



June 14th 2020
1st Sunday after Trinity

*May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all, now and evermore. Amen.*

Readings for today

Genesis Ch 18 v 1-15

The three visitors

Luke Ch 4 v 38-44

Jesus heals many

Collect for today

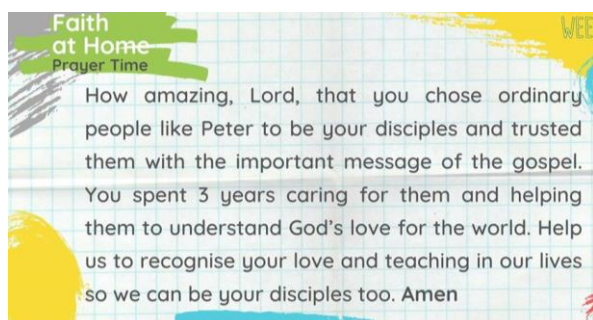
O God,
the strength of all those who put their trust in you,
mercifully accept our prayers
and, because through the weakness of our mortal
nature
we can do no good thing without you,
grant us the help of your grace,
that in the keeping of your commandments
we may please you both in will and deed;
through 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.

Morning Worship via You tube 10 am

Weekly evening prayer

Sam Nicol is on Facebook leading evening prayers at 7 pm every Wednesday. She invites you all to spend a few moments (or half an hour) in prayer – from your own home. If you are busy with other activities, then you can always say the Lord's prayer whenever you remember, and whatever time it is!

Keep praying at any time. And keep sending your messages every week. Thank you for praying, sharing and caring.



From The Word

Isaiah 40:28-31

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.



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Matthew 11:28-30

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Can you phone a friend with this information?

Daily Hope is a free-phone service set up by Justin Welby particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind. It offers 24 hour music, prayers, reflections and services.

Call 0800 804 8044.



We would like to keep in touch by offering a chat on the phone. If you would like to receive a phone call from someone known to the church family you can in the first instance contact

Millie on 01254 853432 or Lynn on 01772 323267.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sunday School Father's Day quiz - look out next week for our online quiz.....

And don't forget to keep sending prayers and pictures of hope, joy and happiness for a prayer chain via www.facebook.com/stjamesbrindle or to brindle.voice@brindlestjames.co.uk and Alison might include them in the next eVoice.

St. James' reads St. Luke's Gospel

On Wednesday 17th June 2020, St. James' Church will read St. Luke's Gospel. We invite everyone to read one chapter (or more!) of St. Luke's Gospel – you can even volunteer to read the whole gospel! It would be brilliant if between us, we could read the whole of St. Luke's Gospel during the course of the day so that we can deepen our understanding of Christ's life and mission, and pray that through reading God's Holy Word, we may receive His grace.

You might like to read:

- Chapter 1: The Angel Gabriel visits Mary.
- Chapter 2: The Nativity in Bethlehem.
- Chapter 6: The Sermon on the Plain.
- Chapter 8: The Good Samaritan.
- Chapter 15: The Prodigal Son.
- Chapter 23: The Crucifixion.
- Chapter 24: Christ's resurrection and ascension.

It would be lovely to know who reading each chapter, so if you feel able, please volunteer for a slot via our Doodle poll:

<https://doodle.com/poll/2id8m75inscgwess>

We would like as many people as possible to join in, so there are no limits as to how many people can sign up to read a particular chapter. That said, there is absolutely no obligation for you to sign up to read a chapter – you will be more than welcome to join in your own way.

Further ways of being involved are:

- Writing down a favourite verse from your reading and hanging it on our Prayer Tree in the churchyard.
- Letting us know your favourite verse via Facebook or Twitter.
- You can join 'Sam at Seven' on Facebook for some guided prayer.

Thank you for your interest, and we hope that you will join us on Wednesday 17th June as we read St. Luke's Gospel together.

Brindle St James Church – Great News – Reopening for Private Prayer

After weeks of our Church being closed, we are now able to open for **PRIVATE PRAYER ONLY**. This means, the opportunity to go inside Church, either alone or with people with whom you live, to use the church for a time of personal prayer. The first opening is **Tuesday 16 June from 10.00 to 12.00** and we will let you know of further dates.

We would ask you to observe the guidelines developed for the protection of all who come to this time of private prayer.

Unfortunately, as with other public places, the toilets will not be open.



Money Matters

Thank you to everyone who is giving by standing order. It makes a massive difference now that the church is closed, as we have lost the way to receive gifts by envelopes or cash in the collection plate.

Brindle St. James' church bills have only reduced marginally. The PCC standing committee has done extensive work in considering each detail of the costs and produced a cash flow forecast. With a heavy heart we recognise that many people (and organisations) are experiencing similar cash flow difficulties.

As a church, Brindle St James relies wholly on donations to operate we want to continue and indeed do more, strengthened by the knowledge of our fellowship and the love our Lord has for us.

We are asking that everyone considers giving by bank transfer. **And if possible, increase giving to ensure our church's ministry can continue and be sustained at the end of this health crisis. Thank you.**



Brindle St. James' money matters page:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11478/page/52788/view/>

Latest news:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11478/news>

Worship recordings:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/brindlestjameschurch/videos>

You can view the twitter page without an account of your own: www.twitter.com/BrindleStJames

Luke 4:38-44

(New Revised Standard Version)

After leaving the synagogue Jesus entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked him about her. Then he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. Immediately she got up and began to serve them.

As the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various kinds of diseases brought them to him; and he laid his hands on each of them and cured them. Demons also came out of many, shouting, 'You are the Son of God!' But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Messiah.

At daybreak he departed and went into a deserted place. And the crowds were looking for him; and when they reached him, they wanted to prevent him from leaving them. But he said to them, 'I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other cities also; for I was sent for this purpose.' So he continued proclaiming the message in the synagogues of Judea.

Reflection by James Mawdesley Sunday 14th June 2020

This coming Wednesday, we are having our Luke's gospel day. We are inviting everyone in the parish to read one chapter or more from Luke's gospel – it can be any chapter, so feel free to choose. Lynn has today sent out some suggested chapters and also a link to our Doodle poll. You

don't need to sign up on the Doodle poll, but it is nice to know who is reading which chapter. It would be lovely if between us we could read the whole gospel across the day! <https://doodle.com/poll/2id8m75inscgwess>

There are a few reasons why we have chosen Luke's gospel for Wednesday. About two-thirds of Luke's gospel is framed around Jesus' final journey from Galilee into Jerusalem, where He would die on the cross and then rise again. This motif seems quite apt for us at the moment, as we journey towards a new-normal post-Covid. Even church will be different in some ways, but God will provide new opportunities as we look to the future, and we will still have the gift of fellowship with each other! Another reason is that Luke's gospel contains the parables, and famous stories such as the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son are unique to Luke's gospel. There is a real sense in Luke's gospel of the Kingdom of God, as Jesus uses these wonderful stories to reveal to us aspects of what God's Kingdom looks like. One interesting but seemingly little known fact about the Good Samaritan is that this story is not actually framed as a parable by Jesus, which leaves open the exciting possibility that Jesus is re-telling a real tale of kindness and generosity between strangers which actually happened on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho all those years ago!

The main reason why we have chosen Luke's gospel is that it seems to hold significance for where we are at the moment as we as a society perhaps take our first steps into a world where

coronavirus is beginning to come under control. Luke the evangelist is usually assumed to be Luke the physician, on whose behalf Paul conveys his greetings to the church at Colosse (Colossians 4:14). Luke certainly seems to have had more interest than the other gospel writers in the precise diagnosis of the different ailments which Jesus heals, and his style of writing seems to be more methodical than that of the other gospel writers. Most scholars believe that Luke wrote his gospel about 85AD, so about fifty years after Jesus' death and resurrection.

The reading I have chosen for today does not actually feature on any Sundays in the three year lectionary cycle, so you may well have never heard it read in church! However, when I was looking through Luke's gospel to find a reading for today, this one really seemed to jump out at me.

The most obvious factor is that Simon's mother-in-law is 'suffering from a high fever'. Sadly, we don't know her name, though Simon is traditionally assumed to be the Simon whom Jesus renames as Peter, and who becomes one of his closest friends and disciples. We have all probably come to recognise a fever as being one of the symptoms of coronavirus for which we have been asked to look out. If we have had coronavirus or know of friends or relatives who have had it, we may well wish that we could have had Jesus there to rebuke the fever so that it went away. What is striking about this story is that the people brought their sick friends and relatives to Jesus for healing, just as the sun was setting. This is the time when day

meets night, and this setting might even have been intended by Luke to be symbolic of those who were brought to Jesus as they stood at the twilight of life. Jesus, though, healed them all.

Elsewhere, in Mark's gospel, when the friends of the paralysed man lowered him down to Jesus through the roof of the house, Jesus praises their faith for having led to the man's healing (Mark 2:5). When our relatives are seriously ill, we probably pray and hope for their recovery, or at least that they might be comfortable in their illness. We might wish that Jesus was there to heal them, and I think that this is one of the challenges for us as Christians two thousand years after Jesus had lived. We have to accept that Jesus' earthly ministry is over and He is not around to heal us in person, as He was for those people in Galilee all those years ago. However, as Jesus promised His disciples as He ascended into Heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father, He has left us with the Holy Spirit. In the King James Bible, the Spirit is described as the 'Comforter' (John 14:26). Even in our times of suffering and distress, the Holy Spirit is within us comforting us and strengthening us as we tackle whatever adversities we may have to face in their lives. When we pray, or even if we just bring ourselves into the presence of God, we enter into that Trinity of Love – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Our prayers and hopes may not be answered in the ways in which we would want, but we trust in a God who created us, loves us, and who wants what is best for us (Romans 8:28).

Luke suggests that Jesus healed numerous people that evening, but I want to conclude with a thought about what Jesus does next. Luke says that early the next morning, Jesus retreated to 'a deserted place'. Jesus is more than aware of His mission, to 'proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God', but He still takes this time to Himself.

I think that we have a very pious image of what Jesus did when He retreated into lonely places – I think that we often imagine that He spent hours on His knees in prayer to His Father. I don't think that that is always a helpful image for us, as we can end up feeling guilty about the prayers which we have not said. Luke does not say that Jesus spent any time in prayer. He simply retreated to have some time to Himself. Many of us are probably struggling to have time to ourselves, be that because of demands on our times from families or work or home-schooling. If we do spend time in our own company, our minds wander and we think about our worries or concerns at this time, be they in our personal lives or in the wider world. When we do have time to ourselves, feel free to do what Jesus does – just sit in the presence of God. We don't need to do anything – as we have a gracious God, He will come to us and meet us. We don't need to say anything – the Trinity will envelope us in its love, and as Paul writes, the Holy Spirit can interpret the thoughts which we cannot put into words (Romans 8:26).

Perhaps this is one element of what Jesus means by 'the good news of the Kingdom

of God' – that even when we are feeling tired and weary, we are part of that Kingdom, and as Psalm 23 so wonderfully expresses, 'he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul'. This is the Kingdom as a present entity, but it is also a future entity, where social justice is valued and upheld. Recent events in the United States offer a painful reminder that we as followers of Christ still have plenty of work to do to achieve this vision, but like Jesus, we need our times of stillness and rest so that we can be firing on all cylinders in bringing about the Kingdom of God in the world around us. We also need our time with Scripture. One of the standout news items of the last month has been about the misuse of the Bible, so let us take time to read from Luke and use Scripture as its writers intended – as a means through which God can speak to us.

Luke's gospel is a treasure trove of stories about Jesus, all of which give us insights to consider as we contemplate what it means to be a disciple of Christ in this world. I hope that you will consider joining us in reading part of Luke's gospel on Wednesday, and through doing so, you will be able to rest in God's presence as we strive to bring about the Kingdom of God.