



St Martin of Tours Chelsfield

*St Martin's worships and serves a loving God,
reaching out to the community in the name of Jesus Christ.*

Sunday 18 October 2020

THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

'O Sing unto the Lord a new song' suggests the Psalmist at the beginning of today's psalm.

But as I begin to write this letter the authorities have just announced that all London Boroughs are to move into Tier 2 – Local Covid Alert Level High. This basically means that we must not socialise indoors with people outside our family group or outside in groups of more than 6. This sounds very much like an old song to me!

Of course we need to follow the regulations to prevent the Coronavirus from running rampant, as it threatens to do. But most of us are struggling as the pandemic shows no sign of ending and a vaccine seems still a long way off. We are fed up with the isolation and in some cases we are being damaged by it. What are we to do?

Psalm 96 actually offers three ways to help. First we are encouraged to sing, to bless God and tell of his salvation. Much as Vera Lynn and others inspired us in the dark days of WWII, so singing hymns and psalms can sustain us today (even if sadly we can still not sing in church at present).

Second, we need to recognise the Glory of God – the greatness, splendour and majesty of his creation. Did you see those amazing photographs in the 'Wildlife Photographer of the Year' competition?

Finally, we need to proclaim 'The Lord is King' – the world is firmly established, it shall never be moved. As I learned on holiday last week watching the sea, no matter how bad the news – the tide still came in and went out each day. The shadow of sunset is always followed by the brightness of sunrise. We shall meet Psalm 96 again – it is one of the psalms set for Christmas Day when the hope of the world is born. So keep singing!

Revd John



*You are invited to spend a quiet time with these prayers,
readings and reflection.*

Prayers for the week

O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

[Collect for the Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity]

Holy and blessed God, you have fed us with the body and blood of your Son and filled us with your Holy Spirit: may we honour you, not only with our lips but in lives dedicated to the service of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[Post Communion for the Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity]

LUKE THE EVANGELIST

Almighty God, you called Luke the physician, whose praise is in the gospel, to be an evangelist and physician of the soul: by the grace of the Spirit and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel, give your Church the same love and power to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Today's psalm

Psalm 96

Praise to God Who Comes in Judgement

O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.
Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvellous works among all the peoples.
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be revered above all gods.
For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.
Honour and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts.
Worship the Lord in holy splendour;
tremble before him, all the earth.

Say among the nations, 'The Lord is king!
The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.
He will judge the peoples with equity.'
Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
let the field exult, and everything in it.
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
before the Lord; for he is coming,
for he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth.

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.

Today's readings

Isaiah 45:1-7

Cyrus, God's Instrument

- ¹ Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:
- ² I will go before you
and level the mountains,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron,
- ³ I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the Lord,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
- ⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name,
I surname you, though you do not know me.
- ⁵ I am the Lord, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
- ⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the Lord, and there is no other.
- ⁷ I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the Lord do all these things.

The First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians 1:1-10
The Thessalonians' Faith and Example

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the
Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of people we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place where your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

The Gospel according to Matthew 22:15-22

The Question about Paying Taxes

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality.

¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?' ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' ²¹ They answered, 'The emperor's.' Then he said to them, 'Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.' ²² When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Prayers for Return

How generous is your goodness, O God,
how great is your salvation,
how faithful is your love;
help us to trust you in trial
and praise you in deliverance,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

King of the universe,
you show the bright glory of your reign
in acts of mercy and enduring love;
raise the spirits of the downcast
and restore those who have fallen away,
that we may sing forever of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve;
bless all who, following in his steps,
give themselves to the service of others;
that with wisdom, patience and courage,
they may minister in his name to the suffering and needy;
for the love of him who laid down his life for us,
your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Creator God,
may every breath we take be for your glory,
may every footstep show you as our way,
that, trusting in your presence in this world,
we may, beyond this life, still be with you
where you are alive and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

Scriptural Comfort

'Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand'

(Isaiah 41:10)

'Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.'

(Philippians 4:6,7)

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

(John 3:16)

As we do not know how long this situation will last it is important that we look out for one another.

Please let Revd John know of anyone who is ill or in distress.

***Or if you need prayer or spiritual support,
or are lonely and just need a short chat please phone***

St Martin's is open for public worship as follows:

Sundays 10.00am Family Worship
(a Communion service or Service of the Word)
Wednesdays 9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

- Please follow the signed instructions on notices.
- Stewards will be there to offer direction.
- There will be a one-way entry and exit system.
- You will need to register your attendance and provide contact details for tracking* when you arrive — please bring your own pen to sign in with.
- Please use the hand sanitizer provided.
- Please wear a face covering if you are able.
- If you cannot wear a face covering or have another vulnerability please let a sidesman know, so that you can be directed to a more spacious area
- Please take all your belongings home with you.

* Your contact details are required in case anyone who attended the same service as you is subsequently diagnosed with Covid-19; if necessary they will then be passed to the track and trace service. Your details will be held in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations and will be destroyed after 21 days. If you do not wish your details to be recorded please let us know.

Worship from St Martin's will continue to be available online:

- A Sunday service on the web site
- Daily prayer on Facebook at 8.15am on Tuesdays and Thursdays

In addition, there will continue to be a quiet meditation in the churchyard on Thursday evenings at 7.00pm and Revd John will continue to celebrate Holy Communion on your behalf in the churchyard on Friday mornings at 11.30am.

Please note that to accommodate pastoral offices or with any changes to Diocesan or Government guidelines these arrangements are subject to change at any time.

For more information on St Martin's please visit our web site and Facebook page:

www.stmartinchelsfield.org.uk www.facebook.com/ChelsfieldStMartins

Other resources

Daily HOPE is a national, free phonenumber from the Church of England on **0800 804 8044**.

The line is available 24 hours a day and offers music, prayers and reflections, as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone.

For today's online Sunday service from the Church of England visit:
www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online

For other Church of England resources please visit:
www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer-resources

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