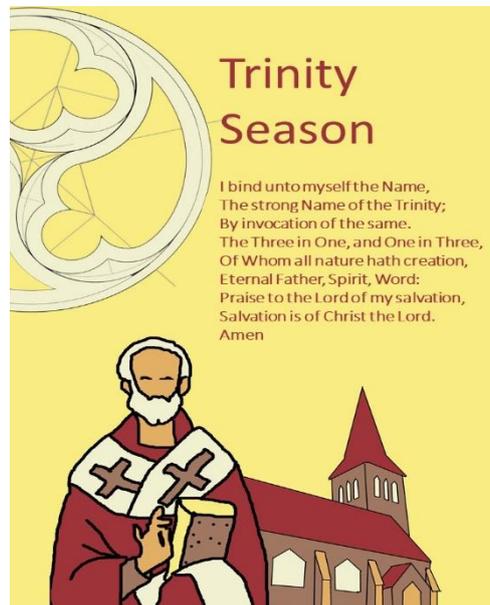


**Worship at St. Nicholas, Sutton
for Trinity 1 on 14 June 2020
Collect, hymns, readings and sermon**



Please join me for our service at 10.30am today (or at another convenient time) by following the Order of Service and singing in your own home.

I will be thinking of you all and praying for you at The Rectory at the same time and longing for our future reunion in Church.

Frances

Revd Frances Arnold, Priest-in-Charge

Duty Warden: Geoff Rendall

Server: Lily Shambare

Musician: Pam Affleck

Sound desk: Jennifer Emptage

Old & New Testament: Jean Chappell

Gospel: Alistair Cruickshank

Sidespersons: Alistair Cruickshank, Richard West

Refreshments: Gill Ayres, Doreen Kennett

Welcomers: Sylvia Cowling, Kaushalya Jeyaraj

Collect (prayer of the week)

O God,
the strength of all those who put their trust in you,
mercifully accept our prayers
and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature
we can do no good thing without you,
grant us the help of your grace,
that in the keeping of your commandments
we may please you both in will and deed;
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.**

Hymns

Opening *All people that on earth do dwell*

Gradual *Dear Lord and Father of mankind*

Readings

Exodus 19.2-8a *The Israelites Reach Mount Sinai*

²They had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. ³Then Moses went up to God; the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, 'Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: ⁴You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, ⁶but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.'

⁷ So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. ⁸The people all answered as one: 'Everything that the LORD has spoken we will do.'

Romans 5.1-8 *Results of Justification*

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Matthew 9.35-10.8

The Harvest Is Great, the Labourers Few & The Mission of the Twelve

35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; ³⁸therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. ²These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus;* ⁴Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

5 These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." ⁸Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

Sermon

When (Jesus) saw the crowds, he had compassion for them (Matthew 9.36)

Trinity Sunday is behind us now, and so is a whole half of the Christian year – the part with most of the big events, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Ascension and Pentecost. Before us lies instead a green season of steady growth and development, and of living the Christian life. People nowadays might prefer the word 'spirituality' to 'religion.' Actually a better alternative for us could be 'discipleship', with its emphasis on following Jesus and with the example of the twelve apostles before us.

Today's Gospel reading not only sets out the tasks - preaching, teaching and healing; it also gives the motive. 'When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them.' There can be all sorts of motives for doing good. Jesus makes it clear from the start that the right motive is compassion, a loving response to human need. There are all sorts of technical and medical ways of meeting needs today, thank God, which were not available in the first century; but, again, Jesus makes clear that the real need is always people, more people, people who know themselves to be called to service.

So Jesus chooses twelve disciples. The word means 'learners' – and readiness to learn, and go on learning, is always the first qualification. These are also called apostles, which means 'sent'; and that is exactly what Jesus does with them next. There are twelve of them, representing the legendary tribes of the people of Israel. For their first task, they are to concentrate on the Jews of Palestine. Only in the light of experience will they branch out abroad and go to the Gentiles – an interesting example of the development and expansion of an originally much smaller idea. In a similar development, it is not long before there are women disciples too.

All the members of this core group are young, with the possible exception of Peter, who is called 'first' and who is the only one we know to have been married. Jesus appears to have taken the risk of getting as great a variety as possible into the team, with contrasting pairs of brothers, different trades and backgrounds and even a potential traitor. Some go on to achieve fame; others remain obscure, but all do the works which show that in Jesus the age of the Messiah has dawned. At a time when many were profiteering from the sufferings of their fellow human beings, they were to demonstrate not only the power but also the generosity of God. Their calling and their obedience are as relevant today as they ever were. **Amen.**