms & the Reading of the Passion Narrative

Monday ~ Wednesday Eucharist, 10.00am & 6.00pm

Maundy Thursday, 7.00pm

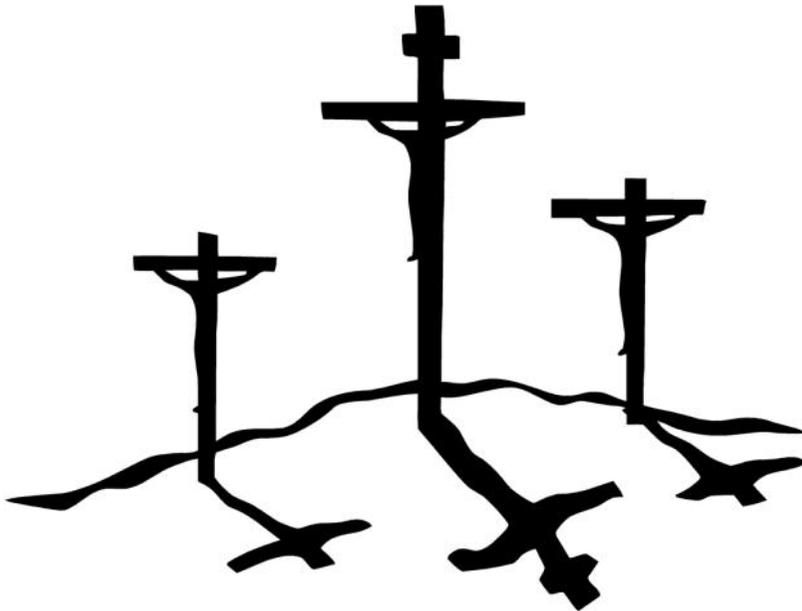
Eucharist and the Washing of Feet

Good Friday, 9.30am

Followed by a Walk of Witness, 11.00am

Easter Day, 9.30am

The Blessing of the Pascal Candle, 9.30am



Don't forget ~ Services of Holy Communion

are held every Thursday morning in the chapel at 10.00am

All are welcome to join us for these short services & fellowship!

Ministry Team for 8th March, 2020

Liturgist: Sue Lewis O'Halloran

Server: Leslie Wilkinson

Intercessor/Prayers: Stephen Williams

President: The Reverend Peter Philip

Preacher: Pip Harry

Welcome Team: Denise and Doug Norris

Morning Tea: Margaret MacKay, Sharon Cordery

Parish Community News

Thank you to the Social Team for hosting and providing the BBQ last Sunday. It was well received and enjoyed by all who participated in the tasty provisions.

A big thank you to Peter Maher and Alan Hartley for their BBQ'ing expertise!

Prayer Needs

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you." 1 Peter 5:6 & 7.

Please keep in your prayers The Reverend Arthur Mead, Margaret Williamson, our clergy and especially The Reverend Brendon with his many commitments.

This week, 8th - 15th March, 2020

Tuesday, 10th, Bible Study, 1pm at the home of Fiona Harden, 101 Warahoe Road, R.D.1, Thames. 868 1136.

Wednesday, 11th, Selwyn Group, 9:30-12:00, Church Hall. All welcome.

Thursday, 12th, Service at 10am Holy Communion, Saint George's Chapel.

Roster for Sunday 15th March

First Reading: Exodus 17:1-7

George Haffendon

Psalm: 95

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-11

Christine Neilson

Gospel Reading: John 4:5-42

The Reverend Jim Neilson

Preacher:

The Reverend Arthur Mead

President:

The Reverend David Cooper

Liturgist:

Sue Watson

Server:

Grace Wilkinson

Music Ministry/organist:

Finlay Clements

Intercessions:

Margaret MacKay

Sanctuary Guild/Flowers:

Anne McConnell, Jill Muir

Morning Tea:

Allan Judd, AnneMarie Hartley

Welcome Team:

Steve Darwall, Rex Geary

Te Puru:

TBA

Parish Contact Details

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

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

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