

## In Touch across North Barrow

### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>. August 2020 The Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Team Rector **Fr. Jack Knill-Jones**

St. Matthew's Vicarage  
Highfield Road LA14 5NZ

Tel : **01229 343013**

email : jackknill@aol.com

### 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**

Lord God,  
your Son left the riches of heaven  
and became poor for our sake:  
when we are prosperous save us from pride,  
when we are poor save us from despair,  
that we may trust in you alone.  
We make our prayer 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** : Isaiah 55:1-5, Romans 9:1-5, Matthew 14:13-21  
*or during the week from the daily prayer and readings.*

#### **The Bible Reading**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

**9:** <sup>1</sup> I am speaking the truth in Christ. I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit. <sup>2</sup> I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. <sup>3</sup> For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup> They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; <sup>5</sup> to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

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.**

Strengthen for service, Lord,  
our hands and minds and hearts;  
may the ears which have heard your word  
be deaf to clamour and dispute;  
may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit;  
may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love  
shine with the light of hope;  
and may the bodies which have been fed from your word  
be refreshed with the fullness of your life;  
glory to you for ever. **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.**

What do you do with a problem called Israel? Not the nation, though solving that problem is key to the future of the Middle East, but the problem of God's ancient people, the Jews, and their place in God's saving plan in Christ. It's maybe something that we rarely think about, but the answer to the question Paul is wrestling with, namely what about God's promise and purpose for the Jews now we have redemption in Christ?

Paul has been celebrating the love and hope we have in Christ, something that can never be taken from us. But as a faithful Jew, Paul is concerned about God's faithfulness to his covenant promises.

All too easily we write off the Old Testament - the Hebrew scriptures - as somehow displaced by the New. The hard truth is that you will never understand the New Testament unless you understand the Old as well. It is from the people of the covenant that *come the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises*. All of these things come into focus in Christ, *the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed for ever*.

In a real sense Jesus is the pinnacle and perfection of Israel, perfectly fulfilling her God-given role and calling, and in a real sense the Church is a messianic sect of Judaism because Jesus doesn't found a new religion but fulfills the old.

So what now for God's ancient people? Are they simply abandoned? Cast away from God's promises and covenant? Overwhelmed by the Gentiles finding faith in Jesus? One thing that the church and the

Labour party have in common is that we have not always treated the Jewish people well and kept silent when others have spoken and acted with hatred.

That behaviour stems from a false theology that somehow God's covenant promises to Israel no longer hold water. Paul lives the tension in his own identity. He is a Jew who knew painfully that the law could not provide salvation, only Jesus could. So where did that leave his fellow countrymen and women?

Paul's love for his people tears him apart: *my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit. I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart*. I wonder whether we are as moved to share our faith with our own neighbours. For Paul, the answer is found in God's faithfulness; Christ's fulfilment and the response of faith.

If God has simply abandoned his people along with the promise and call of the covenant, then there is no certainty for us either. What is there to stop him doing the same with us? So, in Paul's words, *I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! God is faithful. The covenant endures for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable*. Their place, their salvation, along with ours is through Christ, and through the sacrifice of the cross.

The key is faith, not law. Mercy rather than blind obedience. The children of God's abiding promise - Abraham's children - are those who respond to God through faith in his love and mercy, be they Jew or Gentile. It is a love and mercy revealed perfectly in Jesus, a new covenant guaranteed through his death and resurrection, and open to all who respond in faith. Jesus, *the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed for ever*. Amen.

With love and prayers,  
*Fr. Jack.*

**Psalm 145 verses 8-9, 15-22**

8 The Lord is gracious and merciful,  
long-suffering and of great goodness.

9 The Lord is loving to everyone  
and his mercy is over all his creatures.

15 The Lord upholds all those who fall  
and lifts up all those who are bowed down.

16 The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord,  
and you give them their food in due season.

17 You open wide your hand  
and fill all things living with plenty.

18 The Lord is righteous in all his ways  
and loving in all his works.

19 The Lord is near to those who call upon him,  
to all who call upon him faithfully.

20 He fulfils the desire of those who fear him;  
he hears their cry and saves them.

21 The Lord watches over those who love him,  
but all the wicked shall he destroy.

22 My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord,  
and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.

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

**Face Coverings :** The Government is making the wearing of face coverings (mouth and nose) mandatory from 8 August. We wear masks to protect and lower the risk to others. We need to continue to be careful about distancing and frequent hand cleansing. With these safeguards, and if you are healthy, it is safe and good to come to church.

**For your prayers :** Josie's funeral will be on August 3<sup>rd</sup> at St. Francis, at 1.00pm 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](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 for the generosity of God who provides for our daily bread both physically and spiritually.*

**MONDAY** Jeremiah 28, Matthew 14:22-end  
*Pray for the family of Josie Turnbull as her funeral takes place at St. Francis this afternoon.*

**TUESDAY** Jeremiah 30:1-2, 12-22, Matthew 15:1-2, 10-14  
*(St. John Vianney) Pray for the parish clergy of the diocese during the strangeness and stress of the pandemic.*

**WEDNESDAY** Jeremiah 31:1-7, Matthew 15:21-28  
*(St. Oswald) Pray for St. James governors meeting this evening, and for the staff and children during the summer break.*

**THURSDAY** Jeremiah 31:31-34, Matthew 16:13-23  
*(The Transfiguration) Pray for our eyes to be opened to see the glory and majesty of Jesus, our Lord and God.*

**FRIDAY** Nahum 2:1-3, 3:1-7, Matthew 16:24-28  
*(St. Ignatius Loyola) Pray for the united Church of North India, and the Most Revd Dr Prem Chand Singh, Moderator & Bishop of Jabalpur.*

**SATURDAY** Habakkuk 1:12-2:4, Matthew 17:14-20  
*Pray for those who lost someone to Covid-19, and all who are mourning the death of a loved one.*

**NEXT SUNDAY**  
**The Ninth Sunday after Trinity**

1 Kings 19:9-18, Romans 10:5-15, Matthew 14:22-33