

In Touch across North Barrow

Sunday 26th. July 2020 The Seventh Sunday after Trinity

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Worship during the day, alone or with household members

Turn to me in mercy,
as you always do to those who love your name.
Psalm 119:132

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

Generous God,
you give us gifts and make them grow:
though our faith is small as mustard-seed,
make it grow to your glory
and the flourishing of your kingdom;
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.
Amen.

Readings : 1 Kings 3:5-12, Romans 8:26-39,
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
or during the week from the daily prayer and readings.

The Bible Reading

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

8: ²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.' ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, ³⁹ nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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.

Lord Jesus Christ, by the grace of this sacrament,
keep us grafted in you, the living vine;
and grant that always abiding in you
we may bear fruit to your glory;
who are alive and reign, now and forever. **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.

Over the past four months, Coronavirus has brought out the best in people. It feels like there is a greater understanding of the command of our Lord to love your neighbour as yourself is finally sinking in to our conscientiousness. 'LOVE' has so many different meanings to us all. For me, the clearest definition of love is written by St Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians (13:4-8) 'Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.'

This is how we are to love others as God himself loves us. But how can we be sure God loves us? In today's reading of Romans there are three reassurances of this love. In my daily readings I found the answers.

'We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him.' (v28) 'All things' includes even our mistakes. God will take even your errors and work them out for your good. Our God is a God who knows us intimately, he knows even the number of hairs on your head, which can sometimes not be so challenging in some! He reigns. He is sovereign. In everything he works for the good of those who love him.

'If God is for us, who can be against us?'(31b) If God is for you, what others think is not so important. We are set free from the fear of people and from caring too much about what others think. Fear of others can cripple us and cause much inaction. Our God is an awesome God who is totally for us every step of the way.

If we are still in doubt about how much the Living God loves us, we are reminded by St Paul that 'He (God) who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?' Christ died for us while we were still sinners so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. We need to be certain of this in our hearts as well as our heads, of the depth of love that our God has for us.

So sure, do we need to be of the LOVE of God. St Paul was so convinced of this most powerful all-encompassing love that he states that, 'neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present (Coronavirus) nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our lord. Let us never forget that Jesus first loved us before we loved him and know as a certainty in our hearts the love of God who is for us each second, each minute, each hour of each day and for eternity.

With love and prayers,

Clare Knill-Jones (Reader).

Psalm 119 verses 129-136

Lord, how I love your law.
Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them.

Lord, how I love your law.
Your testimonies are wonderful;
therefore my soul keeps them.

I open my mouth and draw in my breath,
as I long for your commandments.

Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as is your way with those who love your name.

Order my steps by your word,
and let no wickedness have dominion over me.
Redeem me from earthly oppressors
so that I may keep your commandments.

Show the light of your countenance upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.
My eyes run down with streams of water,
because the wicked do not keep your law.

I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height,
nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate
us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

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 suspended until further notice
Thursday 10.00am.

We keep a register of those attending for track and trace purposes, and now asked to request that **those attending wear masks** to protect others.

For your prayers : **Josie** died peacefully on Monday morning. Her funeral will be on August 3rd at St. Francis, by family invitation only.

Eddie (St. James) is now back in Barrow, in Abbey View.

Alan Williams is on ward 9 at FGH. Please pray for him and for Mary and the family.

Brenda continues to recover. Please hold her 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.

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 for* God is faithful to us though the storms of life and nothing can separate us from that all encompassing love .

MONDAY Jeremiah 13:1-11, Matthew 13:31-35
Pray for St. Mary's Walney and St. John's Barrow Island as they adjust to Fr. Andy Bachelor's move in the autumn.

TUESDAY Jeremiah 14:17-end, Matthew 13:36-43
Pray for Fr. Jack's family as the funeral of his sister takes place today.

WEDNESDAY Jeremiah 15:10, 16-21, Matthew 13:44-46
(St. Martha, Mary & Lazarus) Pray for Hospice at Home across Cumbria, and Marie Curie and McMillian nurses.

THURSDAY Jeremiah 18:1-6, Matthew 13:47-53
Pray for the Church of Nigeria; The Most Revd Henry Chukwudum Ndukuba, Metropolitan & Primate of all Nigeria .

FRIDAY Jeremiah 26:1-9, Matthew 13:54-end
(St. Ignatius Loyola) Pray for Kyle and Gala as they are married in St. James this afternoon.

SATURDAY Jeremiah 26:11-16, 24, Matthew 14:1-12
Pray for Fr. Gary Cregeen in his role as Mission Communities Co-ordinator for the Penrith Mission Areas.

NEXT SUNDAY **The Eighth Sunday after Trinity**

Isaiah 55:1-5, Romans 9:1-5, Matthew 14:13-21