

A few words on our readings

Isaiah 40:12-17. 27-31 This is written towards the end of the Israelites' captivity in Babylon when Babylon falls to the Persians. Isaiah proclaims the supremacy of God the Creator of the Universe and the Redeemer of humankind. **He is *the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth***. He is the God who consoles and gives strength to those who believe in him. This is a powerful message for us today, yearning for the end of lockdown. ***Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength***. The final images are often quoted, they are words of great hope and encouragement which we all need at this time.

They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

2 Corinthians 13:11-13 Paul's message contains the very essence of our common life in Christ and his advice remains as relevant to the members of the Church today as they were then. Although the doctrine of the Trinity had not yet been formulated it is clear that in the words of 'The Grace' the Early Church understood the threefold nature of the one God. The Grace is often used to conclude both worship and meetings, but we can make it our prayer for each other today and every day.

Matthew 28: 11-13 Just a couple of weeks after we celebrated the Ascension of our Lord we return to that same event as Jesus takes final leave of his disciples, giving them his Great Commission to reveal God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Those who become his disciples are to be baptised in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. These very words are repeated at baptism to this day and will be repeated to the end of time.

Last week we prayed for the coming of the Holy Spirit, this week we pray that the Holy Spirit may bring the wind of change into our lives and the life of the Church.

God of wind and dove and fire,
speak freedom, peace and change
over lands divided by war and by creed.
Speak refreshment, assurance and warmth
over lives afflicted by exhaustion and illness.
Speak integrity, humility and challenge
over churches crippled by fear and finances.
Speak calm, gentleness and comfort
over lives broken by grief and loss.
Speak power, anointing and healing over
each one of us,
that there may be new beginnings,
and a catalyst for change.

Amen.

(rootsontheweb.com)

Prayers for 07.06.20

With the approach of Trinity Sunday we again think of the nature of God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is all things to all people and we are so blessed to have a God like that. It is a very difficult concept to understand and is one which we would have attempted to illustrate in a church service – for now let's look forward to 2021 when, hopefully, this could happen.

We continue to pray for all NHS workers and carers who put themselves in danger of infection in order to help others who may be ill or isolating. Thank you for the wonderful examples of selflessness which we can see all around us.

We pray for all who are ill or may be sad and lonely, especially those who have lost family and friends recently and for whom life will never be the same again. We pray for the recently departed Sheila Baggott, Sheila Wheeler, Mary Griffiths and June Webb and also for those in our memorial book whose anniversary occurs this week: Fred Straw, Arthur Oldham and Marjorie Harper.

We also pray for Henry Tompkin, a much loved and respected figure in the community, who died this week. Henry was a gifted flautist in the church music group for many years and a long standing central figure in the Whiston Heritage Society. Together with his late wife Den, he also had a huge impact on the lives of many young people through the scouting movement. Henry was a knowledgeable and interesting historian and so, instead of using a specially written prayer for Trinity Sunday, may I suggest we use a well-loved prayer from the 16th century which Henry would have known. Let us pray:

Blessing and honour, thanksgiving and praise,
more than we can utter,
more than we can conceive,
be unto thee, O holy and glorious Trinity,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
by all creatures, all men, all angels,
for ever and ever, Amen *(Bishop Lancelot Andrews)*

Reminder

TV & Radio programmes: **Sunday Worship** BBC one 10 am & on radio 4 at 8-10 am, **Songs of Praise** BBC 1 at 13-15; **The Daily Service** (15 minutes on weekdays) at 9h45 on BBC Radio 4 long wave; **Choral Evensong** Wednesday at 3-30pm on BBC Radio 3 & on Sundays 3pm.

A FREE PHONE LINE For WORSHIP & PRAYERS for people without INTERNET
0800 804 8044 is available 24 hours a day and is a simple new way to bring worship and prayer into people's homes while church buildings are closed because of the coronavirus. **Daily Hope** offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the **end of a telephone line.**