

In Touch across North Barrow

Sunday 12th. July 2020 The Fifth Sunday after Trinity

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Worship during the day, alone or with household members

Clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 4:24

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

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church
is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Readings : Isaiah 55:10-13, Romans 8:1-11,
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
or during the week from the daily prayer and readings.

The Bible Reading

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

8:¹ There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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.

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you,
that the course of this world
may be so peaceably ordered by your governance,
that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness;
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.

Bridging the deficit.

The past few months have distorted our experience of life and they have certainly distorted the nation's finances. It may still not be possible, but have you ever been into one of those fairground hall of mirrors? You know the sort - wherever you look, you look awful, or may be that's just looking into a mirror! The law, Paul showed us in last week's reading, is just like that. Whenever you look at it, all you see is failure, and all you have is guilt. It is Jesus who provides a clear mirror, one that reflects how God sees us through his Son.

The power gap between God's pattern and our faltering response, our inner struggle with consistency and selfishness is still there but

with Jesus on our side, there is no condemnation. The voice of the accuser - you can't be a real disciple if you do / think / act like that - is silenced. There is no condemnation. Living under the rule of law, even our own moral code, simply leads to condemnation, failure and guilt. But in Christ, the mirror shows us as God sees us, clothed not in our own, but Jesus' moral and spiritual perfection. It's a new rule of grace, we're set free from condemnation, and failures are forgivable. In Christ, clothed in his righteousness, our salvation is never under threat. Where the old law could only say failure, the law of the Spirit says forgiven and Jesus' word of grace says freedom.

Forgiveness and freedom are hallmarks of life in the Spirit. Where once our minds were controlled by our own desires and needs, now we are called to allow our minds to be controlled by the Spirit. St. Paul's testimony from last week's reading is that we are powerless to earn our salvation, because God's standards are not about being a little better than everyone else, that's how the Pharisees saw themselves, but being like Jesus. Seeking our own salvation is a little like the man who rang about a secondhand car. He called the dealer and asked, "How does the car run?" He dealer replied "Better than most of the cars I'm selling." "How fast will it go?" "Faster than any of the other cars here." "How does it look?" "Best looking car on the lot." So the man asked "Are you an authorised dealer with Ford or Vauxhall?" "No, we deal in low-cost high mileage cars." We just can't measure up to God's standard, Jesus.

What we need is a new power in our lives, the power of the Holy Spirit. Only God can bridge the power gap in our lives. He has bridged the deficit that we can never overcome. It is the Spirit of God, the power and life of Jesus' resurrection, living in us who makes the difference, alters the mirror to show us like Jesus. Everyone who belongs to Christ has the Spirit. Not everyone who belongs to Christ allows the Spirit to control their minds, their hearts, their actions. Not all of us will let go, and let God take control, but for all who do, there is a renewed understanding of forgiveness, a deeper sense of freedom and joy that overwhelms, even in the face of failure, pain and suffering.

With love and prayers,
Fr. Jack.

Psalm 65 verses 1-4, 8-13

- 1 Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion;
to you that answer prayer shall vows be paid.
- 2 To you shall all flesh come to confess their sins;
when our misdeeds prevail against us, you will purge them away.
- 3 Happy are they whom you choose
and draw to your courts to dwell there.
We shall be satisfied with the blessings of your house,
even of your holy temple.
- 4 With wonders you will answer us in your righteousness,
O God of our salvation,
O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.
- 8 You visit the earth and water it; you make it very plenteous.
- 9 The river of God is full of water;
you prepare grain for your people, for so you provide for the earth.
- 10 You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
you soften the ground with showers and bless its increase.
- 11 You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.
- 12 May the pastures of the wilderness flow with goodness
and the hills be girded with joy. 13 May the meadows be clothed
with flocks of sheep and the valleys stand so thick with corn that
they shall laugh and sing.

SUNDAY
MONDAY
TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY
Reflections during the week using Lectio Divina <i>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</i>

NEWS AND NOTES

WORSHIP FROM THIS SUNDAY

St. James : Sunday 10.30am.
Wednesday 10.00am.

St. Francis : Sunday 6.00pm.
Thursday 10.00am.

There will be no singing, no sharing of the peace, and Communion will be given standing, in one kind, dropped into the hands. We are asked to keep a register of those attending for track and trace purposes.

For your prayers : Josie (St. Francis) is on Ward 6 and is peaceful. Please pray for her family as they visit her and continue to watch with her.

Eddie (St. James) has been taken to Preston for treatment. He should return to FGH soon. Please continue to hold Delia in your prayers.

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

Resources : **Sunday Worship** will be live streamed and available on the St. James facebook page from Sunday morning, and hopefully on the St. Francis page in the evening.

Radio and TV : Radio Cumbria Morning Service at 8.00am
CandoFM (106.3) Faith in Furness at 10.25am

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* there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set us free.

MONDAY Isaiah 1:11-17, Matthew 10:34-11:1
Pray for the members of the Diocesan Board of Finance and Bishop's Council's Task Group planning for the future in the light of the coronavirus crisis.

TUESDAY Isaiah 7:1-9, Matthew 11:20-24
Pray for Furness Deanery, and the development of the Mission Community and three Mission Areas.

WEDNESDAY Isaiah 10:5-7, 13-16, Matthew 11:25-27
(St. Bonaventure) Pray for all who work for reconciliation between the churches of the Eastern and Western traditions.

THURSDAY Isaiah 26:7-9, 16-19, Matthew 11:28-end
Pray for the Anglican Province of South Sudan, for The Most Revd Justin Badi Arama, Archbishop.

FRIDAY Isaiah 38:1-6, 21-22, Matthew 12:1-8
Pray for Bishop James and Bishop Emma working from home supporting churches, clergy and the diocese.

SATURDAY Micah 2:1-5, Matthew 12:14-21
Pray for our local Nursing Homes, and all residential care across the county, for their residents and carers.

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

NEXT SUNDAY

The Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19, Romans 8:12-25,
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43