

Father we pray for all who take counsel for nations; for governments and councils, for all whose decisions affect the lives of others. May justice and righteousness prosper.

Father as the pandemic restrictions are being lifted, larger numbers of our nation are returning to work, and leisure facilities are opening up to the wider community. We pray that the guidelines set down by the Government will be followed for the safety of all.

Father we pray for the sick in our community and for all whose spirits are weak and who seek to be set free from their ailments. Bring us to rejoice in the wonders of your healing touch.

Father, you hold all souls in life. Bring all the departed to the place of refreshment and peace and, as we remember them with love and gratitude, we commend them to your eternal rest and unchanging affection.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us evermore. Amen.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen

## Weekly Prayer Notes



- For those in the parish and further afield who are sick or in need that they receive peace and healing, including: Irene Foord, Mary Mines, Helena Oecken, Ian Wilson, Ron Goodearl, Ian Goodearl, Phillipa King and Barnaby Woods.
- We pray at this time for the country of South Africa, for the people of Cape Town and Diocese of Kimberly and Kuruman, which have been badly affected by Covid-19. For our Linked Parish of St. Mary's Kuruman.
- For the people of the parish of St. Peters, Kampala in Uganda following the destruction of the church they had built.
- For Peace and Resolution for the peoples of those countries where there is conflict or tension and for the peacekeeping and aid agencies bringing relief. We pray for Lebanon and the City of Beirut following the recent devastating explosion at the port.
- For our Government and Parliament at this time of uncertainty.
- For migrants that they may receive justice and mercy.
- Safety for Christians and peoples of all faiths in danger.
- For our church family and our mission and ministry in this community.

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# PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, LACEY GREEN



Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith

Week Commencing  
SUNDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2020  
**1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

## WELCOME TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

You are warmly welcomed to St. John's Church, particularly if you are new to our congregation or are a visitor. St. John's is a member Church of the Risborough Team Ministry, serving the parish of Lacey Green, Loosely Row and Speen.

We warmly welcome Rev. Peter Viney who will be leading our 10:00 service at St. John's today. Our Licenced Lay Minister, Graham King, will be leading the 11:00 am services on Zoom today.

## UPDATE – WORSHIP IN ST JOHN'S CHURCH

After over three months of not having services at St. John's, limited services have resumed at St. John's, with the Said Communion services being held on Tuesdays at 9:30 am and on Sundays at 10:00 am (BST) only for those wishing to attend. The regular Sunday on-line service on Zoom will now be held at 11:00 am (BST). Unfortunately, 8:00 am Services on Sundays remain suspended for the present.

As you may have seen in the press, currently singing in Church or playing wind instruments is not allowed. Holy Communion will be in one kind only and the 2-metre social distancing requirement will apply. Contact details of those attending will need to be recorded in a suitable notebook and details kept for 3 weeks. A guidance sheet of "Do's and Don'ts" based on information from the Diocese of Oxford is available. Current guidance is that wearing a face mask within the church building is now mandatory apart from the celebrant, those reading lessons / leading intercessions and during receipt of Holy Communion.

### Weekly Services:

SUNDAY	
10:00 am	Said Communion (Common Worship)
11:00 am	On-line Morning Worship on Zoom
TUESDAY	
9:30 am	Said Communion (Common Worship)

## FOCUS ON... WHAT ARE THE QUALITIES NECESSARY FOR GOOD LEADERSHIP?

If you were asked, what is your identity, how would you reply? And what are the qualities necessary for good leadership? Our Gospel today addresses both issues but from a rather different perspective. As to the identity of Jesus, many in the crowds were confused as to his identity. Was he a prophet re-incarnated? Isaiah or Jeremiah or John the Baptist? So, Jesus asked his disciples. As often the case, the first to answer was the impetuous Simon Peter.; "you are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God". This shows a recurrent theme in the teaching of Jesus; asking questions, what do you think and seeking affirmation of faith. Simon Peter certainly got this answer right.

So, what was the reaction of Jesus to the affirmation from Simon Peter? "God's blessing on you" and Jesus refers to him initially as Simon, son of John, his earthly name. But immediately he contrasts this with the name by which he will be known in the future, Petros or Peter, meaning the rock. However, to keep Peter grounded, Jesus tells him that he did not come to this revelation by his own knowledge, his flesh and blood but only by revelation from my Father in Heaven. In other words, this deep understanding was revealed by God not as a result of human learning. Perhaps, at times, we should rely and listen more to the Spirit within rather than trying to self-educate ourselves relying on earthly knowledge.

And so, Jesus shows great trust in the impetuous Peter; he is to be the foundation of his Church- no pressure then. But he will be equipped to cope; we are never given a task that is too great for us; so, he is reassured that he will never be overpowered by hell and evil. And as a sign of his faith and trust in Peter, we read in our Gospel today that Peter is handed the keys of heaven; the ultimate symbol of authority; a sign of handing over earthly control to Peter as Jesus prepares to return to his Father in heaven. And a new community of faith on earth is commissioned. This will absorb Peter's time and energy for the rest of his life and is in fulfilment of the Old Testament promises of an everlasting kingdom established by a descendant of David as ruler.

But again, Peter is not left without help. For Peter is told that whatever he ties up on earth will be tied up in heaven. But above all, Peter stands as a reassuring example of Christ's forgiving grace for those who have failed him (as we all frequently do) and yet, he used Peter, through Christ's grace and forgiveness for his glory despite Peter's many personal failings. This is a testament that we too can be used for His service despite our weaknesses. And so, to us as heirs to that community formed on the shoulders of Peter so long ago. Will we reflect a hidden Jesus or will we be bold ambassadors for Jesus revealing his power for a troubled world and bearing witness by what we say and do?

Graham King

## COLLECT FOR 11<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever, *Amen*.

## ZOOM SERVICE FOR THE 11<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

This Sunday's Online Morning Worship service on Zoom will be led by Graham King (Lay Minister) and start at the new time of **11:00 am** BST. The hymns will be led by Cher and Gavin Mole. Other members of the congregation will be taking part. Details are being supplied in the email sending out this Pew sheet, and are as follows:

Topic: St. John's Church - 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Trinity Service

Time: Aug 23, 2020 **11:00** AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71971120234?pwd=bklFeGxnWGdpa3VCQURaLy9yeUU3UT09>

Meeting ID: 719 7112 0234

Passcode: jEbCx6

*(if copying the above into your internet browser window, you need to type in all of the text in blue as a single entry without a space – it has been split into two for formatting purposes.)*



## READINGS FOR 11<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (Proper 16)

Isaiah Ch. 51 VV. 1 – 6  
Romans Ch. 12 VV. 1 – 8

Matthew Ch. 16 VV. 13 – 20

## PRAYER CHAIN PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

*(Intercessions during the services will be led by Pat Rushmere)*

We thank you heavenly Father, for the gift of your Holy Spirit among us as we pray to you now.

Father you build your Church on both the strength and frailty of your disciples. Pour out the riches of your grace, that with diverse gifts your Church may further your Kingdom. Nothing shall prevail against your will.

We pray for a world damaged by the Coronavirus pandemic. We pray for the safety and protection of all Key workers, in the NHS and elsewhere and for the children, the young people, the elderly and the vulnerable.