



**Worship at St. Nicholas, Sutton  
for the Last Sunday after Trinity (Trinity 20) on 25 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)

Blessed Lord,  
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:  
help us so to hear them,  
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them  
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,  
we may embrace and for ever hold fast  
the hope of everlasting life,  
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Readings**

**Leviticus 19.1-2, 15-18** *Ritual and Moral Holiness*

19The LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

2 Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

15 You shall not render an unjust judgement; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbour. <sup>16</sup>You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbour: I am the LORD.

17 You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbour, or you will incur guilt yourself. <sup>18</sup>You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself: I am the LORD.

**1 Thessalonians 2.1-8** *Paul's Ministry in Thessalonica*

2You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, <sup>2</sup>but though we had already suffered and been shamefully maltreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in

our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. <sup>3</sup>For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, <sup>4</sup>but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. <sup>5</sup>As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; <sup>6</sup>nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, <sup>7</sup>though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. <sup>8</sup>So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

**Matthew 22.34-end**     *The Greatest Commandment; The Question about David's Son*

34 When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, <sup>35</sup>and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. <sup>36</sup>'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' <sup>37</sup>He said to him, ' "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." <sup>38</sup>This is the greatest and first commandment. <sup>39</sup>And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." <sup>40</sup>On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.'

41 Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: <sup>42</sup>'What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?' They said to him, 'The son of David.'<sup>43</sup>He said to them, 'How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

<sup>44</sup> "The Lord said to my Lord,

'Sit at my right hand,

until I put your enemies under your feet' "?

<sup>45</sup>If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?' <sup>46</sup>No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

**Comment on the gospel**

When the Pharisees asked Jesus 'Which commandment in the law is the greatest?' his reply seemed very straightforward. He quoted from Leviticus and Deuteronomy, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind,' and 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' Then he added, 'On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.'

These verses are so familiar to us that we need to remind ourselves how provocative Jesus was being. His earlier challenge in the Sermon on the Mount was that the heart should be renewed: it was not just outward action that was important.

What Jesus says here about loving God and loving one another needs to be set within the larger gospel picture of Jesus dying for the sins of the whole world and rising again with the message of

new life. Then we can see the commandments, not as orders that we try to obey but as an invitation to a new way of life in which love can become a reality.

*The sermon for Sunday 25 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 25 October** Last Sunday after Trinity

MP Isaiah 59.9-20, Luke 14.1-4

EP Ecclesiastes 11,12, 2 Timothy 2.1-7

**Monday 26 October** *Alfred, king, scholar, 899*

MP 2 Kings 21.1-18, 1 Timothy 1.1-17

EP 2 Maccabees 4.7-17, John 15.1-11

**Tuesday 27 October**

MP 2 Kings 22.1-23.3, 1 Timothy 1.18-end of 2

EP 2 Maccabees 6.12-end, John 15.12-17

**Wednesday 28 October** Simon and Jude Apostles

MP Wisdom 5.1-16, Luke 6.12-16

EP 1 Maccabees 2.42-66, Jude 1-4, 17-end

**Thursday 29 October** *James Hannington, bishop, martyr, 1885*

MP 2 Kings 23.36-24.17, 1 Timothy 4

EP 2 Maccabees 7.20-41, John 16.1-15

**Friday 30 October**

MP 2 Kings 24.18-25.12, 1 Timothy 5.1-16

EP Tobit 1, John 16.16-22

**Saturday 31 October**

MP 2 Kings 25,22-end, 1 Timothy 5.17-end

EP Ecclesiasticus 44.1-15, Revelation 19.6-10