



(Weedon, Everdon and Dodford) Weekly Worship

October 18th 2020

This Sunday is the Feast of St. Luke

The First reading: Isaiah 35. 3-6

The Gospel reading: Luke 10.1-9

Theological thoughts:

I am probably not the only one who can pray with real feeling that God might 'strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees' at the moment. Weakness and illness are part of our lives on earth, particularly so as we get older, and particularly so with the resurgence of Covid-19. On this feast of St Luke the physician, we may have even more reason than usual to pray for healing.

Sometimes we can mistake healing as being the same as curing though. Healing can happen even when an illness does not go away. Jesus says to his disciples that when they have healed someone, they should say 'The Kingdom of God has come near to you' – not 'Hoorah! You are cured'. So maybe we are healed, not when an illness has gone away, but when we know we are near to the Kingdom of God.

Healings in the Bible often involve restoration - people having their lives in amongst society restored. This might be because they are no longer bleeding (the woman with the haemorrhage), because they are ostracised (the lepers), or because they just didn't have the strength to get out of bed (the man on the mat let down through the roof). An encounter with Jesus restores these people to their rightful place in society, able to live life abundantly, and glorify God accordingly. They are once more near to the Kingdom of God – a place of wholeness and peace.

God's almighty power means that He can undoubtedly heal miraculously if He wishes to – there are many accounts of this happening. But I am sure that much of His healing occurs despite illness – the healing that comes from being at

peace with ourselves, with others, and with God. We are healed when we lay down the burdens of hurt and resentment and fear that we carry with us, and are at peace because we know that God truly loves us, and we can trust Him to walk alongside us, whatever the world throws at us.

And we can heal others too – when we show them that same forgiveness, acceptance and compassion that God shows to us; when we bring them closer to the Kingdom of God.

St Luke's compassion and commitment to justice for all shine through his Gospel, and through the book of Acts (which we are also fairly sure he wrote). His example challenges us to live lives through which that same compassion and commitment to justice shine.

Collect for today:

Almighty God,

You called Luke the physician, whose praise is in the gospel,
to be an evangelist and physician of the soul:

by the grace of the Spirit and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel,
give your church the same love and power to heal;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Church worship this week:

Sunday October 11th 9.30am Weedon Holy Communion (said)
 11.00am Dodford Holy Communion (said)

Livestream from Weedon: <https://youtu.be/5Oj6aLhf65U>

Usual pattern of services from now will be a 9.30am service in Weedon church (which will be livestreamed on Youtube) every Sunday (except 5th Sundays), with an 11am service in Dodford on the 1st and 3rd Sundays, and an 11am service in Everdon on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

Chapter & Verse on Thursday at 2.30pm in the Chapter House. An hour to talk about a short Bible passage. Ring Revd Barbara if you'd like to attend (so that we can stick to the Rule of 6).

Morning Prayer on Friday at 9am by Zoom: Meeting ID 795 8348 6202
Password KIT2020

Prayer pointers:

- As we keep today as Anti-Slavery Day, we remember before God all those today who are enslaved and treated inhumanely, in this country and in the rest of the world. We give thanks for those who fight for justice for all
- We pray for all who promote healing, remembering particularly those who work professionally to restore physical and mental health – our nurses, doctors, therapists, social workers, charity workers, carers
- We give thanks for those who have healed us in any way
- We pray for a feeling of collective responsibility towards those directly affected by Covid-19, and towards its suppression

On Sunday, all Church of England cathedrals will pray for the healing of the nation and all those oppressed as they mark the Feast of St Luke, the patron saint of medicine and healing, and national Anti-Slavery Day.

Prayer for the Nation

Loving God,

your Son Jesus Christ came that we might have life and have it abundantly;
pour out your blessing upon our nation;

where there is illness, bring your healing touch;

where there is fear, strengthen us with the knowledge of your presence;

where there is uncertainty, build us up in faith;

where there is denial, lead us into truth;

where there is discord, may we know the harmony of your love;

this we ask in Jesus' name.

Amen

P.S. (Positive Soulfood):

True healing?



Keep well, keep others well, keep praying

Revd Barbara Gallagher 01327 340545 barbarajg@btopenworld.com