

## Reflection on Genesis 17: 1-7,15,16

### Faith

God chooses people He can depend upon.

He Knew what to expect from Abraham and said of him, "I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him. " God knew Abraham would direct his children"

The Lord can be depended upon and he desires for us to be just as reliable, determined and stable. This is simply the meaning of Faith. God is looking for people on whom he can place the weight of his entire love, power and faithful promises. And his engines are strong enough to pull any weight we may attach to them. Unfortunately, the cable we fasten to the engine is often too weak to handle the weight of our prayers. Therefore God continues to train and discipline us in His school of stability and certainty in the life of faith.

May we learn our lessons well and then stand firm.

*Helen Pearce*



### Codes for the Zoom worship at 10.30

These are codes for Sundays from 7 February until Easter Day

**Meeting ID:** 881 6251 3403

**Passcode:** 337962

**Telephone numbers** (as previously) 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240, 0131

### NEXT SUNDAY 07.03.2021 Lent 3

**SERVICES** 10.30 by Zoom, 12 noon in Church

### READINGS



OT Exodus 20: 1-17  
NT 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25  
Gospel John 2: 13-22

### CONTACT US

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# St Thomas, Exeter

**Sunday 28th February 2021**

**The Second Sunday of Lent**

**10.30 by Zoom (phone-in available)**

**12 noon Mass in Church**

Greetings for Lent!

The new set of **Stations of the Cross**, which have been donated, are now up in Church—or most of them anyway. There are still quite a number of pictures from the previous set available to whoever wants either individual pictures or all of them. Please speak to Ian after Church on Sunday.

The **House Group** is following a Lent programme, as is a special **Lent Group** which Revd Sarah is organising, loosely based on the diocesan materials *These are our Stories*. This will be on zoom on Thursday evenings, 7-8pm. It's not too late to join either—contact Ian for the House Group and Sarah for the diocesan one.

I am delighted to report a **grant of £437** from Devon Count Council to support our postal mailing programme. So if you receive a hard copy of this, it is supported by the county—thank you DCC!

*Fr David*



## Collect

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

## Romans 4: 13-end

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in

whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

## Mark 8: 31-end

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? In-deed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

## Post Communion

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## NOTICES

**Community Larder** The Community Larder will be collecting on **Tuesdays only** from 10am-12noon, and is allowed to continue operating during the period of lockdown. The collecting point will now be in the Church Hall. Please continue to be generous.

## Knit and Natter *Update for March2021*

Huge thanks to everyone who has knitted squares (eight inch in garter stitch): they are such joy with their rainbow colours and gentle warmth. Ian will kindly receive any that are finished either at the 12noon Mass on Sundays or at the Larder collection on Tuesdays. Our natter sessions continue on Thursdays at 11.15am on Zoom, thanks to Vanessa. All details from Jenny on 01392 498725.

**House Group.** Tuesday evenings. Please contact Ian Totterdell for Zoom details.

**Electoral Roll revision** Carolyn Bryant is revising the roll this year in advance of the APCM. Because of the current restrictions, we will assume that folk wish to continue on the roll unless they specifically tell us otherwise. If you are not on the roll and wish to be, contact the Parish Office by email or phone, Fr David or Ian Totterdell.

**Annual Meeting** Sunday 16 May, arrangements to be confirmed

**Bingo** Is anyone interested in running Bingo sessions when the Hall is re-opened? Nothing is needed to start up, all the equipment and cards etc are available. Please contact Pat Mounce before the beginning of April.