

Your Word of the Week

Sunday 9th August 2020
Ninth Sunday After Trinity



Bible Reading

Matthew 14. 22-33 *(New Revised Standard Version)*

Immediately after feeding the crowd with the five loaves and two fish, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

Peter answer him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

Reflection from Rev Bill Baker

This week the emphasis moves from Jesus' teaching about God's Kingdom to the identity of the King. Through Jesus the Godhead's true character is revealed for those who have eyes to see and ears to hear.

The immediately preceding verses of Matthew's gospel tell of the death of John the Baptist and the feeding of the five thousand. Crowds of people kept following Jesus, desperate to be taught and healed by him. He tried many times to withdraw to a solitary place to reflect and as evening fell, Jesus dismissed the crowd and even sent the disciples away, telling them to go ahead in a boat to the other side of the lake. They were left to face the dangers of the waters of the lake on their own. Meanwhile, Jesus went up the mountain by himself to pray.

He came to them, early in the morning, miraculously walking on water and the disciples declared him to be the Son of God. They heard Jesus' teaching, seen his miracles, and now witnessed him have dominion over the waters. The disciples were beginning to build a picture of who he was. This acknowledgement of Jesus' identity was encouragement for the disciples to understand that Jesus was calling them to follow him.

What encouragement do we have that Jesus calls us in our own day? What will it take for us to believe, to recognize Jesus for who he is? We may find ourselves thinking that it must have been easier for those first disciples than it is for us. But take heart, Jesus lives, by his Spirit, within each one of us, believer or non-believer, coming alongside us in all the difficult times of our lives. We have witnessed this during this current coronavirus pandemic through the help, support and commitment of the key workers, our church community, family, friends and sometimes through complete strangers.

God the Holy Trinity works in unexpected and mysterious ways. S/He is available to all, Christian or of other faiths, even agnostics or atheists. Today's scripture shows us how to act when we are facing storms in our life or in the lives of others. We learn that we are to pray for others and offer help to all who ask it of us. WE are to respond to each other even if we are tired and the moment isn't right. And we are able to keep faith that god will reach out and catch us, renewing and restoring us when we most need it.

We come together in Prayer

Collect

9th Sunday After Trinity

GRANT to us, Lord, we beseech thee, the spirit to think and do always such things as be rightful; that we, who cannot do any thing that is good without thee, may by thee be enabled to live according to thy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

My Father, you have carried me through all my wanderings and loved me through my rebelliousness.

I praise you.

You have given me untold riches:
friends to love,
beauty to enjoy,
quiet spaces.

I pray you for life on this planet,
for trust between people,
and the unimaginable gift of the Gospel.

Keep me thankful all my days,
that, against all the odds, I may never lose sight
of hope and delight.

The Trinity
Protecting me
The Father be
Over me
The Saviour be
Under me
The Spirit be
About me
The Holy Three
Defending me
As evening comes
Bless my home
Holy Three
Watching me
As shadows fall
Hear my call
Sacred Three
Encircle me
So it may be
Amen to Thee
holy Three
About me

Please remember the sick in your prayers:

Harry Smith, Georgia Garner, Nathan Garner, Albert Hill, Andrew Heard, Eva Hitchen, Jerome Bains, Dennis and Margaret Cooper, Colin Evans, Dave Kerr, Janet Harding, Rita Harrison, Hazel Looker, Silvia Good, Melodi Kahya, John Lewis, Betty Ledward and the residents and staff at Clarendon Court care home, Stephen Jones, Janet Griffith, Neil Sumner, Jim White, Alwyne Smith, Scott Dake.

We thank God for the lives of those who have died:

(Myrtle) Gladys Irvine, Freya Wiltshaw – remembering too family and friends who miss them.

Notices & Services

Sunday

9.30am Morning Worship for all the church family at home and in church Live stream from St Matthews, please contact Jane McCombie if you are attending church.

10.45am Morning Worship for all the church family at home and in church Live stream from Christ Church, please contact Carleton or email contact.christchurchwheelock@gmail.com if you are attending church.

11.00am Morning Worship for all the church family in church from St Michaels, please contact Helen Ledward if you are attending church.

Tuesday

10.00am 'Your Song of the Week.' Facebook post with your favourite hymns / worship music and a short note from our congregation and a link to YouTube.

Wednesday

9.00am Morning Prayer on Zoom. For joining instructions please do get in touch.

7.00pm Evening Prayer Telephone Service For joining instructions please private message us on or email contact.christchurchwheelock@gmail.com

PLEASE DO CHECK with your phone provider that 03 numbers are included in your tariff to avoid extra charges.

Thursday

7.20pm Pilgrim Course / Bible Study on Zoom. The Bible – session 4

For joining instructions please private message us on Facebook or email contact.christchurchwheelock@gmail.com

Saturday

7.30am Your Word of the Week and Junior Word published

Don't forget, all this and more is available on the united benefice website <https://www.hcganglican.org>

Advance notice

10.30am Sunday 30th August will be a united service at home and in church. Live stream this month from St Matthews. The stream will be shared on both facebook pages.

11am Every Wednesday Live stream only Holy Communion service (starting in September)