

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 18.1–4, 25–32

A reading from the book of Ezekiel.

1 The word of the LORD came to me: 2 What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The parents have eaten sour grapes and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? 3 As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. 4 Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

25 Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is unfair.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? 26 When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. 27 Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. 28 Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. 29 Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is unfair.’ O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

30 Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. 31 Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? 32 For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

PSALM

Psalms 25.1-8

THE PSALM IS OMITTED TODAY

1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me. 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes. 3 Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths. 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long. 5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting. 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord. 7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; therefore he teaches sinners in his way. 8 He guides the humble in doing right and teaches his way to the lowly. 9 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

SECOND READING

Philippians 2.1–13

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

¹ If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴

Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

GOSPEL

Matthew 21.23–32

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

²³ When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, ‘By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?’ ²⁴ Jesus said to them, ‘I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?’ And they argued with one another, ‘If we say, “From heaven,” he will say to us, “Why then did you not believe him?”’ ²⁶ But if we say, “Of human origin,” we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.’ ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, ‘We do not know.’ And he said to them, ‘Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, “Son, go and work in the vineyard today.” ²⁹ He answered, “I will not”; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, “I go, sir”; but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?’ They said, ‘The first.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

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!

Hymns - (AMRW):

Introit AMRW 223 – All hail the power of Jesu's name
Gradual AMRW 794 – The King of love my shepherd is
Offertory AMRW 232 – The head that once was crowned
During Communion AMRW 602 – Blest are the pure in heart
AMRW 629 – Father, hear the prayer we offer
After Communion AMRW 818 – To God be the glory

Dates for your diary...

Saturday 3 October – 1.00 – 4.30 pm

Derwent Valley Team Vision Day at Christ Church Consett

Working with all the other six churches in the Team.

Please let Carol know if you wish to attend.

Saturday 10 October – 10.00 – 12.00 noon

Preparing our Parish Profile – St Cuthbert's Church Hall

We need to start working on our Parish Profile which will be used when adverts are placed for the new appointments in the Derwent Valley Team.

All are welcome to attend and contribute.

Coffee and cake on offer too...

Next Sunday, 4 October is the

18th Sunday after Trinity

Eucharist: 10.30 am

with the Revd Anthony Bash

Readings:

Isaiah 5.1-7;
Philippians 3.4b-14;
Matthew 21.33-end

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

17th SUNDAY after TRINITY

27 September 2026

Jesus is a radical. He gets to the roots of things. Today he asks us to look at our lives and to ask whether our deeds measure up to our words.

Eucharist: 10.30 am – We welcome the Revd Canon Gavin Wort today.

Collect:

Lord of creation,
whose glory is around and within us:
open our eyes to your wonders,
that we may serve you with reverence
and know your peace at our lives' end,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

Gospel acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

If anyone loves me he will keep my word
and my Father will love him,
and we shall come to him. **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*

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