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**May 5th 2021**

**Dear friends of St Clement and St Nicholas,**

There is a real sense of Spring in the air.

My first meeting today will be in the field above the Meadow planning the new woodland, an exciting project which will hopefully involve groups and organisations of all ages in the parish.

Good news has also come from our Treasurer Tricia and our tireless champion of the Leprosy Mission, Pam. In line with our aim to look outwards at a time when the spotlight was local and covid dominated we collected for the project in Mozambique. Every pound raised is to be matched by the UK Government and people responded very generously with £2,000 raised - more than making up for the lack of Lent Lunches which would normally be collecting money for charities.

Travel routes to the UK seem to be opening up enabling meetings with relatives and friends not seen for over a year and if we can navigate blockades perhaps we might be allowed into France again.

Tracy will be preaching this Sunday when we remember the Liberation. Central celebrations are not being held but it will be good to have a local parish reflection and prayers in thanks for liberation at the 10.30 service.

We hope you are keeping well,

David

Please click on the link for the 9am Service of Holy Communion in St Nicholas Church. on 2nd May 2021: <https://youtu.be/PYzepGg0HRs>

**The Parish Church of St. Clement**

**Parish Liberation Day Service May 9th, 2021**

**Welcome to this service on behalf of all the churches in the Parish of St. Clement.**

Lord for the years CA409 <https://youtu.be/Cd14v0e1RWU>

**Lord for the years**

**Your love has kept and guided**

**Urged and inspired us**

**Cheered us on our way**

**Sought us and saved us**

**Pardoned and provided**

**Lord of the years**

**We bring our thanks today.**

**Lord, for that word**

**The word of life which fires us**

**Speaks to our hearts**

**And sets our souls ablaze**

**Teaches and trains**

**Rebukes us and inspires us**

**Lord of the word**

**Receive your people’s praise.**

**Lord, for our land**

**In this our generation**

**Spirits oppressed by pleasure**

**Wealth and care**

**For young and old**

**For commonwealth and nation**

**Lord of our Land**

**Be pleased to hear our prayer.**

**Lord, for our world**

**When we disown and doubt him**

**Loveless in strength**

**And comfortless in pain**

**Hungry and helpless**

**Lost indeed without him**

**Lord of the world**

**We pray that Christ may reign.**

**Lord for ourselves**

**In living power remake us**

**Self on the cross**

**And Christ upon the throne**

**Past put behind us**

**For the future take us**

**Lord of our lives**

**To live for Christ alone.**

**Minister**: This is the day that the Lord has made **All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**Minister:** We have come together as the Family of God in our Father's presence to offer him praise and thanksgiving; to listen to his holy word and to bring before him the needs of the world.

Today we particularly remember with thanksgiving the deliverance of this island from the occupation. As we remember the sufferings and the joy of those days we are also mindful of those who have lost loved ones through war and offer our prayers for them. We remember too all people who are unable to move freely, all people without adequate food and resources and offer our prayers today for all in need.



But first let us spend a few moments in silence remembering the times we have not used our freedom in accordance with God's will. And now we confess together:

**All: Almighty God , our heavenly Father , we have sinned against you and against our neighbour, in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry, and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

**Minister:** Almighty God who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Minister**: The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy and peace. The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All: And also with you Minister:** Let us share a sign of peace

**The First Reading is taken from Acts, Chapter 10, beginning to read at the forty-fourth verse (Acts 10 44 – 48)**

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. **45**The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. **46**For they heard them speaking in tongues[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+10&version=NIV#fen-NIV-27306b)] and praising God. Then Peter said, **47**“Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” **48**So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Put peace into each other's hands CA575 <https://youtu.be/ErQhErM7ZUg>

**Put peace into each other’s hands**

**And like a treasure hold it**

**Protect it like a candle flame**

**With tenderness enfold it.**

**Put peace into each other’s hands**

**Like bread we break for sharing**

**Look people warmly in the eye**

**Our life is meant for caring.**

**As at communion, shape your hands**

**Into a waiting cradle**

**The gift of Christ receive, revere**

**United round the table.**

**Put Christ into each others hands**

**He is love’s deepest measure**

**In love make peace, give peace a chance**

**And share it like a treasure.**

**The Gospel Reading** Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**(John 15 9-17) Glory to you, O Lord.**

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. **10**If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. **11**I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. **12**My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. **13**Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. **14**You are my friends if you do what I command. **15**I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. **16**You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. **17**This is my command: Love each other.

This is the Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Reflections: Tracy**

This year marks the 76th anniversary of Jersey's first steps of freedom from five years of occupancy. Last year plans to celebrate the 75th anniversary in style were scuppered. This year, although still unable to remember 'en masse', there will be many on the island raising a glass, perhaps with a little more understanding of what it feels like to be denied freedom to do the normal, everyday things.

Over the last year some of Dad's letters have come to the surface that were written in the early days of liberation. They spoke, among other things, of work beginning to remove land mines and barbed wire. Farmers breathing a sigh of relief that they could now receive 'all the latest stuff' to combat small outbreaks of beetle. Dad received a letter from his father asking him to post pepper, salt, mustard and shoe laces. And no curfew … what a delight that must have been! In amongst the relief and excitement, came questions. Who in their midst wrote the letter to the Germans that put a father and son 'in the melting pot', causing their eventual death? And one sentence caught my eye … 'you wouldn't credit some of the things that are still going on'.

Our gospel reading today builds on the lovely picture of the vine that Martin spoke of last week. Flowing from Jesus, The Living Vine, is friendship. Friendship flows from Dad's letters. The friendship offered by a French farmer who took in a bedraggled group of young Jerseymen, newly escaped from the island and fed them with a huge 22-egg omelette together with copious amounts of Calvados. The friendship offered by the farmer who helped them escape at considerable risk to himself and his family. And the friendship displayed by islanders who shared what they had with those who had little.

Perhaps this week, remember how many laid down their lives for others – particularly today during the 2nd World War – and that Jesus lay down his life too so that those he loved would know a deeper, fuller life, now and stretching into eternity.   And try addressing Jesus as 'Friend' and see what that feels like.

Great is thy faithfulness CA249 <https://youtu.be/dTKIqmdfHSk>

**Great is thy faithfulness**

**O God my Father**

**There is no shadow**

**Of turning with thee**

**Thou changest not**

**Thy compassions, they fail not**

**As thou hast been**

**Thou forever wilt be.**

***Great is thy faithfulness***

***Great is thy faithfulness***

***Morning by morning***

***New mercies I see***

***All I have needed***

***Thy hand hath provided***

***Great is thy faithfulness***

***Lord, unto me!***

**Summer and winter**

**And springtime and harvest**

**Sun, moon and stars**

**In their courses above**

**Join with all nature**

**In manifold witness**

**To thy great faithfulness**

**Mercy and love (Refrain)**

**Pardon for sin**

**And a peace that endureth**

**Thine own dear presence**

**To cheer and to guide**

**Strength for today**

**And bright hope for tomorrow**

**Blessings all mine**

**With ten thousand beside! (Refrain)**

**Priest:** , Do you believe and trust in God the Father, who made the world?

**Answer: We believe and trust in him.**

**Priest:** Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ, who redeemed mankind?

**Answer: We believe and trust in him.**

**Priest:** Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God?

**Answer: We believe and trust in him**.

**The 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 for ever. **Amen**

Music before prayers Bach – Jesu, joy of man’s desiring <https://youtu.be/n6BPTCveWH8>

**Minister.**'As Jesus taught his disciples so we pray: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Prayers of intercession**

The response to: Lord in your mercy **All: Hear our prayer**.

We pray to God for people in need in the world.

The World Council of Churches asks for prayer for India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

In the CTJ cycle of prayers, we pray for the residents and staff at Methodist Homes for the Aged (Stuart Court and Maison La Corderie) and for Rev Jenny Pathmarajah

Teach us, Lord, to love you in our neighbours. May we serve you by serving them.

The world so often seems to be a violent and a fearful place. Lord, may we have the strength to love our enemies and to pray for those who damage your creation.

Lord, encourage us to pray for those we know who are suffering in body, mind or spirit. Deepen our love for those who are weak; help us to comfort the anxious and fearful and to give hope to the dying.

Merciful God, your love reaches beyond the grave: be with us and those whom we love at the end of our days here on earth. Lord, give to the departed the joy of your eternal love and peace to all who are bereaved.

All my hope on God is founded CA19 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3LCGh02Vew>

**All my hope on God is founded**

**He doth still my trust renew**

**Me through change and chance he guideth**

**Only good and only true**

**God unknown, he alone**

**Calls my heart to be his own.**

**Human pride and earthly glory**

**Sword and crown betray his trust**

**What with care and toil he buildeth**

**Tower and temple, fall to dust**

**But God’s power hour by hour**

**Is my temple and my tower.**

**God’s great goodness aye endureth**

**Deep his wisdom, passing thought**

**Splendour, light and life attend him**

**Beauty springeth out of naught**

**Evermore, from his store**

**New-born worlds rise and adore.**

**Still from earth to God eternal**

**Sacrifice of praise be done**

**High above all praises praising**

**For the gift of Christ his Son**

**Christ doth call one and all**

**Ye who follow shall not fall.**

**The Grace: All: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of Cod and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.**

**The Blessing:** Christ crucified draw you to himself, to find in him a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always, **Amen.**

**Final Music Walton – Crown Imperial** [**https://youtu.be/7WMrQe87gRk**](https://youtu.be/7WMrQe87gRk)

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