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Sunday 18th October 2020 Luke the Evangelist

Collect

Almighty God, you called Luke the physician, whose praise is in the gospel, to be an evangelist and physician of the soul: by the grace of the Spirit and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel, give your Church the same love and power to heal; 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

Old Testament: Isaiah 35.3-6

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.

Epistle: 2 Timothy 4.5-17

As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully. As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing. Do your best to come to me soon, for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry. I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will pay him back for his deeds. You also must beware of him, for he strongly opposed our message. At my first defence no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth.

Holy Gospel: Luke 10: 1 - 9

The Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

Post-communion prayer

We praise and thank you, O Christ, for this sacred feast: for here we receive you, here the memory of your passion is renewed, here our minds are filled with grace, and here a pledge of future glory is given, when we shall feast at that table where you reign with all your saints for ever. **Amen**

Reflection

Almost all that we know about Luke comes from the New Testament. He is referred to as a doctor in the letter to the Colossians (Colossians 4:14), and so is thought to have been a physician. References to Luke in the Acts of the Apostles suggest that he was a companion of Paul on some of his missionary journeys (Acts 16:10ff; 20:5ff; 27-28).

Luke is, most significantly, considered to be one of the 4 evangelists and the early church fathers attributed to Luke the authorship of both the Gospel according to Luke and also the Acts of the Apostles. Material found in his Gospel and not elsewhere, includes much of the account of Jesus' birth and infancy and boyhood, some of the most moving parables, such as that of the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son, and three of the sayings of Christ on the Cross: "Father, forgive them", "Today you shall be with me in Paradise", and "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit".

In Luke's account of the Gospel, we find an emphasis on the human love of Christ; on His compassion for sinners and for suffering and unhappy people, for outcasts such as the Samaritans, tax collectors, lepers, shepherds (not a respected profession), and for the poor. The role of women in Christ's ministry is more emphasized in Luke than in the other Gospel writings.

In the book of Acts, we find the early Christian community poised from the start to carry out its commission, confident and aware of God's guidance. We see how the early Christians at first preached only to Jews, then to Samaritans, then to outright Gentiles like Cornelius, and finally explicitly recognizing that Gentiles and Jews are called on equal terms to the service and fellowship of Christ.

Since the time of the early church, Luke has been regarded as a saint; venerated as St Luke the Evangelist, writer of the 3rd Gospel and also as patron saint of artists, physicians, surgeons, students and butchers!

Only St Luke tells us of a mission of 70, or sometimes 72. Scholars debate the significance of the number with some suggestion that it relates to the 70 elders chosen by Moses to share in his leadership of the people of Israel. Perhaps, from this, we are to understand that Jesus was sending people out to help him in leading the 'new exodus'. Whatever the reason, at the heart of Jesus' call and mission was the message of peace; he instructed them to make their very first words, 'peace to this house'. Jesus' vision of the kingdom was very different to those who were looking for someone to overthrow the Romans and who expected that person to do so with force. Jesus clearly rejected that way. His was to be a way that reflected the generous grace and healing love of God.

Healing is a theme which is very much associated with St Luke; 'Dr Luke', the evangelist who was also a physician. This seems particularly relevant to us in these present times as we make our prayers for the healing of the nations; as we pray for the healing love of God to touch all those who are suffering both physically and mentally during this current crisis. We pray too for all who are anxious, all who are concerned for friends or family, all who are anxious about their financial security and about the future. We ask God to send upon us His healing love and to give us His peace.

Canon Michael

Intercessions

Lord as we mark Luke the physician and evangelist, we pray for all medical staff as this pandemic spreads so virulently. We pray for doctors, nurses, support staff, researchers seeking a cure and all those who carry out caring roles in our community. Give them strength to continue and keep them and their families safe.

Lord in your mercy....**Hear our Prayer.**

Lord we pray for your church throughout the world, remembering especially those who worship you at great risk of liberty and life. Here in our own diocese we pray for Bishop Rachel and Robert Bishop of Tewkesbury and in the Ewelme Benefice we pray for Michael, Ian, Jane, Richard, David and Tony who lead and support us week by week.

Lord in your mercy....**Hear our prayer.**

Lord we pray for our gracious Queen Elizabeth, we give thanks for her long and steadfast service to our country and the Commonwealth, a permanence in our every changing world. Give her strength to continue and wisdom to pass duties to younger members of her family where it is appropriate.

Lord in your mercy....**Hear our prayer.**

Lord we pray for all the leaders of the world as they battle with the pandemic, with the economic devastation with ongoing conflicts in so many parts of the world and with the very real changes that global warming is having on the world. Let justice and peace be their goal.

Lord in your mercy....**Hear our prayer.**

Lord give grace to us, our families, our church families, remembering especially Churches Together and all our neighbours that we may serve Christ in one another and love as he love us.

Lord in your mercy....**Hear our prayer.**

We pray especially for those suffering in body, mind or spirit remembering especially we hold before you...

Keith, John, Dave, Bryan, Bob, Pam, Sue, Lynne, Mary, Chris, Frances, Janet, Joan, Norma, Anna and anyone known to us, confident that you know all their needs

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

We remember those who have recently died in the faith of Christ and those whose faith is known only to you, remembering particularly: Gabriel Hutton, Jennifer Rogers, Leslie Duncum. Assure all those who mourn of your everlasting presence and love.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your son our Saviour Jesus Christ.....Amen**

Philip Staddon

If you would like someone who is currently unwell or in particular need of prayer to be named on the weekly pew sheet, please email the parish office giving the person's name and also your name as the contact.

Pastoral Care

Home visiting is now possible in certain circumstances and following Covid guidelines. Please let Canon Michael (546459), Revd Ian Gardner (546895) or Revd Jane Wood know of those who need to be contacted or those who are in hospital and we will get in touch. Marion Kee (860364) or Pat Jones (860696) are also happy to be contacted for Uley, Owlpen and Nympsfield.

Service Sheet for Worship at Home

If you are unable to join the Sunday services, please do make use of the reflective service for use at home alongside the prayers and readings for the day which can be found on the pew sheet.

If you would like a copy please contact the office ewelmeeparishoffice@gmail.com

Service Recording for Sunday 18th October, 2020

There will be no Live Stream this week. Instead we will attempt to record the Eucharist service from Holy Cross. If it works it will be loaded to YouTube by about 1pm.

Just go into YouTube and type Ewelme Benefice into the search box and click on the relevant video clip.

Each week the Church of England live-streams a Sunday service which can be found at <https://www.churchofengland.org/>

Next week – back to St James.

Tony King

Next Sunday's services 25th October

10.00am Holy Communion in St James
10.00am Holy Communion in St Giles

Attending services

Due to social distancing, the number of people who can attend services in church sadly has to be restricted. If you are planning to attend a service in one of the churches, please can you email Clive in the Office on ewelmeeparishoffice@gmail.com or leave a message on the Office number 549280. **This is becoming more vital as more people are wanting to attend our services.** We have been asked to keep details of attendance for 21 days for Track and Trace purposes.

Morning and Evening Prayer in St James

Morning Prayer is now being said in St James every Monday and Thursday at 9am and Evening Prayer every Monday and Thursday at 5pm. These are public services and anyone is very welcome to join these short (20 minute) said services.

Thursday Holy Communion in St James at 10am

This service is now taking place every week and last for about 30 minutes. In order to socially distance we use the pews in the central aisle. Please remember your face coverings!

Dursley's on-line Christmas Market

As we are unable to hold the Christmas Market this year, we're trying something different. Using an on-line catalogue it will be possible to place orders for some of the popular items that you would have been able, in 'normal times', to buy at the Market. To do this though, we need to have some 'stall holders'; people who are willing to produce things for sale; items like cakes, scones, preserves, table decorations, Christmas wreaths, etc. If you would like to offer to take part as a virtual stall holder, please email Caroline on caroline.vegpatch@gmail.com as soon as possible. We hope this venture will raise some funds to cover the lost income from the Market, but will also be something different and a bit of fun.

A time for remembering Sunday 1st November

The weekend closest to the Feast days of All Saints and All Souls is when the Church traditionally remembers all those who have died. This year, due to the Covid restrictions, we will not be holding special services in our churches but we are extending an invitation to anyone who wishes to remember a departed loved one, to drop into either St James or St Giles between 2pm and 4pm on Sunday 1st November. There will be an opportunity to light a candle to remember someone, to sit quietly and reflect and, every quarter of an hour, the names of those who have died over the past year will be read out. It will be possible to add names to this list on arriving at the church. Letters have been sent to those whose loved-ones funerals we have conducted during the past year. Please do let people know about this open time for remembering.

Food Bank

The Food Bank is now operating again at St James' and donations are welcome. Uley village shop and both Tesco's and Sainsbury's have food donating points which can be used. Please continue to donate.

"The Messenger"

If you have any contributions for next month's magazine, please could you send them to Judith asap.

judith.staddon@gmail.com

Visit us on Facebook:

 Ewelme Benefice Family

Stewardship, Parish Giving Scheme, gifts and donations

Very many thanks to all members of our church community who have helped us financially by registering for the Parish Giving Scheme, increasing contributions through the Parish Giving Scheme, sending cheques to the treasurers or making bank transfers into our parish bank accounts.

These acts of generosity are really, really appreciated.

Please visit our website for quick and tax efficient online ways of giving -

<https://ewelmebenefice.co.uk/coronavirus/>.

You can also donate directly via on-line banking:

Uley account:

Barclays 20-33-83 A/C 43042057

Uley with Owlpen & Nympsfield Parochial Church Council

Uley Community Shop will take donations in sealed envelope marked 'Uley Church'

Dursley account:

Lloyds 30-98-29 A/C 02391588

Dursley PCCSt Luke