

St John's

Prayers:

Lord God, friend of those in need, your Son Jesus has untied our burdens and healed our spirits. We lift up the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened, those seeking healing, those in need within the church and the world. Among those in need we pray for:

Sick:

Lolita Alvira, Scott Bradley, Helen Elliot, Dawn Forey, Ruth Gillespie, Sian Harries, Hanna Lebrato, Marion Mason, Alex Michael, Sue Ralfe and Finn.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

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

Pew Sheet

11th October 2020

Welcome!

The Government has allowed places of worship to open for services and individual prayer.

Services

9.30am Sundays
10.30am Wednesdays

Individual Prayer

10.30am-12.30pm Sundays and Wednesdays

Our [online services](#) will continue for the time being.

"Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philipians 4:6-7

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 Eighteenth Sunday After Trinity

Collect:

God, our judge and saviour, teach us to be open to your truth and to trust in your love, that we may live each day with confidence in the salvation which is given through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings:

[Isaiah 25:1-9](#)

[Philippians 4:1-9](#)

[Matthew 22:1-14](#)

Short Sermon by the Rector

"Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

It has been said that in life, change is the only true constant. We are in a constant state of flux in all ways, from the microscopic – in how our bodies regenerate themselves on the cellular level, to the experiential – discovering suddenly, after years of avoidance, that you really do like Brussel sprouts!

Most of life's changes occur over long periods, so we hardly notice them. Yet, at other times, we are brutally thrust into change without any warning. The process of change can also linger for a very long time, making the experience even more unbearable. An American theologian defines this change as "entering and inhabiting liminal space."

The word liminal comes from the Latin root word "limen," which means "threshold." Liminal spaces are transitional or transformative spaces. Liminal spaces are in-between spaces, where our former ways of being are challenged or changed. Often, they are hard spaces to live in, spaces of disorientation and discomfort, perhaps like hanging in mid-air. What do the people of God do when they find themselves in liminal spaces – when they have been waiting too long? What happens when we become impatient and worry? Do we

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rush to action in anger? Make rash decisions? Do we build golden calves and worship other gods in pursuit of our own ungodly agendas? Moses found the Israelites doing this when he returned from Mount Sinai.

For months now, we have inhabited a liminal space. We find ourselves in a wilderness of uncertainty and unfamiliarity. We have been cut off from loved ones and experiences that brought meaning to our lives and having returned to some semblance of normality, we are told Covid cases are rising again. Life in pandemic is truly liminal. Liminal spaces have a way of overturning the daily rhythms and practices that give our lives an element of cohesion, manageability, and meaning. They upend those rituals in life that bring us comfort. Yet, while liminal space might put an end to or infringe upon our rituals and rhythms, they can also provide an opportunity to be more intentional and more creative, leading us to develop new rituals. There is a healing ingenuity that can arise from fearful and anxious times.

Life in a liminal space offers us the opportunity to be intentional about the way we worship and communicate with God. We can be intentional about our needs and also the needs of others. Life in liminal spaces offers us the opportunity for growth and transformation. There is great spiritual treasure to be found in waiting – the practice of cultivating patience. It's a practice that raises faith to a profound trust that God is working and moving even when things seem to be going nowhere. And that God's good time is the right time. In our impatience and worry, our relationships and our health suffer. Sometimes anxiety and uncertainty cause us to seek gods we can control and worship idols that we choose...

As both saints and sinners, we live liminal lives between brokenness and wholeness, between suffering and joy, between focusing on ourselves and focusing on God. It is in these in-between times that we can feel uncertain, frustrated, disappointed, or frightened. It is in these times that we can become impatient. Yet, it is also in these times that we can find encouragement in the words of St. Paul, when he says, "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Amen.