

St Francis Weekly News for THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT [Passiontide begins] 21st March 2021



This newsletter may have come to you by email or through your letterbox, if you received it on paper but are happy to receive an email in future please email deborah.lechmere@ntlworld.com If you know anybody else who would like this delivered or emailed please contact Deborah or Revd Janet: revdjanetwyer@outlook.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ST FRANCIS CHURCH?

NATIONAL DAY OF REFLECTION

On Tuesday 23rd March, St Francis will be marking The National Day of Reflection that has been organised by the Marie Curie organisation.

The hope is that the nation will come together on this first anniversary of the first National Lockdown and take some time to pause & reflect on the many who've died. Help support the families who've been bereaved, and hope for a brighter future.

Throughout the country, church bells will toll to mark both the beginning and the end of a minutes silence at midday – and St Francis Church bell will be joining in.

We will be opening the church building for private prayer and reflection for most of the day, 10am – 12.30pm and 2pm – 5.30pm, and people will be around to provide a listening ear, quiet support and prayerful companionship if needed.

ST FRANCIS WINDOW THIS WEEK...



It's a busy week for Revd Winnie, Brother Eeyore and Piglet. They're getting ready for the National Day of Reflection on Tuesday, and then on Friday 26th they'll be supporting a nationwide banner drop on 26th to show our MPs we support the Climate & Ecological Emergency Bill (CEE Bill). Phew! Who ever thought that following Jesus could be so full on!

ECO CHURCH NEWS

ST FRANCIS CHURCH BANNER DROP - FRIDAY

We are joining in with a nationwide banner drop on 26th to show our MPs we support the Climate & Ecological Emergency Bill (CEE Bill).

The Bill is, in essence, about putting into law the following:

- reducing carbon emissions to keep planetary heating to 1.5 degrees C above pre-industrial levels (in line with the Paris Climate Summit decision of 2015)
- dealing with climate and nature together
- use of a Citizens Assembly in making decisions

This Bill has cross-party support of over 100 MPs as well that of many organisations such as businesses and trade unions (See the CEE Bill Alliance website for more details: <https://www.ceebill.uk/about> .)

23rd March
National Day of Reflection
Reflect • Support • Hope

Take a minute's silence at 12 noon on 23 March to show your support for the millions of people who are bereaved and take a moment to connect with someone.

Scan this QR code to light a candle online



The Church will be open:

10am - 12.30pm
2.00pm - 5.30pm

God of Love,
As we think about all that has changed this year,
help us to trust that you are always with us.
As we remember those who have died,
help us to trust they are at peace with you.
As we reach out to others with kindness and care,
may hope shine out in every heart and home.
Amen





Here at St Francis, we hope to post film/photos of our banner on social media and use Twitter to message our MP, Chloe Smith.

Why not combine a walk with dropping past? We hope to have the banner up by 10am.

LENT 2021



So, here we are in the week of the fifth Sunday of Lent. This particular Sunday marks the beginning of Passiontide and in this week's Curate's Corner, Fr Tracy explores quite what that means.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER DAY



Re-introduction of Socially Distanced Worship

As detailed in last week's newsletter, we will be opening the church for socially distanced public worship during Holy Week.

On Monday 29th March at 11am, we will be livestreaming the annual Chrism Service that will be taking place in Norwich Cathedral.

This service sees the blessing of the Holy Oils that will be used throughout the diocese during the forthcoming year [every parish priest is invited to turn up at the cathedral to collect their share of the

oils for use in services of healing, baptism and confirmation]; and during the service all clergy reaffirm their ordination vows.

This is an amazing service filled with hope and joy, and it is a wonderful start to Holy Week. Please do join us in St Francis as we take part via the wonders of YouTube!



The Flagon of Holy Oil awaiting Episcopal blessing

On the Wednesday of Holy Week, 31st March, we will be resuming a weekday service of Holy Communion.

The service will be a said service in the Book of Common Prayer tradition and will take place at 11.30am.

On Good Friday the church will be open between 11.30am – 3.30pm. Prayers will be said upon each hour, with accompanying readings and a short meditation

Easter Day will see us returning to full Sunday congregational worship for the first time for many months – as usual the service will be a celebration of Holy Communion [Common Worship] and will begin at 10.30am.

We look forward to welcoming you to some, or all of these very special, and much anticipated, services.

A MESSAGE FOR WOODSIDE HOUSE CARE HOME

This patch of pretty violets that have sprung up in the hedgerow next to the church are a beautiful reminder that spring is here and better, brighter days are just around the corner. This little splash of joy comes to you with much love from us all here at St Francis



AN UPDATE...

Just in case you were wondering, we have now engaged the services of an architect who will be getting to grips with the recent problems that have cropped up with the church building.

It looks like we will need extensive remedial work to the roof to the front of the church, and we will be seeking quotes for that and for replacing the flat roofing to the tower.

The cracking to the wall adjacent to one of the roof piers in the nave will be needing specialist investigation by a structural engineer so nothing to report on that yet – but, this is going to need lot of prayer folks! The bills are likely to be substantial...

GET CREATIVE!

ODE TO THE SPELL CHECKER

Eye have a spelling checker
It came with my pea sea
It plainly marques four my revue
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.
Eye strike a key and type a word
And weight 4 it 2 say
Weather eye am wrong oar write
It shows me strait a weigh.
As soon as a mist ache is maid
It nose bee fore two long
And eye can put the error rite
Its rare lea ever wrong.
Eye have run this poem threw it
I am shore your pleased two no
Its letter perfect awl the weigh
My chequer tolled me sew!

Thank you Linda for sending this to me – I suspect one or two spell check typos have been spotted...

If you have something that you would like us to consider for the newsletter please feel free to send via email revdjanetwyer@outlook.com or post a copy of your submission through the vicarage door. [100 Rider Haggard Road]
[Not the original please, we cannot guarantee safe return]

WOULD YOU LIKE TO COMMIT TO BEING A MEMBER OF THE ST FRANCIS HEARTSEASE CHURCH FAMILY?

Everyone in the St Francis Heartsease Parish is a part of our church family, but we will shortly be revising St Francis Church Electoral Roll.

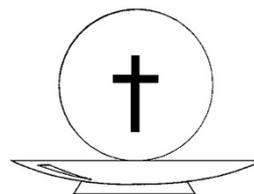
If you would like to formally become a part of the family and commit to all that entails, all you need to do is complete a simple form and return it to the Church Office.

We will be sending out forms in due course – but if you would like to know more, please get in touch.

CHURCH OPENING

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CHURCH IS NOT OPEN FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP UNTIL EASTER DAY.

However, the church is available for individual prayer every weekday 10.30am – 11.30am.



If you would like to spend some time in the church or would like to make enquiries about receiving Holy Communion please do feel free to contact:

Revd Janet – 07368 832294
or
Fr Tracy - 07834 845623

If you would like to join in with Sunday Worship we continue to broadcast via the St Francis YouTube channel. Just search for 'St Francis Heartsease YouTube'

HOME GROUP

Throughout Lent Jim Green will continue to offer folk the opportunity to get together via a Zoom Room every fortnight on a Wednesday evening.

The forthcoming dates are:

March 24

Joining Jim and the group who meet regularly is an ideal opportunity to try something different as a way of observing Lent and deepening bonds of fellowship.

As ever the times are 7- 8pm, and the format is very simple: chat, catch up with each other, read a Bible passage, pray for each other.

Please email Jim for further details and he will be happy to make contact and pass on all you need to know, including the zoom link address. His email is as follows: jimpiecrust@gmail.com

NEIGHBOURHOOD NOTICE BOARD

We've been advised by Norwich City Council that Public Health Norfolk are providing asymptomatic testing at Pilling Park Community Centre in Pilling Park Road over the next two weeks.

This will be open from 8am - 4pm Monday, 22 March to Friday, 26 March and from Monday 29 March to Thursday 1 April.

If you would like to take advantage of this free testing facility, please pre-book an appointment at www.norfolk.gov.uk/rapidtesting or visit the site during its advertised opening hours.

Norfolk County Council
NORWICH City Council
NHS Test and Trace

Get your symptom-free COVID-19 test now

Around 1 in 3 people with Covid-19 don't have any symptoms, but can still pass it on.
Symptom-free testing helps us find positive cases that would normally go undetected.

You can get a free test, even if you don't have symptoms, see overleaf for details

22nd to 26th March and 29th March to 1st April
8am to 4pm

Pilling Park Community Centre, Pilling Park Road, Norwich NR1 4PA

WE ARE ALL IN IT TOGETHER.
PROTECT OURSELVES. PROTECT OTHERS. PROTECT NORFOLK.

www.norfolk.gov.uk/rapidtesting

PASTORAL CARE MATTERS

Please remember you are not alone, if you would like a chat or if you need some assistance of any kind, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Our contact details are as follows:

Revd Janet: 07368 832294

Fr Tracy: 07834 845623

24/7 Answerphone: 01603 431259
[checked daily]

There is also someone available in church weekday mornings if you would prefer to talk to someone face to face.

PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE

If you are feeling overwhelmed, low, stressed or anxious – Norfolk and Suffolk Foundation Trust have launched a self-referral service available online:

www.wellbeingnands.co.uk/get-support/selfreferral

or by phone: 03300 123 1503

[Mon – Fri 8am – 8pm]

wellbeing

Helping you live your life

HELP AND SUPPORT IN TIMES OF NEED



USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Childline: 0800 1111

Samaritans: 116 123

Domestic Violence Hotline: 0808 2000 247

[If you hear a neighbour in distress please do not hesitate to call this number or 999; you could save a life]

Mind: 0300 123 3393

Age UK: 0800 169 6565

Norfolk Assistance Scheme: 01603 223392



DO YOU NEED A WALKER?

Please contact Mrs Jeanette Reeve
07704 046497 for details.



If you have a notice you would like included under the noticeboard – please email your piece to revdjanetwyer@outlook.com or deborah.lechmere@ntlworld.com



cma
Heartsease

Community Money Advice

Now open

We have trained debt advisers

We can also help you before you get into debt

Please call 07765739987 and leave your name & number

Or email heartseasecmacentre@outlook.com



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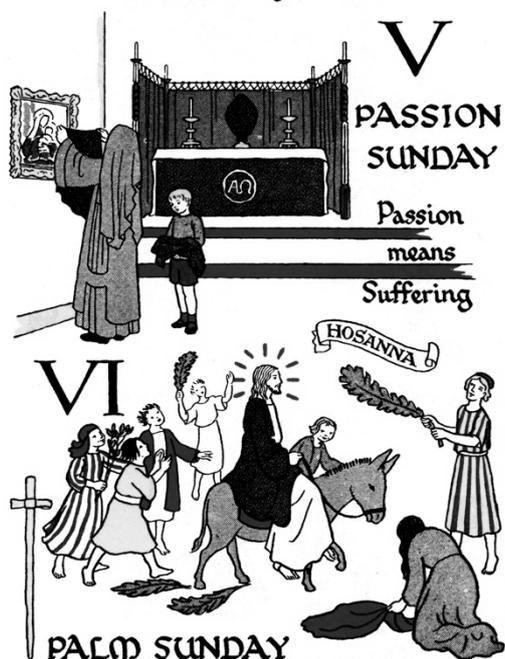


THE CURATES'S CORNER

Once again, I'm referring to this month's posters outside the church drawn by Norfolk artist Edith Chadwick. I know the time has flown by at unbelievable speed, but we've now arrived at the fifth Sunday of Lent. As you can see in the picture, the fifth Sunday is commonly known as 'Passion Sunday', the Sunday before 'Palm Sunday', which we will look at next week.

PASSIONTIDE

The last fortnight of Lent



As you can see, the drawing helpfully tells us that 'passion means suffering', the word 'passion' in this context deriving from the Latin 'passus est', which is usually translated 'he suffered'.

This is worthy of some further thought. It is taken from the words of the creed in Latin, 'passus et sepultus est', or '(he) suffered and was buried'. The word 'passus', however, is inadequately translated here, as we do not have a sufficiently equivalent word in English. To suffer in English has an active connotation, as in choosing to 'suffer fools gladly', or actively suffering from an illness. 'Passus' has a much more passive sense, indeed our word passive comes from the same root; it means not to do something actively, but to receive it.

'Passus est' therefore does not mean that Jesus did something, it means that Jesus had something done to him.

He was made to suffer. He was questioned. He was flogged. He was laughed at. He was derided. All of this happened to Him. He was not acting. He was allowing people, people created by Him, do whatever they wanted. He was passive. He allowed all these things to happen to Him.

Why? Well, Pilate asked 'what is truth?', of the man Jesus stood before him who is the way, the truth and the life. The way, is the way of love. Jesus allowed this all to be done to him out of love, love for us and all of creation. The creator became like us, like one of His creatures, and suffered. This is the great and wonderful mystery of the Easter event, the event that changed all things forever – because now we too can follow the way of love, if only we had ears to hear His call.

Looking again at our illustration, we see that a little boy is helping to cover a picture in the church with what appears to be black cloth. If you look closely at the altar, you will see that the cross has also been covered. This is a very old tradition dating back certainly to the early middle ages, and maybe before, to cover all images and crosses in the church from Passion Sunday and throughout 'Passiontide', which extends to Holy Saturday, or the evening vigil before Easter Sunday.

In the middle ages the colour of the material was a very deep red, but purple became more common in modern times, with unbleached linen also being used. This is the practice followed at our cathedral, though few parish churches do it today, including here at St Francis. The overall liturgical colour remains purple throughout this coming week, as you will see from our altar lighting if you are passing the church at night. The colour changes to

red next Sunday, Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week.

So Passiontide, beginning on Passion Sunday, is a time to contemplate the meaning of Christ's suffering, His giving of himself, His forgiveness of our sins and providing a means for the free gift of grace. A sombre time it may be, but I would suggest that it is joyful too, as we come to realise that truth is life and love, and that love is the purpose of life.

Every blessing

Fr Tracy

A WORD FROM THE VICAR

On a particularly drab and drizzly morning last week, I have to admit to feeling a little glum. As I mooched from vicarage to church, thinking to myself that rainy weather is great for ducks but not so good for sun loving vicars, I suddenly came across a little something that lifted my heart and my spirits! I say something, but I really mean someone...

A little chap – probably around three or four years old was waiting [very patiently] by his mum whilst she carried on a conversation with another mum on the corner of Deloney Road.

What caught my eye was the reason for his patience was that he had become completely entranced with a huge puddle that had formed by the roadside.

It was clear to see that every inch of his being was completely absorbed by this huge expanse of shiny water. First he contented himself with gazing at the reflections that he could see, and then, every so often, he dipped his toe into the water and stood back, very obviously enjoying the sight of the ripples he had made.

It all made for a beautiful start to the day – him marvelling at the wonderful results of God's good rain sent to water the earth; and me being able to watch him – he was innocent curiosity and pleasure personified and a complete delight to the heart.

How blessed I was to be granted the joy of watching that little chap learn for himself the wonders of God's goodness around us. How blessed we are to be surrounded by little miracles and joys - even in the midst of the most difficult of times.

May your hearts be open to God's good providence and miracles throughout this coming week and always - Revd Janet

FOR OUR PRAYERS

We continue to pray for Woodside House Care Home who are finding these times particularly difficult. Please ask that they know that God's love is with them as they continue to live through sad times and the current restrictions.

We pray too for those who are in need of prayer at this time: Joy; Lorna; Evie; Rodrigo; Huggy; Megan; Christine; Stephen C; Margaret T; David & Cynthia; Maegan; Tom; Riley & his mum and family; Jeanette, David & Grace; Paula.

We continue to pray for all those in our Church, friends and family who are managing long term health issues including Pete; Doreen; Rosemary; Sheila; John; Shirley; Fr Brian, Hazel;

We pray too for all NHS and NSFT Staff.

We remember with love Lynn Smith and all those who have died in recent days and pray for their family and friends.

A PRAYER FOR THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or feeling isolated. In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Church of St Francis Heartsease

Heavenly Father
We ask your blessing upon us.
Hold the Heartsease Community,
and all the world,
in your arms of love.
Be with us.
Give us your strength,
peace, and healing grace.
Watch over us,
protect us from harm;
and keep in safety
all those who care for the sick
and attend to our needs,
in Jesus name we pray.
Amen

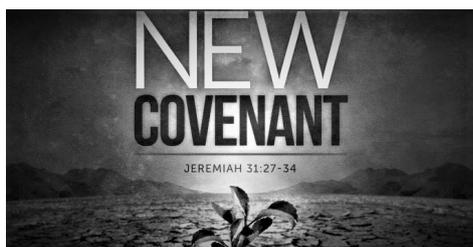
PRAYERS FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection
of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him
who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
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

Gracious Father,
you gave up your Son
out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us
that what we do
for the least of our brothers and sisters
we do also for you:
give us the will
to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign,
now and for ever. Amen

READINGS FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT JEREMIAH 31:31-34



The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the LORD', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the

LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

PSALM 51: 1 – 13

To the leader. A Psalm of David, when the prophet Nathan came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba



Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness; ♦
according to the abundance of your compassion
blot out my offences.

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness ♦
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my faults ♦
and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned ♦
and done what is evil in your sight,

So that you are justified in your sentence ♦
and righteous in your judgement.

I have been wicked even from my birth, ♦
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

Behold, you desire truth deep within me ♦
and shall make me understand wisdom
in the depths of my heart.

Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean; ♦
wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear of joy and gladness, ♦
that the bones you have broken may rejoice.

Turn your face from my sins ♦
and blot out all my misdeeds.

Make me a clean heart, O God, ♦
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence ♦
and take not your holy spirit from me.

Give me again the joy of your salvation ♦
and sustain me with your gracious spirit;

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,

and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning
is now, and shall be for ever. Amen

HEBREWS 5:5 - 10



So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

'You are my Son,
today I have begotten you';
as he says also in another place,
'You are a priest for ever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.'

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

JOHN 12:20 - 33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—"Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd

standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out.

And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.



Photo by Kirill Pershin on Unsplash

REFLECTION FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Two weeks ago, in our third Lenten reflection, focused on John's story of Jesus turning over the tables, David Lechmere reminded us that sometimes the church needs to, 'speak truth to power'. Looking for current examples, I opened this week's Church Times. Page 2: Church leaders, including the Archbishops of York and Wales, condemn government plans for a forty percent increase in the number of nuclear warheads, calling them 'immoral'. That is one way of the church speaking truth to power, but does it have a Biblical basis?

In Psalm 51, the prophet Nathan speaks truth to power, to King David. He challenges the king over getting a woman pregnant while her husband was away fighting, calling the husband home to sleep with her so that the baby would seem to be his, then getting him killed when that didn't work. (Details in 2 Samuel 11-12).

There is ready material here on 'speaking truth to power', courage in confronting a murderous king, creativity in using a story to make his point, and hope for transformation.

There are dangers, however, in seeing Nathan's story as a tactical blueprint, basing too much on the psalm's heading and not enough on its body, which takes us through confession, restoration, and recommissioning: the perfect Lent psalm. Before speaking truth to others, we must allow truth to be spoken to us.

It is true that seeing the psalm in the context of the David and Bathsheba incident illuminates it. While

scholars are not agreed on whether the psalm was written by King David, or a later hymn writer putting themselves in David's shoes, either way we have an invitation to put ourselves in David's place.

The psalm starts with confession (vv1-4). King David recognised that he needed God's mercy, because his adultery and murder was a sin, not just against people, but against God. Scholar John Goldingay replaces 'transgressions' with 'acts of rebellion', giving the impression of a king aware that what he fears from his people, rebellion, he has done to God. He has undermined his own position as king.

This is where we need to walk with David, reflecting on what we have we done which needs God's forgiveness.

Next comes restoration (vv6-12). David does not stay in self-pity, but seeks inner truth, wisdom, cleansing. There is still the chance of joy and gladness, the possibility that crushed bones will rejoice and wrong will be put right. That is another reason why we need to be wary before we jump in to 'speak truth to power', as we may have enough to consider in our own lives before confronting others. I don't know about you, but I find these very challenging times, and I could do with a touch of 'your presence', 'your Holy Spirit', 'your salvation'.

This restoration is not a quick or easy process. 'Truth in the inward being' (v 6) must have been hard for David and it is for us. If we aspire to speak truth, in our own lives are we trying to be truthful? And how do we deal with the turmoil of confrontation? I find the news of the increase in nuclear weapons spending, alongside a 50 percent cut in aid to Yemen upsetting. Thinking of climate, there is a recognised condition known as 'eco anxiety'. I have also met many people for whom involvement in protest is a new thing leading to much heart searching over what they are prepared to do. We need to seek inward truth, and 'wisdom in my secret heart' (v 6)

Finally, there is a job to do. Coming out of the experience, God will use David to 'teach transgressors your ways' (v 13). After forgiveness and restoration, what sometimes brings us joy, to find, after all, that we are valuable because we bring something to the party? In my lay reader training the preparation for one week included doing a daily act of justice. Trying this has made a difference to me: instead of waiting for the big action which never comes, a few phone calls and emails in relatively successful campaigns made me feel good!

Perhaps now we can reconnect with speaking truth to power. Some of us need to avoid this because the challenges of daily life are enough, but others need to grapple with what speaking truth to power means, avoiding thinking that we can only act when our lives are sorted out, while proceeding with humility.

On this basis, we can cautiously take some ideas from Psalm 51 about how to speak truth to power.

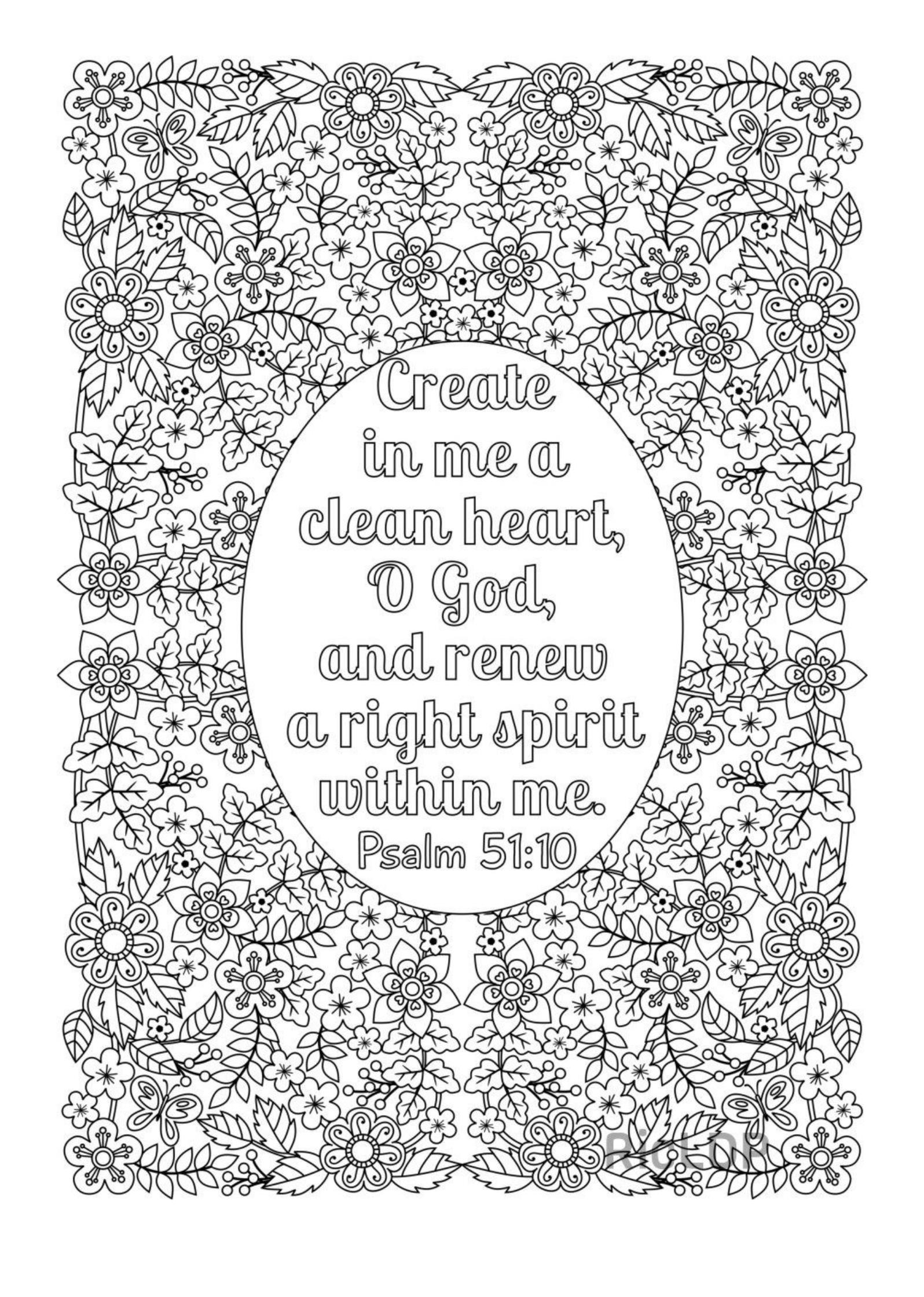
First, be imaginative. Nathan told David a story about a rich man stealing a poor man's lamb. In 1971 Dr Seuss wrote a children's book called the Lorax, an environmental book pre-dating environmentalism, banned in two US states for promoting negative attitudes to their logging industry. In a country when the government is trying to pass a Policing Bill in which causing 'serious inconvenience' would be punishable by up to ten years in jail, imaginative ways to speak truth to power may be increasingly needed.

Second, be hopeful. Psalm 51 shows us a man who changed. We must believe that those we oppose can change, otherwise we deny the image of God in them.

Third, be courageous. How would Nathan know that David wouldn't have him killed as he had done to Uriah? He wouldn't! He had to trust God. Although the church statement on nuclear weapons is welcome, the lives of the signatories are probably not in danger, unlike protesters in many parts of the world. Along with courage, we need wisdom. Sometimes raising concerns amongst friends and colleagues can be more challenging than being one of thousands on a march.

So let us walk with David through this psalm of confession, restoration and re-commissioning, letting truth be spoken to us. Let us enter with Nathan into the risky business of speaking truth, in humility, to others. Let us do something else as well: be with Jesus. 'Where I am, there will my servant be also' (John 12:26) says Jesus. Where is he? He is in the business of transformation, of reconciliation. Confession, restoration and commissioning are all available because of the death of Jesus for us. He is the 'grain of wheat' which has fallen in to the ground to bear fruit, but so are we. As we share the journey which David took, we are sharing the journey of his followers down the centuries, and his journey. Know this: he is with us.

Jim Green – Trainee Lay Reader



Create
in me a
clean heart,
O God,
and renew
a right spirit
within me.
Psalm 51:10



Everyone wanted to hear what Jesus had to say. There were some Greeks in the crowd who wanted to see Jesus. They asked Philip, Philip asked Andrew, and then they both asked Jesus. Jesus wondered how he could put into words all he wanted to say, especially for people who spoke different languages. 'It is time for the Son of Man to be glorified,' he said. What other words would help them understand? 'A single grain of wheat is simply a seed, but if it falls into the earth and dies, it will bear a lot of wheat.

'Those who love their life will lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for ever. Whoever follows me must be my servant and should go wherever I go. God will honour everyone who serves me.' So Jesus spoke words of death and life, of loss and gain, of serving and honouring. But sometimes the right words were hard to find.

'Now my soul is troubled,' said Jesus. 'What should I say? Father, save me from what lies ahead? No, I have come to this moment for a reason. Father, your name be glorified.' So Jesus spoke words of courage and obedience. Then a voice came from heaven: 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd, standing there, heard the voice and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' God spoke words of promise. Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the time for the world to be judged; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself.' Jesus spoke these words about his death, and hinted at what would happen afterwards. John 12.20-33

Name _____

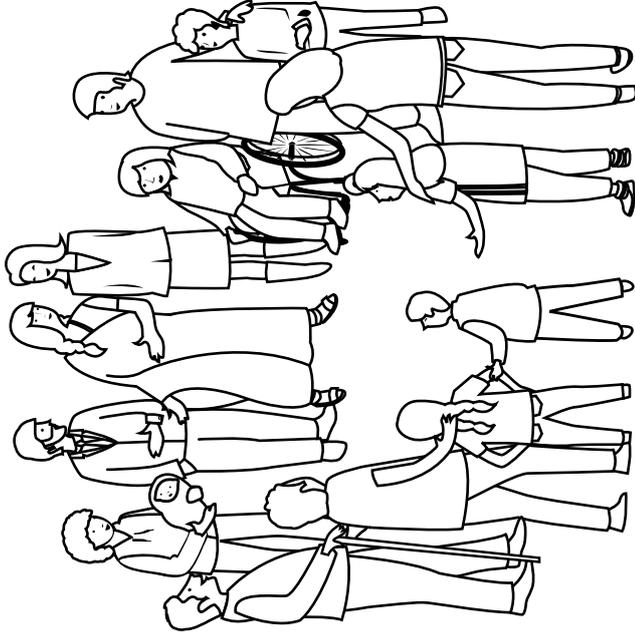
ROOTS Activity Sheet

21-27 March 2021
Lent 5



John 12.20-33

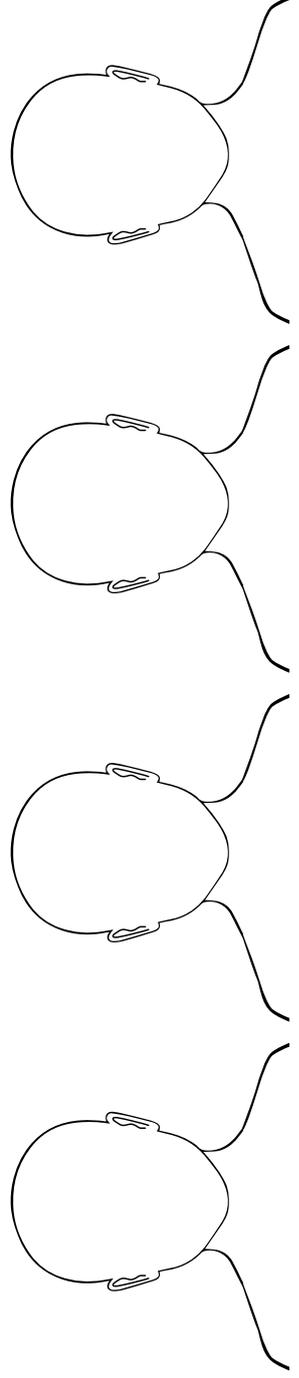
Some people from another country ask to see Jesus, and he tells them about how he is going to die.



Jesus says, 'I will draw all people to myself.'



Complete these pictures to show people who Jesus welcomes.



Match up the names with what they did to complete parts of the story.

Jesus

Philip and Andrew

Some Greeks

The crowd

heard a voice from heaven.

told people he would die for them.

wanted to see Jesus.

led people to Jesus.



Colour in these words when you find them in the word search. The letters that are left reveal a message from Jesus when read from left to right, top to bottom.

G	a	l	A	l	P	a	n
r	l	v	n	r	u	e	a
e	t	o	d	P	d	w	M
e	a	i	r	h	e	e	f
k	e	c	e	i	t	e	o
s	h	e	w	l	f	l	n
c	w	o	m	i	i	y	o
d	i	e	l	p	l	e	s

Greeks

Andrew

die

glorify

life

lifted up

Philip

Son of Man

voice

wheat