

FIRST READING

Isaiah 56.1, 6–8

People from all races and backgrounds are welcome on God's holy mountain. We ensure this vision of harmony by acting with justice and integrity.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

¹ Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant –

⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt-offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸ Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

PSALM 67

**R/ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.**

¹ May God be merciful to us and bless us,
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.

² Let your ways be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations. **R/**

⁴ Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth. **R/**

⁶ The earth has brought forth her increase;
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.

⁷ May God give us his blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him. **R/**

SECOND READING

Romans 11.1–2a, 29–32

God is not partial, favouring one group over another. We share the same history of disobedience and will all benefit equally from God's undivided mercy.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ² God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

GOSPEL

Matthew 15.10-28

Jesus respects the persistence and wisdom of a foreign woman whose faith is impressive. He humbly learns from her about the boundless extent of his ministry.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁰ Then Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, ‘Listen and understand: ¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.’ ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, ‘Do you know that the Pharisees took offence when they heard what you said?’ ¹³ He answered, ‘Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.’ ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, ‘Explain this parable to us.’ ¹⁶ Then he said, ‘Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.’

²¹ Jesus went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² A Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, ‘Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.’ ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, ‘Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.’ ²⁴ He answered, ‘I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house

of Israel.' 25 But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' 26 He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' 27 She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' 28 Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymns - (AMRW):

Introit	AMRW 365 – Let us build a house
Gradual	AMRW 679 – In Christ there is no east or west
Offertory	AMRW 781 – Son of God, eternal Saviour
During Communion	AMRW 694 – Jesus, Lord, we look to thee
	AMRW 425 – Be known to us in breaking bread
After Communion	AMRW 588 – And can it be that I should gain

Next week we welcome the family, Godparents, and friends of Annabel and Emily Smith who are to be baptised in our 10.30 am Eucharist.

Baptism marks the beginning of a journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives, the first step in response to God's love. For all involved, particularly the candidates but also parents, godparents and sponsors, it is a joyful moment when we rejoice in what God has done for us in Christ, making serious promises and declaring the faith. The wider community of the local church and friends welcome the new Christian, promising support and prayer for the future. Hearing and doing these things provides an opportunity to remember our own baptism and reflect on the progress made on that journey, which is now to be shared with this new member of the Church.

Please pray for Annabel and Emily as they start their Christian journeys.

Next Sunday, 23 August is
the 12th Sunday after Trinity
Eucharist: 10.30 am with Holy Baptisms
with the Revd Prof Anthony Bash

Readings:

Isaiah 51.1-6;
Romans 12.1-8;
Matthew 16.13-20

Parish of St Cuthbert, Benfieldside

The Parish is currently in vacancy please contact:

Wardens: Mrs Linda Short ☎ 01207 503750/07734 355911

Mrs Carol O'Malley e-mail: carolomalley@talktalk.net

Web-site: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/13511/

Facebook pages : facebook.com/benfieldside

11th SUNDAY after TRINITY

16 August 2026

In today's Gospel we meet a pagan woman who had the most extraordinary faith in Jesus, a faith that was rewarded with the cure of her sick daughter. During this Eucharist let us with faith bring our needs and concerns to God, whose children we are.

Eucharist: 10.30 am – We welcome the Revd Canon Stephen Herbert today.

Collect:

God of glory,
the end of our searching,
help us to lay aside
all that prevents us from seeking your kingdom,
and to give all that we have
to gain the pearl beyond all price,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ. **AMEN.**



Gospel acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice, says the Lord,
I know them and they follow me.

Alleluia!

Eucharistic Prayer B is used

*We welcome communicant members of any Christian Church to **receive communion**
- people who don't receive communion are invited to receive a blessing*

We don't take a **collection** during the service. *But offerings may be left in the plates at the back of church.* Thanks for your support!

Refreshments follow the Parish Eucharist in the Church Hall. Please join us.