

Christ and St John, Isle of Dogs
'Building a healthy Community through our Christian Faith'
Sunday 26th May 2019
The Sixth Sunday Of Easter

11am Mass, President and Preacher Fr. Tom Pyke,

Opening Hymn: NEH 137 Come down, O Love divine

Collect: God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; 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 forever.

First Reading: Acts 16.9-15 During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.' And she prevailed upon us.

Psalm 67 God be gracious to us and bless us • and make his face to shine upon us, **That your way may be known upon earth, • your saving power among all nations.** Let the peoples praise you, O God; • let all the peoples praise you. **O let the nations rejoice and be glad, • for you will judge the peoples righteously and govern the nations upon earth.** Let the peoples praise you, O God; • let all the peoples praise you. **Then shall the earth bring forth her increase, • and God, our own God, will bless us.** God will bless us, • and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

Second Reading: Revelation 21.10,22 - 22.5 And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honour of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practises abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

Gospel: John 14.23-29 Jesus answered him, 'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me. 'I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, "I am going away, and I am coming to you." If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

Offertory Hymn: NEH 139 Come, thou Holy Spirit, come
Communion: NEH 342 Breathe on me, Breath of God
Closing Hymn: NEH 106 Come, ye faithful, raise the strain

Please pray for: The sick: Samantha McTasney, Tina Barlow, Ben Mason, Jacqui Scott, Joy Watts, Donna, Alf Mansfield, Rene Smith, Kath Martin, George White, Chris Berwick, Iris Keith, Karen Moore, Hubert Chesshyre, Jill Skells, Jayashri Shirke, Mary Mansfield, Sue Kean.

This week's events.

Morning Prayer 8.30am each morning except Monday, Friday and Saturday

Evening Prayer 5.30 pm each evening except Wednesday and Saturday

Mon 27 May	Rogation Day 7.45pm London Docklands Singers 8.00pm Alcoholics Anonymous
Tues 28 May	10.30am Island Gardens Foodbank 4.30pm Fisher Folk & Hymn Practice (open to all) 5.30pm Protopopova Music Group
Weds 29 May	5.30pm Expression with Arts class 8.00pm Bellringing
Thurs 30 May	8.00am Church Cleaning 7.30pm Ascension Day Mass (beginning of our Patronal Festival, and with 'proper' refreshments!)
Fri 31 May	12.30-1.00pm IGBCA prayers in the crypt 8.30 - 9.30pm Cocaine Anonymous
Sun 2 June	11am Christ Church Patronal Service (no Sunday School) 1pm Patronal Festival Lunch 2pm Harp concert, with Julie Hodgskin 5.00pm Baptisms, Weddings, Safeguarding Office 6.30pm Evening Prayer

	<p>Go contactless with your collection! If you are visiting Christ Church for the Bank Holiday you might like to use our cardless system for your donation (we all know how easy it is not to have cash for the collection!) At the end of the service, during coffee, there will be someone to help you at the table in front of the organ console. If you have signed a Gift Aid form you can still use this service but you need to tell us on the clipboard beside the terminal that you've made a donation.</p>
	<p>It's time to start planning for the Summer Fete. We have marmalade and we have tomato plants (lots of tomato plants...) but they won't fill a summer's afternoon on their own. Could you run a stall; do you have imaginative ideas that you would like to put into practice; do you always think 'If only there was a, this would be perfect'? Please make your offers to Rachel Lees at rachellees@yahoo.co.uk</p>
	<p>On Sunday 9 June we will be marking Pentecost. To celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit one of the readings during the 11am service will be read by parishioners in different languages. Please contact Andrew Warner (andrew.warner@parishiod.org.uk) if you speak a foreign language and can assist, or if you would like further information.</p>
	<p>St Albans Festival Pilgrimage - Sat 22 June This is taking place at St Albans Cathedral on Saturday 22 June. The pilgrimage starts at 11am in the centre of St Albans with a procession which re-enacts the martyrdom of St Alban through a dramatised procession with carnival puppets. There then follows a Festival Eucharist (12pm, Preacher: The Dean of St Paul's) and Evensong with Procession to the Shrine of St Alban (4pm, Preacher: Diarmaid MacCulloch, Professor of the History of the Church, Oxford University). It is an amazing spectacle and very moving with activities for children and families. You can join for as little or as much of the day as you like. If you are interested in attending or would like further information, please see Andrew Warner (andrew.warner@parishiod.org.uk).</p>
	<p>Pilgrimage to Little Gidding - Fri 25 and Sat 26 October 2019 We have provisionally booked accommodation at Ferrar House so we can go on pilgrimage to Little Gidding. At Little Gidding in the 1620s, just prior to the English Civil War, Nicholas Ferrar began the first Anglican religious community since the Reformation. The poet George Herbert visited it, as did Charles I (three times in all). TS Eliot wrote about Little Gidding in the finest of his <i>Four Quartets</i> The cost of one night's accommodation and a day retreat (together with all meals) will be in the region of £65 per person. Please contact Andrew Warner (andrew.warner@parishiod.org.uk) if you would be interested in attending or for more information.</p>
	<p>Boat trip on Sunday 30th June Fr. Tom would like to invite you and your friends and family to a Parish Thames Boat Trip to celebrate the uniqueness of our Parish and the place of our churches within it, on Sunday 30th June, from 1pm - 5pm We can offer this trip at £15 per head, with a picnic lunch included. Pick up and put down will be at Masthouse Pier, Napier Avenue, E14. To book and to pay, please go to the homepage of the website www.parishiod.org.uk</p>
	<p>Fraction-Packed A free Family Day celebrating the lives and works of the scientists buried and remembered alongside Stephen Hawking at Westminster Abbey. Join us in the beautiful College Garden at the Abbey – London's oldest walled garden – for this special session for the whole family to enjoy. Activities include: – Live science demonstrations – Circus250 StrongWomenScience show – Make your own usable crafts to take home. Book on the Westminster Abbey Website</p>
	<p>25th anniversary of the Ordination of women to the Priesthood in the Diocese of London. On Tuesday 4th June you are warmly invited to attend a special service to mark this anniversary. The Bishop of London, the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE, will be presiding and The Revd Canon Tricia Hillas, Canon Pastor at St Paul's Cathedral, will be preaching. The service will begin at 7pm, and all are welcome.</p>

Psalm 95 in words old and new

Fr. Tom writes: When I was a chaplain at Aston University I came across a 'retelling' of the Book of Psalms by Leslie Brandt called Psalms Now. Leslie Brandt writes in his introduction: I have tried to express what these Psalms say to me and about me. It is just possible that they may reveal to other readers something about themselves and give them a means of expressing their actual feelings in their conversations with God. These offerings are by no means an attempt to be scholarly or textual. On the other hand, they ought to indicate something of the honesty and humanity of the psalm-writers in their daily conflicts and to encourage us to be as honest in our pursuit of truth and our walk with God.

Here is Psalm 95 in the Miles Coverdale translation in the Book of Common Prayer:

**O come let us sing unto the Lord: let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving: and shew ourselves glad in him with psalms.
For the Lord is great God: and a great King above all gods, In his hand are all the corners of the earth: and the strength of the hills is his also.
The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands prepared the dry land.
O come, let us worship and fall down: and kneel before the Lord our maker.
For he is the Lord our God: and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.
To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts: as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness;
When your father tempted me: proved me, and saw my works.
Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said: It is a people that do erre in their hearts, for they have not known my ways;
Unto whom I sware in my wrath: that they should not enter into my rest.**

And here is Leslie Brandt's version. It isn't a translation as such, much more his expression of the psalm as he would say. People often learnt the traditional versions of psalms by heart, why not learn this version by heart for the joy and the exuberance it will give us in praising God?

**Let us begin this day with singing.
Whether we feel like it or not,
Let us make glad sounds
And force our tongues to articulate words of thanksgiving and praise.**

**The facts are: God is with us;
This world and who live in it are His;
He loves us;
He has adopted us as His children;
We belong to Him.
This makes us valid, worthwhile.
We are truly significant in the eyes of our God,
Irrespective of our human feelings
Or the comments of our critics about us.**

**This may not be the way we feel this morning,
But this is the way it is.
We don't need the plaudits of our peers,
For we have God's stamp of approval.**

**So let us begin this day with singing
Whether we feel like it or not.
Then we may end this day with praises,
Because we know- and may even feel-
That we shall forever be
The objects of God's concern
And the children of His love.**