



Living churches at the heart of their communities...

St Giles', Durham, St Cuthbert's, Shadforth and St Mary's, Sherburn

**Sunday 5 July 2020
Trinity 4**

Collect

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;
that with you as our ruler and guide
we may so pass through things temporal
that we lose not our hold on things eternal;
grant this, heavenly Father,
for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen



Bible Readings

Genesis 24. 34-38, 42-49, 58-end

So he said, 'I am Abraham's servant. The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, "You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son."

'I came today to the spring, and said, "O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, 'Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,' and who will say to me, 'Drink, and I will draw for your camels also'—let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master's son."

'Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water-jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her,

"Please let me drink." She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, "Drink, and I will also water your camels." So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, "Whose daughter are you?" She said, "The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him." So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshipped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.' And they called Rebekah, and said to her, 'Will you go with this man?' She said, 'I will.' So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

'May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
of the gates of their foes.'

Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, 'Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?' The servant said, 'It is my master.' So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Romans 7. 15-25a

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Matthew 11. 16-19, 25-end

'But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another,



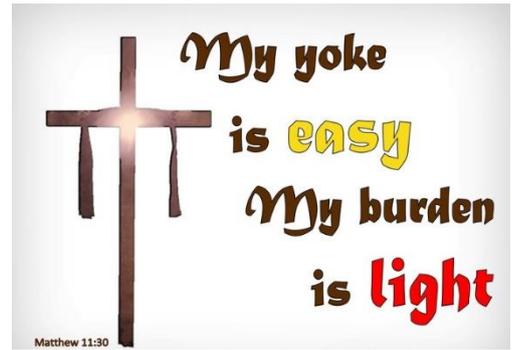
"We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;

we wailed, and you did not mourn."

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon"; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a

glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.'

At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.



'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

Psalm 45. 10-end

Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear;
forget your people and your father's house,
and the king will desire your beauty.

Since he is your lord, bow to him;
the people of Tyre will seek your favour with gifts,
the richest of the people with all kinds of wealth.

The princess is decked in her chamber with gold-woven robes;
in many-coloured robes she is led to the king;
behind her the virgins, her companions, follow.

With joy and gladness they are led along
as they enter the palace of the king.

In the place of ancestors you, O king, shall have sons;
you will make them princes in all the earth.

I will cause your name to be celebrated in all generations;
therefore the peoples will praise you for ever and ever.

Online services

The following services will be available to join via zoom this week. We hope as many of you as possible will join in - and if you know of anyone else who would like to join, please let Rev'd Tom know and he will send them an invitation:

Sunday 5 July	10.00am	Service of the Word
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer
Wednesday 8 July	10.00am	Morning Prayer

A reflection

We've just heard the phrase "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

The passage tells us that Jesus alone knows things about the one he calls 'Father', things that only he knew and only he could tell. Jesus knows that his listeners won't understand this simple truth that, as he says to them "no one knows the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him". Fathers and sons know each other in a special way - a son knows his father in a way that nobody else does.

But when Jesus talked of God to ordinary people, and when he forgave people and brought new life to them, he realised that people didn't have the same understanding of the father as he himself did.

And this is the heart of what it meant to be Jesus. There was only one son of God, one Jesus, and only Jesus could have such a special understanding of God. And yet he wanted to share this understanding with everyone.

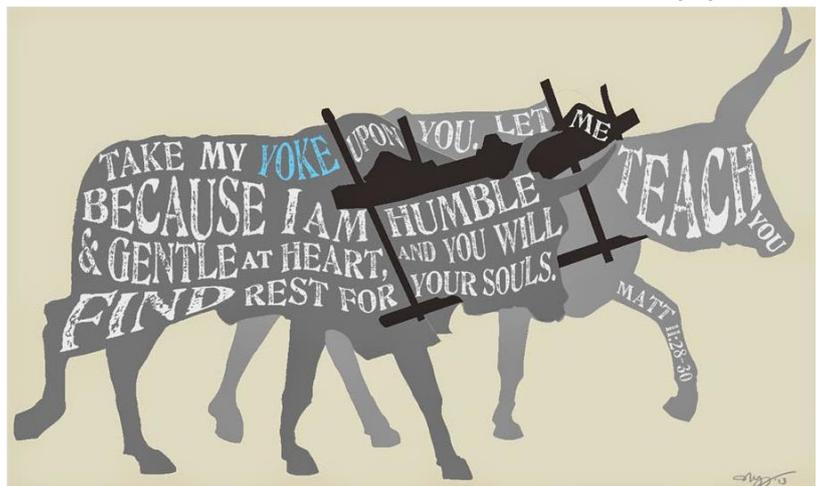
Hitherto, the route to closeness to God was through the study of the Torah and living a life of piety. But this put wisdom out of reach of most people, who were not scholars trained in languages and literature and with little time to study.

Jesus cut right through this by saying you just need to be like a little child to understand God. He said, "Father... you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants". And this way was not studying books about God, but rather living his presence and listening to his voice speaking to them, wherever they hear it.

People can discover more of God by simply following Jesus' example and teaching. Jesus was like a window onto a living God. He said "Come to me and I will give you rest".

The old of way, of learning Jewish law and all of its commandments was a heavy yoke to bear. But Jesus offered a lighter yoke which was easier to bear, because it came from his love and mercy. He said, "Take my yoke upon you, ... and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Though it is not easy if we are not prepared to follow Jesus with our whole lives.

Bishop Tom Wright said, Jesus' invitation to take his yoke "pulls back the curtain and let's see who the 'Father' really is, and encourages us to come into his loving and welcoming presence." Amen



Rev'd Ruth

Notice

Private Prayer and Public Worship

Our churches are now open for **private prayer** as follows:

St Giles and St Mary's - **Wednesday** and **Sunday** afternoons from 1.00pm-4.00pm

St Cuthbert's - **Sunday** afternoons from 1.00pm-4.00pm

It will, of course, be necessary to follow the social distancing guidelines throughout your visit.

We are planning to re-open our churches for **public worship** on Sunday mornings on **Sunday 12 July**. However, for the time being, we will continue with Evening Prayer and the mid-week service via Zoom. Church opening times for private prayer may change once public worship recommences - we will announce the new times next week.

Thank you so much to all those in all three of our churches who have worked hard to make the churches ready for re-opening.

Morning and Evening Prayer 5 - 11 July

	Morning Prayer	Evening Prayer
Sunday 5 July	Psalms 55. 1-15, 18-22 Deuteronomy 24. 10-end Acts 28. 1-16	Psalms 56 2 Samuel 2. 1-11; 3.1 Luke 18.31 - 19.10
Monday 6 July	Psalms 80, 82 Judges 13. 1-24 Luke 17. 20-end	Psalms 85, 86 Job 33 Romans 14. 13-end
Tuesday 7 July	Psalms 87, 89. 1-18 Judges 14 Luke 18. 1-14	Psalms 89. 19-end Job 38 Romans 15. 1-13
Wednesday 8 July	Psalms 119. 105-128 Judges 15.1 - 16.3 Luke 18. 15-30	Psalms 91, 93 Job 39 Romans 15. 14-21
Thursday 9 July	Psalms 90, 92 Judges 16. 4-end Luke 18. 31-end	Psalms 94 Job 40 Romans 15. 22-end
Friday 10 July	Psalms 88, 95 Judges 17 Luke 19. 1-10	Psalms 102 Job 41 Romans 16. 1-16
Saturday 11 July Benedict, abbot, c550	Psalms 96, 97, 100 Judges 18. 1-20, 27-end Luke 19. 11-27	Psalms 104 Job 42 Romans 16. 17-end