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**October 20th 2021**

**Dear Friends of St Clement and St Nicholas**

As I type the sun is shining – very different to Monday's weather with a taste of things to come. That said, we have been treated to an Indian Summer of the highest order. We cannot complain!

This Sunday is marked on the calendar as Bible Sunday. Some family Bibles had a 'Records' section where names, dates of birth, marriages and death could be added. In this way the Bible became not only a record of people who lived many hundreds of years ago, but of the continuing story of people of faith.

What has been your story as a person of faith this week? How are you navigating through the world. There is much to challenge us. Today (Tuesday) visiting speakers will be discussing the key issues around assisted dying and the dangers to the vulnerable, while people who are for the right to die will be holding events in the run up to the States debate towards the end of November. Please hold all in your prayers.

I shall look forward to seeing as many of you as can come on Sunday. In the meantime, may your week be blessed.

Tracy

**St Clement Church 10.30am Family Service October 24th, 2021**

The Lord our God, the Almighty reigns.

**Let us rejoice and shout for joy, giving God the glory.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

**As it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**A&M 387 Rise and hear! The Lord is speaking**

**Rise and hear ! The Lord is speaking**

**As the gospel words unfold**

**We, in all our agelong seeking**

**Find no firmer truth to hold.**

**Word of goodness, truth and beauty**

**Heard by simple folk and wise**

**Word of freedom, word of duty**

**Word of life beyond our eyes.**

**Word of God’s forgiveness granted**

**To the wild or guilty soul**

**Word of love that works undaunted**

**Changes, heals and makes us whole.**

**Speak to us, O Lord, believing**

**As we hear, the sower sows**

**May our hearts, your word receiving**

**Be the good ground where it grows.**

**The Welcome and Bible for Teddy Douglas Ogg :** There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism by one Spirit we are all baptised into one body.

**All: We welcome you into the fellowship of faith. We are children of the same heavenly Father; we welcome you.**

God in Christ has revealed his glory. **Come let us worship.**

From the rising of the sun to its setting. **The Lord’s name is greatly to be praised.**

Give him praise, you servants of the Lord**. O praise the name of the Lord!**

God shows his love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Let us then show our love for him by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

God our Father, we come to you in sorrow for our sins.

For turning away from you, and ignoring your will for our lives; Father, forgive us.

**Save us and help us.**

For behaving just as we wish, without thinking of you; Father, forgive us . **Save us and help us.**

For failing you by what we do, and think and say**;** Father, forgive us. **Save us and help us.**

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you by temptations in the world about us; Father, forgive us. **Save us and help us.**

For living as if we were ashamed to belong to your Son; Father, forgive us. **Save us and help us.**

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world through Jesus Christ our Lord*.* **Amen**

Let us declare our Faith in God

**We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

**A & M 388 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you.**

**Speak, O Lord, as we come to you**

**To receive the food of your holy word**

**Take your truth, plant it deep in us**

**Shape and fashion us in your likeness**

**That the light of Christ might be seen today**

**In our acts of love and our deeds of faith**

**Speak, O Lord, and fulfil in us**

**All your purposes, for your glory.**

**Teach us, Lord, full obedience**

**Holy reverence, truth humility**

**Test our thoughts and our attitudes**

**In the radiance of your purity**

**Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see**

**Your majestic love and authority**

**Words of power that can never fail**

**Let their truth prevail over unbelief.**

**Speak, O Lord and renew our minds**

**Help us grasp the heights of your plans for us**

**Truths unchanged from the dawn of time**

**That will echo down through eternity**

**And by grace we’ll stand on your promises**

**And by faith we’ll walk as you walk with us**

**Speak O Lord, till your church is built**

**And the earth is filled with your glory.**

**The First reading is taken from Isaiah Chapter 55, beginning to read at the first verse (Isaiah 55 1-11)**

Come, all you who are thirsty,    come to the waters; and you who have no money,     come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk    without money and without cost. **2**Why spend money on what is not bread,     and your labor on what does not satisfy?  
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,     and you will delight in the richest of fare. **3**Give ear and come to me;     listen, that you may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you,     my faithful love promised to David.  
**4**See, I have made him a witness to the peoples,    a ruler and commander of the peoples. **5**Surely you will summon nations you know not,     and nations you do not know will come running to you,  
because of the Lord your God,     the Holy One of Israel,     for he has endowed you with splendour.”

**6**Seek the Lord while he may be found;     call on him while he is near.  
**7**Let the wicked forsake their ways     and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them,    and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

**8**“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,     neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord.  
**9**“As the heavens are higher than the earth,    so are my ways higher than your ways    and my thoughts than your thoughts. **10**As the rain and the snow     come down from heaven, and do not return to it     without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish,     so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, **11**so is my word that goes out from my mouth:  
    It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire     and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

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

**The Gospel Reading.**

**Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. Glory to you O Lord (John 5 36 – 47 )**

**36**“I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to finish—the very works that I am doing—testify that the Father has sent me. **37**And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, **38**nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent. **39**You study[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john%205&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26250c)] the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, **40**yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

**41**“I do not accept glory from human beings, **42**but I know you. I know that you do not have the love of God in your hearts. **43**I have come in my Father’s name, and you do not accept me; but if someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him. **44**How can you believe since you accept glory from one another but do not seek the glory that comes from the only God[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john%205&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26255d)]?

**45**“But do not think I will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom your hopes are set. **46**If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. **47**But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?”

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

**Reflection Tracy**  Today is Bible Sunday. The Bible is certainly not an easy book to read but within its pages are stories, histories, songs, prayers, letters and wise sayings that can act as a springboard to the mystery that is God.

Our first reading comes from the Book of Isaiah, written over five hundred years before the birth of Jesus. It is addressed to the exiles in Babylonia and is an invitation to return to Jerusalem. If you were thirsty and did not have any money would you respond to the invitation to come? Read through the passage a couple of times and see which verses come alive for you. And then stay with them. Perhaps turn them into a prayer.

In the Gospel, Jesus challenges the Jewish leaders who, although steeped in scripture, are unable to see how they connect to Jesus. We might commiserate, for at times scripture is very difficult to understand.

And so how about joining The Doctor and taking a journey through time in the TARDIS to speak to Moses, to whom the first five books of the Bible are attributed. How would Moses react to be told his words were being read by people whose lives were quite unlike anything he could imagine? However, it is more than possible that Moses would quickly have come to the conclusion that human nature hadn't changed much in 4,000 years or so. In this way we can recognise ourselves in the people we meet in the pages of the Bible and be inspired to tap into the source that strengthened and sustained them. The Bible is challenging but there is treasure to be found.

A & M 42 Longing for light

**Longing for light, we wait in darkness**

**Longing for truth, we turn to you**

**Make us your own, your holy people**

**Light for the world to see.**

***Christ be our light!***

***Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness***

***Christ be our light!***

***Shine in your church gathered today.***

**Longing for peace, our world is troubled**

**Longing for hope, many despair**

**Your word alone has power to save us**

**Make us your living voice (refrain)**

**Longing for food, many are hungry**

**Longing for water, many still thirst**

**Make us your bread, broken for others**

**Shared until all are fed. (refrain)**

**Longing for shelter, many are homeless**

**Longing for warmth, many are cold**

**Make us your building, sheltering others**

**Walls made of living stone (refrain)**

**Many the gifts, many the people**

**Many the hearts that yearn to belong**

**Let us be servants to one another**

**Making your kingdom come*.***

***Christ be our light!***

***Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness***

***Christ be our light!***

***Shine in your church gathered today***

**The Collect for the twenty-first Sunday after Trinity (Bible Sunday)**

Grant, we beseech you, merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; 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**

Prayers ending: Lord in your mercy **All: Hear our Prayer**

**Intercessions:** The World Council of Churches is praying for the countries and islands of the Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Curaçao, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Sint Maarten, St Kitts-Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago.

In the Christians Together in Jersey cycle of prayers we pray for the Lighthouse Church (which meets at Les Quennevais and St James) and its pastor Gregg Donaldson.

This Sunday being Bible Sunday, let us thank God for his word and for the ways it continues to inspire people throughout the world to work for peace and love. Pray for the Bible Society, that it may have the resources it needs and for its mission, especially in hostile and dangerous places. May we be inspired to read the Bible more often and grow in our Christian faith.

Please pray for our own community here in St Clement and St Nicholas, for an increase in faith, hope and love. May we love our neighbours as we love ourselves.

We continue to pray for the sick and suffering and for all who care for them. May people everywhere be responsible about their health as winter approaches and may health services be able to respond effectively to the demands placed on them.

We pray for those who have died recently and for their grieving families and friends. Also for all who are living through a difficult anniversary.

For all the good things I do have, and for all the good things I have had, and for all the good things I will have -  for what I am, for what I have been, for what I can be, for what I shall be: thank you, God. (Joan Bel Geddes)

Jesus taught us to call God our Father, so in faith and trust we pray:

**The Lord’s Prayer: All: 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 forever and ever. Amen**

**CA 409 Lord for the years**

**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 you**

**Loveless in strength**

**And comfortless in pain**

**Hungry and helpless**

**Lost indeed without you**

**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.**

**The Grace 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**

All our problems **We send to the cross of Christ**

All our difficulties **We send to the cross of Christ**

All the devils works **We send to the cross of Christ**

All our hopes **We set on the risen Christ**

**The Blessing And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. Amen**