

Reflection Trinity 11

"But who do you say that I am?"

When Jesus asked his disciples who the people thought he was, the answers he got covered a list of men who had previously been mighty in God's service. But Peter had been shown by God that Jesus was something new and unique: the promised Messiah, and even greater than that, "the Son of the living God". Peter could accept this revelation (outrageous to a devout Jew of that time) because he had seen and experienced the truth of it in the life and ministry of Jesus.

If we ask non-churchgoers today who Jesus was (and is) we too would get a variety of answers, some positive and generous but some distinctly negative. We might well find that Jesus was not thought to be relevant in modern society. How can we show that he is still God's Son and as necessary as Messiah now as he ever has been?

Jesus responds to Peter's declaration by talking about the church he will build on the rock of faithful disciples. As part of that church, we are to be the means by which Jesus heals and redeems the world, by demonstrating his love for people in our actions and words. Paul, writing to the Roman church, reminds them of the variety of gifts God has given them, and calls on them to present themselves as "living sacrifices". If we do the same, we can truly help others to see that Jesus is both God and Lord.

Ian Totterdell, Churchwarden

Codes for the Zoom worship at 10.30

These are codes for Sundays from 9th August to the end of September:

Meeting ID: 831 9054 0514

Passcode: 090608

Telephone numbers: 0203 051 2874,
0203 481 5237
0203 481 5240
0131 460 1196

NEXT SUNDAY 30.08.20 12th after Trinity

SERVICES 10.30 by Zoom & 12 noon Mass in Church



READINGS

OT Jeremiah 15.15-21

NT Romans 12.9-21

Gospel Matthew 16.21-28

CONTACT US

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St Thomas, Exeter

Sunday 23rd August 2020

Trinity 11

We are continuing to meet each week at 10:30 for **Sunday worship by Zoom**. There are new codes from last week, so please see the middle column here.

Eliza will be celebrating the Eucharist for the last time today as Associate Priest at St Thomas on at 12 noon, with a short 'word', before she moves to Taunton School to be Chaplain. We wish her well in this new beginning, and hope to hear news in due course

Our regular **noon Mass** in St Thomas's church will be continuing weekly through the summer (at least). If you would like a service sheet, please bring the one from last week and this pewsheet for readings and prayers. We have a small stock of face coverings available at St Thomas, as they are now **compulsory** in places of worship. For those leading the service, masks remain optional.

Fr David



Collect

God of glory,
the end of our searching,
help us to lay aside
all that prevents us from seeking your kingdom,
and to give all that we have
to gain the pearl beyond all price,
We make this prayer through our Lord and Saviour
Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Isaiah 51.1–6

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,
you that seek the Lord.
Look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.
Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.
For the Lord will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places,
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the Lord;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.
Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation;
for a teaching will go out from me,
and my justice for a light to the peoples.
I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,
my salvation has gone out
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.
Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats;
but my salvation will be for ever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

Romans 12.1–8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by
the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a
living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which
is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to
this world, but be transformed by the renewing of
your minds, so that you may discern what is the
will of God—what is good and acceptable and
perfect.
For by the grace given to me I say to everyone
among you not to think of yourself more highly
than you ought to think, but to think with sober
judgement, each according to the measure of faith
that God has assigned. For as in one body we
have many members, and not all the members
have the same function, so we, who are many,
are one body in Christ, and individually we are
members one of another. We have gifts that differ
according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in
proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering;
the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation;
the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence;
the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Matthew 16.13–20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Post-Communion Prayer

Lord of all mercy,
we your faithful people have celebrated that one
true sacrifice
which takes away our sins and brings pardon
and peace:
by our communion
keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel
and preserve us from all sin;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

NOTICES

Theatre Alibi are doing a **St Thomas Story Tour**
in place of their planned event at Emmanuel Hall.
They have reserved 2 slots for us: Thursday 10
September at 3.30pm and Saturday 12 September
also at 3.30pm. These are walking tours, and each
one lasts about one hour and 15 minutes with vari-
ous stops and stories told on the way. It is a
wheelchair friendly route and suitable for slow
walkers. There are number restrictions due to
Covid, so 'first come first served' to book a place
by phoning or emailing Fr David. Deadline is 31/8.
Other slots are possible by phoning directly 01392
217315 or at www.theatrealibi.co.uk.

Knit & Natter A reminder that this group is meet-
ing on Thursdays 10.30—1 in the Pleasure
Ground. Please ring Jenny Tuckett on 01392
498725 for more details.

Thank you to everyone who is busy knitting,
painting and making for the **Creative Challenge**.
We are hoping to collect items during September
to create a display of all our Lockdown
achievements.