

In Touch across North Barrow

Sunday 21st. June 2020 The Second Sunday after Trinity

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Worship during the day, alone or with household members

In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us
and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.
1 John 4:10

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

Faithful Creator,
whose mercy never fails:
deepen our faithfulness to you and to your living Word,
Jesus Christ our Lord, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Readings : Jeremiah 20:7-13, Romans 6:1b-11,
Matthew 10:24-39
or during the week from the daily prayer and readings.

The Bible Reading

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

20:¹ Now the priest Pashhur son of Immer, who was chief officer in the house of the Lord, heard Jeremiah prophesying these things. ² Then Pashhur struck the prophet Jeremiah, and put him in the stocks that were in the upper Benjamin Gate of the house of the Lord. ³ The next morning when Pashhur released Jeremiah from the stocks, Jeremiah said to him, 'Thus says the Lord: I am making you a terror to yourself and to all your friends; and you, Pashhur, and all who live in your house, shall go into captivity, and to Babylon you shall go.'

(Jeremiah prayed to the Lord:)

⁷ 'O Lord, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughing-stock all day long; everyone mocks me. ⁸ For whenever I speak, I must cry out, I must shout, 'Violence and destruction!' For the word of the Lord has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. ⁹ If I say, 'I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name', then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. ¹⁰ For I hear many whispering: 'Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!' All my close friends are watching for me to stumble. 'Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him, and take our revenge on him.' ¹¹ But the Lord is with me like a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail.'

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.

Loving Father,
sustain us with your Spirit,
that we may serve you here on earth
until our joy is complete in heaven,
and we share in the eternal banquet
with 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.

Power and powerlessness.

It has been a week when pumps and power have failed. The pump to the hot water gave up; Joe's computer power supply gave up when presented with a new graphics card; and my mobile battery packed up, taking the software with it. Thankfully the market is now open and the battery has been replaced, no thanks to a blatant case of designed redundancy which meant that the battery was hard wired into the system and needed specialist tools to replace.

Jeremiah faces a different power problem, caught between the state and temple proclaiming that all was well with society, and the Lord proclaiming through Jeremiah that a reckoning was coming and exile was its name.

Our danger living in a time when 'Terror is all around!', well maybe not terror but the pandemic, is not being overcome by the fear of illness while continuing to respect the risks and act responsibly. What Jeremiah's lament does is give permission to vent our feelings before God. He is not judged for accusing God of using his power to overwhelm Jeremiah. It was a no win situation. If Jeremiah faithfully proclaimed what God was telling him to say he was denounced, plotted against and here left in the stocks overnight, and laughing stock for all who passed by. If he kept quiet, then the fire of God's presence and Word pressured inwardly until Jeremiah could no longer hold it in.

Jeremiah is faithful even though he suffers for God and complains bitterly. The prophet who is preaching the way to peace for the people, is to Pashhur, the priests of the temple, and the leaders of the people, just an object of ridicule and fun. Jeremiah is just 'old terror is all around!' No wonder Jeremiah feels crushed. For all the pain, all the frustration, all the harsh words, Jeremiah does not let go of God. *The Lord is with me like a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail.* Jeremiah's faithfulness, honesty, and suffering are not ignored by Yahweh. Even if he will not listen to the prophet's intercession for the people, God will not abandon his prophet.

Ultimately whatever the situation we find ourselves in, God's way and God's Word will prevail. Jeremiah, God's suffering prophet becomes a pattern for another suffering servant of God who carries Jeremiah's pain and ours, and through the resurrection vindicates all God's faithful servants.

Keep safe, keep faithful, and let God know all your inner frustrations and pain.

With love and prayers,
Fr. Jack.

Verses from Psalm 69

1 Save me, O God, for the waters have come up, even to my neck.

2 I sink in deep mire where there is no foothold;
I have come into deep waters and the flood sweeps over me.

8 For your sake have I suffered reproach;
shame has covered my face.

9 I have become a stranger to my kindred,
an alien to my mother's children.

10 Zeal for your house has eaten me up;
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

11 I humbled myself with fasting, but that was turned to my
reproach.

12 I put on sackcloth also and became a byword among them.

14 But as for me, I make my prayer to you, O Lord;
at an acceptable time, O God.

15 Answer me, O God, in the abundance of your mercy
and with your sure salvation.

16 Draw me out of the mire, that I sink not; let me be rescued from
those who hate me and out of the deep waters.

18 Answer me, Lord, for your loving-kindness is good;
turn to me in the multitude of your mercies.

19 Hide not your face from your servant;
be swift to answer me, for I am in trouble.

20 Draw near to my soul and redeem me;
deliver me because of my enemies.

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

CONGRATULATIONS to the Bluebirds. At last a wrong has been set right and Barrow is back in the Football League!

CHURCH OPENING : This will be for (supervised) private prayer only. Following the government guidelines we are meeting to plan opening St. James later this week and maybe St. Francis in the evening (6-6.30pm) later. 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.

MOLLIE has a baby brother!! Jack David was born prematurely earlier this week and is progressing well at Preston Hospital. Do keep the whole family in your prayers.

In Hospital : Sadly both Eddie (St. James) and Josie (St Francis) are in hospital after falling at home. Do pray for them and for Delia and their respective families.

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

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* God is pleased to listen to our pain lament as long as we give him space to answer.

MONDAY 2 Kings 17:5-8, 13-18, Matthew 7:1-5
(*St. Alban*) *Pray for* all across our nation who suffer for the sake of Jesus Christ.

TUESDAY 2 Kings 19:9-11, 14-21, 31-36, Matthew 7:6, 12-14
Pray for Barrow and Furness clergy chapter meeting together this morning on Zoom.

WEDNESDAY Isaiah 40:1-11, Acts 13:14b-26, Luke 1:57-66, 80
(*Birth of S. John the Baptist*) *Pray for* the work of the diocesan Task Group looking at the possible future shapes of parish ministry in Cumbria.

THURSDAY 2 Kings 24:8-17, Matthew 7:21-end
Pray for those caring for all suffering from dementia struggling to understand the changes around them.

FRIDAY 2 Kings 25:1-12, Matthew 8:1-4
Pray for the family of Doris Parkinson whose funeral takes place today at St. James.

SATURDAY Lamentations 2:2, 10-19, Matthew 8:5-17
Pray for those awaiting ordination to the diaconate and priesthood this Petertide.

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

**NEXT SUNDAY
SAINTS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES**

Acts 12:7-13, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18, Matthew 16:13-19