

## In Touch across North Barrow

### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>. June 2020 The First Sunday after Trinity

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### Worship during the day, alone or with household members

You are the God of the lowly, the helper of the oppressed, upholder of the weak, protector of the forsaken, saviour of those without hope. *Judith 9:11*

O Lord, open our lips.

**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Glory be 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.

#### **Collect for today**

God of truth,  
help us to keep your law  
and to walk in ways of wisdom,  
that we may find true life  
in Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Readings** : Exodus 19:2-8a, Romans 5:1-8, Matthew 9:35-10:8  
*or during the week from the daily prayer and readings.*

#### **The Bible Reading**

A reading from the letter to the Romans.

**5:**<sup>1</sup> Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person - though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **Prayers**

Almighty and everlasting God,  
we thank you that you have brought us safely  
to the beginning of this day.  
Keep us from falling into sin or running into danger;  
order us in all our doings and guide us to do always  
what is righteous in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Conclusion**

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil, and keep us in eternal life. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Peace and perseverance.**

Last week life centred around meetings about the opening of school, this week it's teasing out the guidelines for opening our churches for private prayer. In both cases the central message seems more about sound-bites than substance. At least the government have realised the impracticability of opening schools to all pupils before the summer and lifted the not inconsiderable pressure on governors, head teachers and staff.

What those meetings did bring home was the level of fear in the wider community, something broadly not mirrored among those I have talked with in our churches or diocese.

St. Paul talks about having peace with God through faith in Jesus. That peace is more than an absence of hostility, it is about well-being and relationship that arises out of justification. Through Jesus ministry, death and resurrection we are adopted and brought into the reconciled family of God. This love of God has triumphed not only over our human failings, but also overcome God's characteristic passion for justice so that his love and mercy might be revealed.

This peace overcomes present fears because it is grounded in the certain hope of glory. So much so that Paul can say that *'we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God'*. The joyful truth is that neither death nor life, neither the present or the future, or even Covid-19, can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:38).

Just so that we don't become carried away from the often harsh realities of life, Paul reminds us that our eternal identity doesn't

shield us from the struggles of human life. For *'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'*.

What are these long weeks and months of lock-down producing in us? Frustration certainly, and for many fear and isolation. St Paul reminds us that in our adopted relationship with God, evidenced and guaranteed by the presence of the Holy Spirit, God can transform those frustrations into character building hope, and translate our fears into the security of God's love.

It is that love that transform human life and experience. It is above moral righteousness, which often carries with it an unforgiving harshness which is why *rarely will anyone die for a righteous person*. It transcends goodness, for whom *someone might actually dare to die*. It is a love that goes before and beyond us, showing it's depths on the cross before anyone had accessed that love, and going to the cross even if there was only one person in all history who would respond and know the joy of adoption.

Keep safe and glory on the God who can transform the limitations of lock-down into the freedom of his love and Spirit.

With love and prayers,

*Fr. Jack.*



## Psalm 100

1 O be joyful in the Lord, all the earth;

serve the Lord with gladness  
and come before his presence with a song.

2 Know that the Lord is God;

it is he that has made us and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

3 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and bless his name.

4 For the Lord is gracious; his steadfast love is everlasting,

and his faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

**SUNDAY**

**MONDAY**

**TUESDAY**

**WEDNESDAY**

**THURSDAY**

**FRIDAY**

**SATURDAY**

### **Reflections during the week using Lectio Divina**

*Use the verse, or verses, for each day following the pattern on the previous page. Each colour corresponds to a day of the week. Write any reflections, or ways in which you feel God is speaking to you in the boxes above*

## NEWS AND NOTES

**CONTRACT TRACING SCAMS** : Sadly there are reports of fraudsters posing as contract tracers. Cumbria police state that "it is important to remember that NHS Test and Trace, or the local contact tracing team, will never ask you for financial details, PINs or passwords. They will also never visit your home." In addition you will never be asked to ring a premium rate number (eg those starting in 09 or 087), ask for a payment or purchase a product. If a caller claims to be from NHS Test and Trace and you are suspicious the call can be verified as genuine by hanging up and calling 119. Further information can be found at <https://www.which.co.uk/news/2020/06/nhs-covid-19-contact-tracing-message-how-can-i-tell-if-its-real-or-a-scam/>

**CHURCH OPENING** : This will be for (supervised) private prayer only, and detailed direction is still awaited from the government. Initially St. James will be open from Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> from 10-10.30am. The plan is to look to open St. Francis in the evening (6-6.30pm) later in the month. When we are allowed to gather for public worship it will feel very different. As things stand there will be no singing, and the guidance suggests that Holy Communion will be given in one kind, standing away from the altar rail.

**Community Support HUB** 9am - 5pm Mon to Fri.  
Call 01229 444407.

**Resources : The Sunday Worship** video is available on the St. James facebook page from Sunday morning.

**Radio and TV** : Radio Cumbria Morning Service at 8.00am  
CandoFM (106.3) Faith in Furness at 10.30am

BBC Morning Worship at 10.15 on BBC1

For those who are online, the Church of England website has daily and Sunday resources to watch, download and join in with.

The website is : [churchofengland.org](http://churchofengland.org)

**Daily Hope Prayer Line** - 0800 804 8044 - A Church of England resource with hymns, prayers and reflections for especially for those who are not connected to the internet.

## DAILY PRAYER and BIBLE READINGS

- SUNDAY** *We give thanks that* our justification before God comes through faith and grace and not through the works of the law.
- MONDAY** 1 Kings 21:1-16, Matthew 5:38-42  
*Pray for* the staff of our school as the first bubble of children return today, and for all the schools of North Barrow.
- TUESDAY** 1 Kings 21:17-end, Matthew 5:43-end  
*Pray for* Barrow and Furness clergy chapter meeting together this morning on Zoom.
- WEDNESDAY** 2 Kings 2:1, 6-14, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18  
*Pray for* who work to build relationships and understanding between communities and build racial justice.
- THURSDAY** Ecclesiasticus 48:1-14, Matthew 6:7-15  
*Pray for* those struggling with addiction, isolated during lock-down and for the work of the Well in Barrow.
- FRIDAY** 2 Kings 11:1-4, 9-18, Matthew 6:19-23  
*Pray for* Deacon Debbie and the Hospital chaplaincy team supporting staff, patients and families.
- SATURDAY** 2 Chronicles 24:17-25, Matthew 6:24-end  
*Pray for* an easing and end to the racial tensions being stoked up within Barrow.

**If you have prayer requests / thanksgivings,  
then please let Fr. Jack know either by email or 'phone.**

### NEXT SUNDAY THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Jeremiah 20:7-13, Romans 6:1b-11, Matthew 10:24-39