

St John's

Prayers:

Gracious God, we pray for your grace to love as you love, and to treat all people with love, mercy and compassion. May our acts of kindness bring others closer to you so that your love is known throughout the world. We pray for healing and wholeness for the sick, especially:

Sick: Scott Bradley, Dawn Forey, Ruth Gillespie, Hanna Lebrato, Marion Mason and Sue Ralfe.

RIP: Bibaa Henry, Nicole Smallman

We pray in the name of Jesus, our light and salvation. Amen.

Contacts

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The Parish Office is closed.

Matthew and Jonny are continuing to say Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer in their homes every day. Join them [here](#).

St John's Church Lockdown Pew Sheet 28th June 2020

Welcome!

The Government has allowed places of worship to open for individual prayer from 15th June

**St John's Church is open:
26-28 June (4pm-6pm), 29 June-5 July (10am-midday).**

In recent days the Government has also said that places of worship may also open for public worship and weddings from 4th July.

We are awaiting guidance from the Diocese of London to understand what measures must be place before we do this.

**There is no longer Jew or Greek,
there is no longer slave or free,
there is no longer male and female;
for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.**
Galatians 3:28

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - MISSION STATEMENT

Drawn together by Christ's love, we seek by his grace to live out his commandments to love the Lord our God with all of our being; and to love everyone we come across as we love ourselves.

www.stjohnschurchstanmore.org.uk

Please do check our website for future updates

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The Third Sunday After Trinity

Collect

God our saviour, look on this wounded world in pity and in power; hold us fast to your promises of peace won for us by your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Bible Readings (click on links to access passages):

[Jeremiah 28:5-9](#)

[Psalm 89:8-18](#)

[Romans 6:12-23](#)

[Matthew 10-40-42](#)

Short Sermon by Lydia McLean, Licensed Lay Minister

In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus speaking to the twelve disciples, and all of us, about their mission; coming persecutions for ministering in his name, the danger of pride, the care of God for them and all creation, divisions in households through proclaiming his name, and recognising that no one is outside God's love and mercy.

Welcome is a key word today, reminding us of the hymn, 'Let us build a house...' with the chorus 'all are welcome in this place'. Who are the 'little ones' of whom Jesus speaks about giving a cup of cold water? Matthew tells us the mission of the twelve; "proclaim the Good News; 'the kingdom of God has come near. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons.'

Jesus reminds us of our responsibility to show God's love to all people regardless of race, remembering with sorrow injustice handed out to the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities through the centuries and now in the light of George Floyd's unjust death. We are called to show God's love regardless of gender, sexuality, background or education. It reminds us of the Good Samaritan's compassion, his race and faith rejected by the Jews, who saw human need, binding the man's wounds and paying for board and lodging until he recovered.

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It reminds us, in the Letter of James, to treat rich and poor alike, not showing favouritism, treating all worshippers equally with love, compassion and respect. It reminds us of the Samaritan woman at the well who asks Jesus for the living water that quenches our thirst, physical and spiritual. It reminds us to look beyond ourselves to the God of love, hope, mercy and compassion and to act with love, mercy and compassion in his name.

We can shut God and others out through sin, fear or doubt. Attitudes of mind may keep the door shut and bolted. We may doubt that God hears us; we feel unworthy; we think God has better things to do than be bothered with us. Giving a cup of water to those who feel lost, rejected and at the end of their tether makes a real difference. Alexander Solzhenitsyn spent years in Siberian prison camps labouring in the fields in all weathers. The backbreaking work and slow starvation reduced him to a state of despair. One day he gave up and sat down knowing that when the guard saw him, he would be beaten to death. Sensing someone, he saw a skinny old prisoner squat down silently beside him. The man said nothing but used a stick to trace in the dirt the sign of the Cross. The man then got back up and returned to his work. Solzhenitsyn stared at the Cross drawn in the dirt and his entire perspective changed. He was only one man against the all-powerful Soviet empire. Yet he knew there was something greater than the evil he saw around him.

He knew that hope for all people was represented by that simple Cross, and through the power of the Cross, anything was possible. He got up, picked up his shovel, and went back to work. Outwardly, nothing had changed; inside, he had received hope.

My prayer is that we are agents of God's love, mercy and compassion, through our attitudes, words, and acts of kindness. As we allow God to change us from the inside out, in welcoming all people, may we bring love, healing and hope to every person and situation that we encounter, especially at this time of pandemic, by simple loving acts of kindness, cups of water, in Christ's name. Amen.