



# 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Trinity (Year A)

## Readings and Hymns

### Collect

All-powerful God, in Jesus Christ you turned death into life, and defeat into victory: increase our faith and trust in him, that we may triumph over evil, in the strength of the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

### Suggested Hymns

*In conjunction with the online service you might like to view these hymns on YouTube - with internet links and lyrics so that you can sing along:*

1) Ye that know the Lord is gracious

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I9TBOuwzDZM>

2) All people that on earth do dwell

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7DibkDQbzEo&t=7s>

3) Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QA\\_g98O42Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QA_g98O42Q)

4) Who would true Valour see

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BVIM4\\_gan4E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BVIM4_gan4E)

### Exodus 19:2-8a

They had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. Then Moses went up to God; the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, 'Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.' So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. The people all answered as one: 'Everything that the Lord has spoken we will do.' Moses reported the words of the people to the Lord.

### Psalms 100

O be joyful in the Lord, all the earth; ♦

serve the Lord with gladness

and come before his presence with a song.

Know that the Lord is God; ♦

it is he that has made us and we are his;

we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving

and his courts with praise; ♦

give thanks to him and bless his name.

For the Lord is gracious;

his steadfast love is everlasting, ♦

and his faithfulness endures

from generation to generation.

### Romans 5: 1-8

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and

hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

### Matthew 9: 35 - 10: 8, [9-23]

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.' Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him. These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for labourers deserve their food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. As you enter the house, greet it. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgement than for that town. 'See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

### Commentary

#### Exodus

Exodus is the second book of the Old Testament, and is part of the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible. Jews refer to these books as "The Torah". At times, they are referred to as "The Law", although "Torah" means teaching. Exodus centres on the rescue of God's chosen people from captivity

in Egypt and the making of the great covenant, or agreement with God, at Mount Sinai.

#### Psalm 100

All people everywhere ("all the earth") are invited to joyfully worship God. Both the Temple and royal palaces had "gates" (v. 4) and "courts", so God the king, present in the Temple and reigning from there, is envisaged. All are to acknowledge that Israel's god, the Lord, is the god (v. 3): he created us, we belong to him and he cares for us. He is ultimate goodness (v. 5): per his covenant, he loves – and is faithful to – us, our ancestors and descendants. Romans 5:1-8 Paul has already demonstrated that "we are justified by faith". Justified is found worthy in God's court. He says that there are three consequences of being justified: "peace with God", a state of harmony with him, "hope" (v. 2) of sharing his power and eternal life, and being reconciled with him.

It is through Christ that we have "access to this grace", this blessed state of harmony. We also bask in the glory ("boast") of "our sufferings" (v. 3, and not our accomplishments). Through a progression from them to patient "endurance" under spiritual duress, to maturity in the faith ("character", v. 4) we come to hope. This is hope of a certainty ("does not disappoint", v. 5) for God's love enters and permeates our very beings "through the Holy Spirit" (which is also God's gift.) "For while we were still weak" (v. 6, i.e. before we knew Christ), at the appropriate time in God's plan, "Christ died for the ungodly". It would be rare enough for anyone to die for a pious ("righteous", v. 7) person, and perhaps a bit more likely for a particularly "good person" to do so, but Christ sacrificed his life for us when we were neither: we were sinners without hope then!

#### Matthew 9:35-10:8,(9-23)

Matthew has just told us of ten miracles Jesus performed; he has cured people both physically and spiritually. He has "compassion" (9:36) on the "crowds" in their leaderless state, "like sheep without a shepherd"; he has announced that the completion of God's plan, his "harvest" (9:37), to return all to godliness, is about to begin. Now he instructs and commissions his disciples. Both the physically and mentally sick were seen as "unclean" (10:1), under the power of evil spirits and so separated from God. Jesus gives the twelve "authority" and power to heal as he heals. ("Apostles", 10:2, means sent out commissioned.) As is his practice, their mission is mainly to Jews, "the lost sheep of the house of Israel" ( 10:6, including the marginalised and outcast). The mission to all nations will be announced later (28:19). The "good news" (10:7), as Jesus and John the Baptist have taught, is that complete union with God is near. Vv. 8-10 should be taken together: the message of salvation is freely available to all; however, emissaries must be supported. Do not waste time preparing for the mission. Missionaries are to depend on the local hospitality of "worthy" (10:11) people, i.e. those in favour with God; "greet" ( 10:12) them with the peace of God. Do not waste time on people who are not open to the gospel ( 10:14); God will judge them harshly, as he did the ungodly in "Sodom and Gomorrah" (10:15). Being an emissary for Christ will not be easy: be wary and sincere. Some will prey on you like "wolves" (10:16), bringing you before regional sanhedrins ("councils", 10:17) and having you flogged. Some will bring charges against you to Roman prefects ("governors", 10:18) and vassal "kings" under the Romans. Your endurance under persecution ("testimony") will demonstrate to them and the world the validity of the gospel. At such times, the Holy Spirit will prompt you to witness to the good news. The era of the Church is the era of the end times; as prophesied by Micah, these will be times of betrayal ( 10:21) and hatred: particularly of those active in Christ's cause. However, persistent patience in the face of suffering will lead to salvation, to citizenship in God's

kingdom. The early Church understood 10:23b as foretelling Jesus' return in their lifetimes. To us, it is perplexing. © 1996-2020 Chris Haslam

#### ~ Notices ~

#### Services

We are planning for a resumption of services in our churches as from 5<sup>th</sup> July. We will need to put a number of precautions in place to prevent the potential spread of Covid 19 and we accept that this will mean some inconvenience and changes to our normal routine. However, rather than worry people, we hope that these measures will reassure people that we are taking the anti-virus advice very seriously in order to ensure that our churches are as welcoming and safe as possible. More details will be published soon on email, Facebook and the website.

#### Prayers

Prayers are said daily for the welfare of our community, our nation and the world. If you have any particular issue that you would like to be prayed for, do please email me on [frkevinobrien@me.com](mailto:frkevinobrien@me.com) or call me on 065 672 4721. All issues will be treated in confidence. Let us keep one another in our prayers and those of the health services and medical researchers who are striving so hard to keep us safe.

#### Select Vestry

Following instruction from Bishop Kenneth and the House of Bishops, Easter Vestries are to be postponed until we may safely gather in large numbers - therefore elected Select Vestry members will remain in post until a new meeting may be convened. Members may be content that the usual requirements of canon law are secondary to what might be termed *force majeure*.

#### Camino Inglés Pilgrimage

This is very advance notice, as it can take a year to plan such a group event, but I would like to gauge interest in walking the *Camino Inglés*, one of the routes to Santiago de Compostela. It is 118 km long and takes around 8-10 days if we start from *El Ferrol*. Alternatively, we may be able to complete 25km on Irish Pilgrim walks and then complete the final 75km from *A Coruña* (direct flights from Shannon). The way is relatively easy going (no mountains) and we would cover around 15kms per day. I will give a presentation about the walk that gives more information later in the year, so at present I am only looking to have general expressions of interest, rather than a firm commitment. We would probably look to walk in spring/early summer of 2021. Doing so as an ecumenical pilgrimage would be well worth considering.

#### The Bible Challenge

One way you might like to keep Lent and beyond is to commit to read the Bible from cover to cover. If you have never tried, I have printed an easy guide for you. With three short readings each day you can complete the Bible in a year. Email if you like a reading scheme.

#### Confirmation

Please let the Rector know if are thinking of becoming confirmed in 2020 – I can run courses for 1 or 20! We can also use Zoom for online sessions.

#### Photos

As part of the website relaunch we would like to assemble a library of photos of our churches, general church life and the local area. If you have any photos that you are willing to share please contact the Rector.

**Rector:** Email: [frkevinobrien@me.com](mailto:frkevinobrien@me.com) Tel: 065 672 4721

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