

Romans 8.31-39

in detail how certain can we be that God will complete the execution of his plan of salvation. What, he asks, "are we to say about these things" (v. 31), especially "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (8:1). He puts his questions in the language of the law court. God is so "for us" (v. 31) that he gave us his very Son, so he will surely follow through with the rest of his plan. God has passed a favourable sentence on us ("justifies", v. 33) so who is there to accuse us of anything? We have Christ, in his place of power and authority ("at the right hand of God", v. 34) pleading for us. (He is also the judge: see 2:16.) No hardship can separate the true Christian from Christ's love for us (v. 35). Psalm 44:22 foretold the sufferings of Christians (v. 36); in them we are winning a resounding victory ("more than conquerors", v. 37). Whether dead or alive at the Last Day, nothing – whether spiritual powers ("angels ... rulers ... powers", v. 38) or astrological powers (commonly believed to control human destiny, "height, nor depth", v. 39) or anything else – can separate us from God's love – and defeat God's purpose for us.

John 15:9-17

Jesus continues to prepare his disciples for his physical departure from them. He has told them that he is the "true" (v. 1) vine, the Father's agent, and that they are the "fruit" (v. 2), "the branches" (v. 5). They represent him in the world – to bear fruit, to do in his name. This is how God's power will be extended among humans. He has loved them as the Father has loved him; they are to continue to love him, by being obedient to his "commandments" (v. 10); he has been obedient, even to death on the cross. He continues to be in a loving relationship with the Father. This kind of love leads to "joy" (v. 11), ultimate joy. Jesus, the model for our behaviour, loved us so much that he gave his life for us, his "friends" (v. 13). To be a servant (v. 15) of God was an honour in Old Testament times, but a servant was not normally admitted to the counsel of his master while "friends" were: his disciples know all that the Father has told him. Jesus has taken the initiative in choosing them and appointing them to seek converts who will be deeply and lastingly committed to him (v. 16).

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~ Notices ~

Mission Sunday – From 20th November in aid of St Vincent de Paul and Protestant Aid – For further details see poster/brochure and our YouTube channel 'clare anglicans'.

Choir Please let the Rector know if you might like to join a choir for St Columba's Church.

Book Club Meets on the first Monday of every month at 11.00am – usually at the glór café but please check with Sue beforehand – or see the previous Sunday's pew sheet.

Concerts booked

Saturday 10th December 1.00pm – Piano Concert Clare Music Makers

Sunday 11th December Coole Music School Children's Choir Ste Lucia Concert – time in the afternoon to be confirmed.

Website: clareanglicans.ie

YouTube: www.youtube.com/c/clareanglicans

Facebook: www.facebook.com/clare.anglicans

Rector: Email: frkevinobrien@me.com

Tel: 065 672 4721



Remembrance Sunday

(Year C) 2022

Readings and Hymns

Collect: God, our refuge and strength, bring near the day when wars shall cease and poverty and pain shall end, that earth may know the peace of heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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) Dear Lord and Father of Mankind (549)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YAxIN0egN-I>

2) Abide with me (62)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTT5HGSaO-Y>

3) Be still, my soul (666)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q18GAt3_tkc

4) O God, our help in ages past (537)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yKP_XxCBZDY

Isaiah 2.1-5

In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear,
though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.

The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.

The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Come, behold the works of the Lord;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;

he burns the shields with fire.
'Be still, and know that I am God!

I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.'

The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Romans 8.31-39

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 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? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 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. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For 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.

John 15.9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.'

Bidding Prayer

Almighty God, you call us into a common fellowship of solidarity and love; draw near to us as we commemorate those who died in two world wars and so many conflicts since. We remember those who have participated in conflict from our town and village communities, and we pray for all those who continue to serve in our Defence Forces risking their lives so that others may know peace. As we reflect on their sacrifice and the horrors of war, may you move us to always work for peace and justice in our broken world; this we ask through the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Act of Commemoration

The list of the departed is read out. A wreath is placed.

The Exhortation

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
we will remember them. **We will remember them.**

The Last Post – The Silence – The Rouse

The Kohima Epitaph

When you go home tell them of us and say,
for your tomorrow we gave our today.

A Prayer of Commemoration

Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life: hear our prayers and thanksgivings for all whom we remember this day.

Fulfill in them the purpose of your love; and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

An Act of Commitment

Let us commit ourselves to responsible living and faithful service. Will you strive for all that makes for peace?

We will.

Will you seek to heal the wounds of war?

We will

Will you work for a just future for all humanity?

We will

Merciful God, we offer to you the fears in us that have not yet been cast out by love: may we accept the hope you have placed in the hearts of all people, and live lives of justice, courage and mercy; through Jesus Christ our risen redeemer. **Amen**

The Post-Communion Prayer

God of peace, whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom and restored the broken to wholeness of life: Look with compassion on the anguish of the world, and by your healing power make whole both people and nations; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Commentary

Isaiah 2:1-5

Isaiah wrote these verses about 740 BC, a time when spirits were low in Judah: Assyrian armies were bent on conquest, and many people doubted God's power to preserve the dynasty of David in accordance with his promise; others believed themselves to be invincible in the face of enemies. Because Chapter 1 begins with similar words, it appears that this and the next few chapters originally formed a separate document. The ideas in vv. 2-4 are also found in Micah 4. In the future ("in days to come", v. 2) God will launch a new era in which he will dwell on earth ("house"), at Jerusalem. His presence above all others on earth symbolizes his sovereignty. (Jerusalem began on the eastern hill or "mountain". By Isaiah's time it had expanded on to part of the western hill. "Zion", v. 3, was originally the name of the southern slope of the eastern hill, the site of the first settlement. The name was later used for the whole city.) The prophet foretells a time when all peoples will make pilgrimage to Jerusalem ("let us go up", v. 3) to worship God – to learn the way of living revealed by God. The city will be the source of "instruction" in ethical living. In Chapter 30, Isaiah tells us that in his time Judah rejected God's message, but in this future time all peoples will accept it. (The Hebrew word for "instruction" is torah which is also a name for the first five books of the Bible, the Law.) In this future time, God will settle disputes among nations ("judge", v. 4) and between people ("arbitrate"). It will be an age of peace and plenty: warfare being a thing of the past, agriculture ("plowshares", "pruning hooks") will prosper. (Conquering armies lived off the land and farmers were needed for military service.) In v. 5, Isaiah exhorts the people to adopt God's ways now.

Psalms 46

This psalm tells of God's protection and defence of his people. Perhaps the psalmist thinks of Isaiah 8:6-7; there "streams" (v. 4) are what God provides to the godly. The "city of God" is Jerusalem, God's dwelling place on earth. Even if natural disasters (earthquakes, vv. 2-3) or political turmoil (v. 6) occur, or earth returns to its primordial chaotic state ("waters", v. 3), God will remain ("not be moved", v. 5), answering night-long prayer in the "morning". Israel has suffered "desolations" (v. 8) for not doing God's will. In a liturgy, a priest or prophet invites participants to consider God's deeds: he ends political turmoil, bringing peace (v. 9). Recognize that God is supreme over all the earth! (v. 10) He is with his people and keeps them safe (v. 11).