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Facebook: St Clement Church Jersey Channel Islands – watch 10.30am service live and recorded

Web site: www.stclementschurch.org.je

Treasurers and church bank account details:

St Clement: Martin Dryden drydenmj@outlook.com Acc: **St Clements Parish Church 40-25-34 84087488**

St Nicholas: Ian Bromley captainimb@aol.com Payments for St Nicholas Church have now been clarified and these are the amended bank details for St Nicholas Church:

St Clements Parish Church 40-25-34 94289579

Please put a note in the 'reference' box for online banking so treasurers know what the payment is for and/or from whom, if that is important. Thank you.

May 8th, 2024

Dear Friends of St Clement and St Nicholas

NOTICES OF SERVICES FOR THIS WEEK:

Sunday May 12th: 9am Holy Communion at St Nicholas

10.30am Liberation Day Service at St Clement

I am writing this letter in the week before Liberation Day so have no idea whether we will have been bathed in sunshine or rain. Hopefully the former!

The service on Sunday remembers 9th May 1945, the very beginnings of freedom from occupation. Freedom is a gift that not all enjoy. Perhaps we might remember the people of Ukraine on the 9th and hope and pray their freedom from occupation comes sooner than later. We might also remember with thanks that Jersey was not subject to extensive bombing and pray for the people of Gaza who one day hope to be able to rebuild and resume their lives.

Relish the freedom you have this week and we hope you are able to share in some of the celebrations/time with friends and family. We hope to see you on Sunday!

Best wishes

Tracy

The Parish Church of St. Clement
Liberation Day Service May 12th, 2024

A&M 568

Take up the song, and sing the praise of God,
who gave the world its skies and lands and seas,
then formed the fish and creatures of the earth
our God be praised for wondrous gifts like these.

Take up the song, and sing the praise of God,
who gave the power of choice to humankind,
that we might rule the earth through servanthood,
and so find joy in all that God designed.

Take up the song, and sing the praise of God;
proclaim to all the open mystery
that Christ, whose death destroyed the power of sin,
was raised by God and reigns in Trinity.

Take up the song, and sing the praise of God;
with music make both earth and heaven ring,
for God is good and loves all he has made;
so now to him all thanks and praises bring!

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 that who have lost loved ones through war and mindful of this we offer prayers and gifts today for there are parts of the world without freedom, people without homes, food and medicine, people who have lost loved ones through war and mindful of this we offer prayers and gifts today for others in need. But first let us spend a few moments in silence remembering the times we 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.

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

The First Reading is taken from Acts, Chapter 1, 15-17, 21-26

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) and said, "Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus. He was one of our number and shared in our ministry."

Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection."

So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs." Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

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

A&M 563

**Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets:
no one is his neighbour, all alone he eats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too;
make me, friend or stranger, fit to wait on you.**

**Jesus Christ is raging, raging in the streets.
where injustice spirals and real hope retreats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am angry too;
in the Kingdom's causes let me rage with you.**

**Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets,
curing those who suffer, touching those he greets.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity too;
let my care be active, healing just like you.**

**Jesus Christ is dancing, dancing in the streets,
where each sign of hatred he, with love, defeats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I should triumph too;
where good conquers evil let me dance with you.**

**Jesus Christ is calling, calling in the streets,
Who will join my journey?
I will guide their feet.
Listen, Lord Jesus, let my fears be few:
walk one step before me, I will follow you.**

The Gospel Reading: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory to you, O Lord. (John 17 6-19)

"I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with

them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

"I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

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

Reflection: Tracy Love and trust. Closeness and intimacy. We are party to a prayer between Jesus and his Father on the night that he was betrayed. In our reading from Acts we join the disciples at the very beginning of their lives without Jesus at their side. Jesus has told them about the coming of the Holy Spirit which he names as 'gift' but no 'when' or 'how'. As we know, waiting is not easy but Peter, in a practical 'rolling-up sleeves' state of mind, suggests someone needs to be appointed to replace Judas. A lot is cast and Matthias is chosen.

At Liberation time we are remembering people at the very start of rebuilding their lives after the German Occupation. As they looked around there will have been much to sort out. We can do little alone. Unity is the watchword for Jesus and his Father. I wonder if Peter thought back to that night when he and the others had been witnesses to that incredibly intimate prayer of Jesus. Had they grasped the full measure of the joy that Jesus knew in the closeness of his relationship with the Father? I'd say that joy was stirring, waiting to bubble over with the coming of the Holy Spirit who would bear witness to Jesus and inspire them to become of one heart and mind to make God known.

Martin Luther said that 'Christ's proper work is to declare the grace of God, to console and to enliven'. When we witness to the love and comfort and inspiration that we have discovered through the words and work of Jesus that have driven us towards the Father, we will be drawing others to know for themselves the special union that is theirs to know that comes with a full measure of joy.

A&M 487

**Christ is the one who calls,
the one who loved and came,
to whom by right it falls
to bear the highest name:
and still today
our hearts are stirred
to hear his word
and walk his way.**

**Christ is the one who seeks,
to whom our souls are known.
The word of love he speaks
can wake a heart of stone;
for at that sound
the blind can see
the slave is free
the lost are found.**

**Christ is the one who died
forsaken and betrayed;
who, mocked and crucified,
the price of pardon paid.
Our dying Lord,
what grief and loss,
what bitter cross,
our souls restored.**

**Christ is the one who rose
in glory from the grave,
to share his life with those
whom once he died to save.
He drew death's sting
and broke its chains
who lives and reigns
our risen King.**

**Christ is the one who sends,
his story to declare;
who calls his servants friends
and gives them news to share
his truth proclaim
in all the earth
his matchless worth
and saving name.**

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

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

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

The Collect O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

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- Lord in your mercy **All: Hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the freedom from the occupation of this island in May 1945. Help us to use our freedoms wisely. May each of us be a force for good.

May we remain united to you and to each other because you are our common source of life; may we send out your light and pour forth our flowing streams over all the earth, drawing our inspiration and joy from you.

Strengthen all who work to meet the needs of the world ... we pray for people working for peace in the world, especially between Gaza and Israel.

May we look to the needs of each other and work for peace; peace in our streets, in our homes, in all our dealings.

Be near to all who cannot find respite from pain. For all who live with addiction. For all waiting for results/operations. For all who walk through the valley of the shadow of death. And a prayer for everyone going through a time of trial:

Heavenly Father in the depths of our challenges we find solace in your promise. Today we lean on your unwavering strength, knowing you are our refuge and fortress. Strengthen our faith O Lord that we may trust in your provision and guidance in every circumstance. Shield us from fear and doubt and grant us the courage to face each day confidently. May your presence be our constant source of assurance and peace. In the holy name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

We give thanks for your renewing powers, and we pray for our loved ones no longer with us, that in you they may know newness of life.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

A&M: 559

**God of freedom, God of justice,
you whose love is strong as death,
you who saw the dark of prison,
you who knew the price of faith
touch our world of sad oppression
with your Spirit's healing breath.**

**Rid the earth of torture's terror
you whose hands were nailed to wood,
hear the cries of pain and protest
you who shed the tears and blood
move in us the power of pity
restless for the common good.**

**Make in us a captive conscience
quick to hear, to act, to plead;
make us truly sisters, brothers
of whatever race or creed
teach us to be fully human
open to each others need.**

The Grace: All: 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.

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.**