



Living churches at the heart of their communities...

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

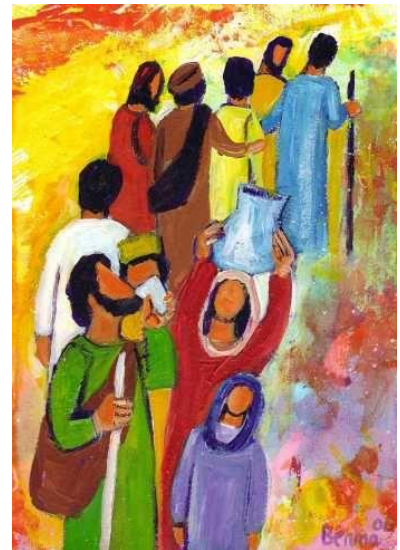
**Eucharist
Sunday 26th September 2021
Trinity 17**

Esther 7.1-6,9,10;9.20-22; James 5.13-end; Mark 9.38-end

Collect

Almighty God,
you have made us for yourself, and our hearts
are restless till they find their rest in you:
pour your love into our hearts and draw us to
yourself, and so bring us at last to your
heavenly city where we shall see you face to
face; 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.



Bible Readings

Esther 7.1-6,9,10;9.20-22

So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, 'What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.'

Then Queen Esther answered, 'If I have won your favour, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king.'

Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, 'Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?' Esther said, 'A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!' Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, 'Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high.' And the king said, 'Hang him on that.' So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

James 5.13-end

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Mark 9.38-end

John said to him, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.' But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell.' And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

'For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.'

Post Communion Prayer

Lord, we pray that your grace
may always precede and follow us,
and make us continually to be given to all good works;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Notices

Evening Prayer will be said at St Giles' at 18.00.

The readings are: *Psalm 120; Exodus 24; Matthew 9.1-8*

Wednesday 29th September – there will be a Holy Communion service at St Giles at 10.00.

Durham Foodbank – we are seeking contributions of food and toiletries for the Durham foodbank. The collection point will be by the Font at St Giles. Please contribute generously as the need in our area has grown.

St Giles' 1927 Graveyard – October Clearance

Our next volunteer clearance session will be meeting at 10.00 on Saturday 9th October to help remove further overgrowth in the graveyard. Refreshments will be available in the church hall.

On Line Social Evenings – Friday 12th November

We are re-starting our on-line social evenings starting Friday 12th November at 19.00 hrs. Suggestions and volunteers are required to facilitate these enjoyable evenings.

Joint Harvest Festival – Sunday 10th October at St Cuthbert's

Leading up to the Harvest Festival service at St Cuthbert's, we are collecting food donations to help and support those families in need in the North East. After the service all donations of food will be taken to the local food bank for distribution, to help those in difficulties at this time.

Readings for next week – Sunday 3rd October, (Trinity 18)

Job 1.1;2.1-10; Hebrews 1.1-4;2.5-12; Mark 10.2-16