



## **Worship at St. Nicholas, Sutton for Trinity 18 on 11 October 2020**

### **Collect, readings & comment on readings**

for those unable to attend the 10.30am service in church.

We will be thinking of you all and praying for you  
and longing for our future reunion in Church.

*Frances*

Revd Frances Arnold, Priest-in-Charge

#### **Collect** (prayer of the week)

Almighty and everlasting God,  
increase in us your gift of faith  
that, forsaking what lies behind  
and reaching out to that which is before,  
we may run the way of your commandments  
and win the crown of everlasting joy;  
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.**

#### **Readings**

**Isaiah 25.1-9**                    *Praise for Deliverance from Oppression*

25O LORD, you are my God;

I will exalt you, I will praise your name;

for you have done wonderful things,

plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

<sup>2</sup> For you have made the city a heap,

the fortified city a ruin;

the palace of aliens is a city no more,

it will never be rebuilt.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;

cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

<sup>4</sup> For you have been a refuge to the poor,

a refuge to the needy in their distress,

a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,

<sup>5</sup> the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,  
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;  
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

<sup>6</sup> On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines,  
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear.

<sup>7</sup> And he will destroy on this mountain  
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
the sheet that is spread over all nations;  
<sup>8</sup> he will swallow up death for ever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,  
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
for the LORD has spoken.

<sup>9</sup> It will be said on that day,  
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.  
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;  
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

#### **Philippians 4.1-9**

#### *Exhortations*

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, my brothers and sisters,\* whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

<sup>2</sup> I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. <sup>3</sup>Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion,\* help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice\* in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.\* <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> Finally, beloved,\* whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about\* these things. <sup>9</sup>Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

**Matthew 22.1-14***The Parable of the Wedding Banquet*

22Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: <sup>2</sup>“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. <sup>3</sup>He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. <sup>4</sup>Again he sent other slaves, saying, “Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.” <sup>5</sup>But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, <sup>6</sup>while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. <sup>7</sup>The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. <sup>8</sup>Then he said to his slaves, “The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. <sup>9</sup>Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.” <sup>10</sup>Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

11 ‘But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, <sup>12</sup>and he said to him, “Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?” And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup>Then the king said to the attendants, “Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” <sup>14</sup>For many are called, but few are chosen.’

**Comment on the gospel**

The wedding for the king’s son was intended to be large and lavish. The king sent out his slaves with the invitations. The food had been prepared and everything was ready, but some of the invited guests were too busy. ‘They made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business.’ Others were openly hostile to the king and turned on his slaves, beating them up and even killing some of them.

Jesus’ audience would have recognized the point of a story about a king throwing a wedding party for his son straight away. The wedding banquet was one of the images the prophets used when they spoke of the Messiah coming to rescue his people. But the prophets’ message had not been heeded by the religious establishment. Now that Jesus was there in Jerusalem challenging the religious leaders of his own day, there would have been a growing realization that this would be his fate too. Following the refusal of the invited guests to come and the ill treatment and murder of some of the slaves, the king angrily set aside the guest list, sending his slaves into the streets, to gather everyone they could find, ‘both good and bad.’ So in the end, because the invited guests had refused the invitation to repent and join the Messianic feast, the wedding hall was filled with a very different set of people. The religious leaders and others who followed them had had many opportunities to hear the message of Jesus and to join him, but it was tax-collectors and sinners who would sit with Jesus at his table. The knowledge that God’s message is for everyone is good news for all of us. God’s kingdom is a kingdom in which love and justice and truth and mercy and holiness reign unhindered. These are the clothes you need to wear for the wedding. We can picture the feast in the words of today’s reading from Isaiah:

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines,  
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear...  
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;  
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation. **Amen.**

*The sermon for Sunday 11 October will be available in paper copy and online soon after the service takes place.*

I encourage you to make a habit of daily prayer, whether *A Way of Daily Prayer* (on website under Useful Information-Service Sheets);  
Common Worship *Daily Prayer* <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>;  
or *Book of Common Prayer*.

Bible readings for Morning and Evening Prayer:

**Sunday 11 October** Trinity 18

MP Isaiah 50.4-10, Luke 13.22-30

EP Proverbs 3.1-18, 1 John 3.1-15

**Monday 12 October** *Wilfrid, bishop, missionary, 709*

MP 2 Kings 5, Acts 26.1-23

EP 1 Maccabees 3.1-26, Mark 15.1-15

**Tuesday 13 October** *Edward the Confessor, king, 1066*

MP 2 Kings 6.1-23, Acts 26.24-end

EP 1 Maccabees 3.27-41, Mark 15.16-32

**Wednesday 14 October**

MP 2 Kings 9.1-16, Acts 27.1-26

EP 1 Maccabees 3.42-end, Mark 15.33-41

**Thursday 15 October** *Teresa of Avila, teacher of the faith, 1582*

MP 2 Kings 9.17-end, Acts 27.27-end

EP 1 Maccabees 4.1-25, Mark 15.42-end

**Friday 16 October**

MP 2 Kings 2.1-19, Acts 28.1-16

EP 1 Maccabees 4.26-35, Mark 16.1-8

**Saturday 17 October** *Ignatius, bishop, martyr, c.107*

MP 2 Kings 17.1-23, Acts 28.17-end

EP 1 Maccabees 4.36-end, Mark 16.9-end