



**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
20 SEPTEMBER 2020**

THE COLLECT

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit
upon your Church in the burning fire of your love:
grant that your people may be fervent
in the fellowship of the gospel
that, always abiding in you,
they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service;
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

THE READING:

JONAH 3.10-END OF 4

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, 'O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.' And the LORD said, 'Is it right for you to be angry?' Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, 'It is better for me to die than to live.'

But God said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?' And he said, 'Yes, angry enough to die.' Then the LORD said, 'You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?'

**THE GOSPEL:
MATTHEW 20.1-16**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord

For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

This is the gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you O Christ

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for those who are ill and those in particular need of prayer:

Mick and Ann, The Hallidan family, Phoebe, Barnie, Tony, Ethel, Michael,
Nicole, Laura, Jean, Misha, Felicity, Howard, Sylvia, Barnie, Phoebe, Fiona.

Faithful departed – Mike, Eduardo Dellegrotti, Mabel, un-named Grandpa (RIP).

NOTICES AND NEWS

CHURCH SERVICES SUNDAY

- 10am Sunday service **will be live streamed** on our [Facebook page](#).
- Evening prayer is **live streamed on Sunday at 7pm** on our [Facebook page](#).
- Private prayer and reflection **Sunday 11am-1pm**.

MONDAY TO SATURDAY

- Morning prayer is live streamed on our [Facebook page](#) at **9am**.

WEDNESDAY

- Holy Communion is celebrated on **Wednesdays at 1pm** and is live streaming through our [Facebook page](#).
- Private prayer and reflection **Wednesday 6-7.30pm**.

If you miss any of these, they are saved on the Facebook page so you can follow them in your own time.

CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

St John's is open every week for private prayer and reflection on **Sundays from 11am-1pm and Wednesdays 6-7.30pm** (subject to change in line with government and diocesan guidance). Whilst the Church is open, like all other public spaces, we are still required to maintain social distancing and other measures to stop the spread of COVID-19. If you can volunteer to come and sit in Church between 6-7.30pm or 11am-1pm on either day that would be brilliant, please let Mark know.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Following the changes in Covid-19 legislation we will sadly be unable to hold a coffee morning this year. However, if you would like to support Macmillan, there is a donations plate at the back of Church and then on Friday 25th September raise a mug to show your support. If you want, you can also upload a selfie to the Macmillan Wall of support. <https://coffee.macmillan.org.uk/>

ACTS 435

Acts 435 is a crowd funding giving site where those in need can make an appeal via our Church.

Please talk to Mark in confidence if you need help or would like to make a referral for support.

<https://youtu.be/u5ajMpLmkRk>

LINK TO HOPE SHOEBOX APPEAL

Forms are now available for this year's appeal, so if you'd like to start looking out for small gifts to send to a needy family or older person in Eastern Europe you can pick up a form in church, or you can download one at www.linktohope.co.uk/shoebox-appeal-2020.

Please do read the form carefully before you do anything else, so that you know which items to get, what size shoebox to use and how to wrap it up.

Filled and wrapped boxes will need to be brought into church by the end of October; further details to follow.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

We will be holding our Harvest Festival, All Age Worship on **Sunday 4th October at 10am**. The service will be held in church but also broadcast on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsKingstonUponThames> (as are all our other services); it would be brilliant if you could join us. This year we are collecting for the Food bank and for Water Aid.

If you would like to donate to the food bank we have a collection point outside Church House, 30 Bloom Field Road or you can bring your gifts to the Church.

Urgently needed food items...

Tinned meat and fish; tinned fruit; coffee; pasta sauce; rice pudding and custard; steam puddings.

We still need some...

Soup; long life milk; fruit juice and squash; tea.

We have plenty of...

Pasta, rice and noodles; cereals; pulses; baked beans.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

MUSICIANS WANTED!

Can you or someone you know play a musical instrument? In the current circumstances we are unable to sing hymns at our Sunday services and are therefore seeking other means by which we can include music in our worship. We are considering different options, such as inviting anyone who is willing to play as soloists whom I can accompany either on the organ or piano. We are also interested in forming a small music group to play fairly straight forward music to help people worship. Please, if you would like to participate or have any other suggestions, please contact Wendy: wmalseed@hotmail.co.uk

WHERE ARE ALL THE CHILDREN?

At home on Zoom! Whilst it's still not possible for us to hold children's church in our small spaces in church, Diddy Disciples, our worship group for babies, toddlers and young children aged 0-6yrs is happening every Sunday morning at home at 11am. Each session is 20 minutes of song, storytelling and prayer along with lots of ideas of creative activities you can do at home together. Throughout August we'll be telling the rich, foundational stories of Moses. All children new to St John's are very welcome to join the group; to get started we need contact details and signed parental permission and we will send you the weekly link and password. Please contact Emma and Mimi diddyatstjohnskingston@gmail.com

BANQUET SHOWS MUST GO ON

We hope it will not be too long before we can welcome the great live shows from Banquet Records back to St John's. Meanwhile, Banquet are now hosting a selection of live stream or Zoom events. www.banquetrecords.com/events

KINGSTON CHURCHES ACTION ON HOMELESSNESS

KCAH has been working with central government, Kingston Council and other agencies during recent months to support people who are homeless or at risk of becoming so, and in particular to find long-term solutions for those who've been shielding in hotels during the pandemic. Visit KCAH's website and click on 'Our stories' to watch some inspiring videos. **Donations in kind** are still very welcome, and in answer to an enquiry this week (5 August) they say that they urgently need underwear (especially men's boxer shorts), tracksuit bottoms, deodorants and sun cream. They already have plenty of other toiletries just now, and sleeping bags, but if we could make a collection of the urgent items above, ready to deliver in the next week or two, that would really help them.

CONTACTS FOR ST JOHN'S

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ST JOHN'S IS A MEMBER OF INCLUSIVE CHURCH:

www.inclusive-church.org.uk