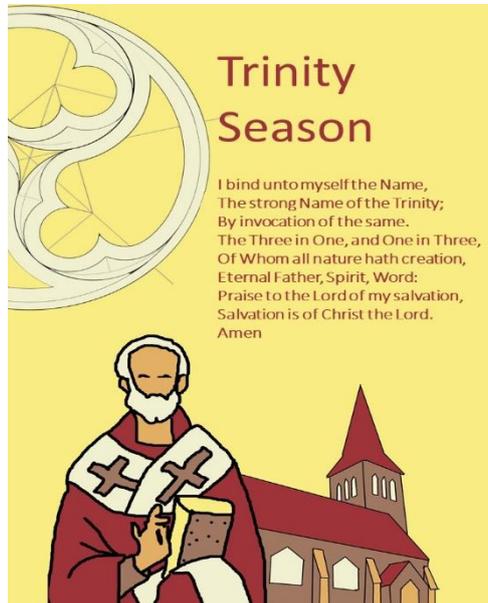


**Worship at St. Nicholas, Sutton  
for Trinity 3 on 28 June 2020  
Collect, hymns, readings, sermon & intercessions**



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: Diane Young

Musician: Pam Affleck

Sound desk: Jennifer Emptage

Old & New Testament: Julie Barbour

Gospel: Glynis Osborne

Sidespersons: Don Bonser, Rebecca Phillips

Refreshments: Marian Bonser, Sylvia Cowling

Welcomers: Julie Barbour, Mary Meldrum

**Collect** (prayer of the week)

Almighty God,  
you have broken the tyranny of sin  
and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts  
whereby we call you Father:  
give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,  
that we and all creation may be brought  
to the glorious liberty of the children of God;  
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 *O Lord, my God*

Gradual *Amazing grace*

## **Readings**

### **Jeremiah 28.5-9**

*Hananiah Opposes Jeremiah*

5 Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD; <sup>6</sup>and the prophet Jeremiah said, 'Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD fulfil the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles. <sup>7</sup>But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. <sup>8</sup>The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. <sup>9</sup>As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet.'

### **Romans 6.12-end**

*Dying and Rising with Christ,*

*Slaves of Righteousness*

12 Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. <sup>13</sup>No longer present your members to sin as instruments\* of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments\* of righteousness. <sup>14</sup>For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

15 What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup>But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, <sup>18</sup>and that you, having been set free from sin,

have become slaves of righteousness. <sup>19</sup>I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations.\* For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

20 When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. <sup>21</sup>So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. <sup>22</sup>But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. <sup>23</sup>For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **Matthew 10.40-end**                      *Rewards*

40 'Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. <sup>41</sup>Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; <sup>42</sup>and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.'

### **Sermon**

There are lots of memorable scenes in the great Hollywood film 'Ben Hur.' Everyone remembers the chariot race. Recently, in the wake of events in Minneapolis, I have been thinking of the one in which Jesus stands up to the Roman soldiers and gives a cup of cold water to Ben Hur, who is trudging in chains towards the coast and into slavery. It is not just racism which underlies the cry 'Black Lives Matter' today. It is the combination of racism and slavery, which is so damaging and which has such lasting consequences. It was to take nearly two thousand years for any serious inroads to be made in the name of the Gospel into slavery as an institution and for it to be abolished in the British Empire. Now we are being made aware how much still needs to be done to deal with the consequences, especially but not only in America. Meanwhile, Jesus did what he could within the limits of the incarnation in Galilee. He gave a slave a cup of cold water.

Today's Gospel reading, with its emphasis on appropriate reward reflects an internal concern of the early church, but we may apply it more widely now in the light of Jesus' own word at the end of the parable of the Sheep and the Goats, 'Just as you did it to one of the least of these...., you did it to me.' We may take it as applying to people caring for one another by offering care and hospitality, assistance and relief, in ordinary everyday ways and in all circumstances. Ben Hur was a prince; but the emphasis here is on ordinary, everyday, apparently unimportant people.

The coronavirus epidemic has given unparalleled opportunities for acts of kindness to neighbours and strangers alike; and we give thanks for all the many ways in which people have responded. One of the most common and the most important is the provision of water for the thirsty in home, in hospital, in care homes and on the street. It is good to note that this is one of the things which the Street Pastors, based on St Nicholas, do. This is something which the makers of 'Ben Hur' rightly saw would have been typical of Jesus Christ himself. For Jesus gave us an example which we should follow, serving our fellow human beings out of love for them and for him, becoming 'obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which (we) were entrusted' (Romans 6.17). **Amen.**

### **Intercessions**

*prepared by Clive Orton*

As the church of God, let us be still and pray together.

Holy God, you are the focus of our love and worship, because you alone are the Lord who made us and rescues us. May we live in your freedom, serve you with joy, and thank you for all you have done for us.

Heal us, Lord, **And use us to your glory.**

Holy God, you never fail to believe in us all, and love us with tenderness.

We pray for all areas of conflict, deceit, mismanagement and greed, and wherever human life is not allowed its true value.

Heal us, Lord, **And use us to your glory.**

Holy God, our daily lives provide us with such rich ground for acts of loving-kindness, self-discipline and courage. Show us the opportunities, and strengthen us to use them.

Heal us, Lord, **And use us to your glory.**

*We hold in prayer all those affected by the Coronavirus and especially our chaplains, volunteers and NHS health workers, nursing and medical staff, ...*

Holy God, we thank you for all who lovingly look after those in nursing homes, hospitals and prisons, and we pray for all who need such care and rely on others' help.

Heal us, Lord, **And use us to your glory.**

Holy God, we call to mind those who have recently died, and thank you for each deed of goodness in their lives. Have mercy on them and forgive their failings, so that they may share in the joy of heaven for ever.

Heal us, Lord, **And use us to your glory.**

Holy God, we thank you for our human potential for good, and for your gift of grace which makes such goodness possible.

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers,**

**For the sake of your Son,**

**Our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*(based on this Sunday's prayers in Living Stones, year A)*