

Bible Reading from the Old Testament

Genesis 24: verses 34 to 38, 42 to 49 and 58 to 67

The Marriage of Isaac and Rebekah

So he said, 'I am Abraham's servant. The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, "You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son."

'I came today to the spring, and said, "O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, 'Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,' and who will say to me, 'Drink, and I will draw for your camels also'—let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master's son."

'Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water-jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, "Please let me drink." She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, "Drink, and I will also water your camels." So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, "Whose daughter are you?" She said, "The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him." So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshipped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.' And they called Rebekah, and said to her, 'Will you go with this man?' She said, 'I will.' So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

'May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes.' Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, 'Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?' The servant said, 'It is my master.' So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Bible Reading from the New Testament

Romans 7: verses 15 to 25a

The Inner Conflict

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me

from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 11: verses 16 to 19 and 25 to 30

Jesus Praises John the Baptist

'But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another, "We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn."

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon"; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.'

Jesus Thanks His Father

At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Notices

Refreshments – are served at the back of church following this service – please join us for a cuppa and a chat – all welcome!



Come and Join Us! From 21st June our beautiful church will be open every Wednesday from 1pm – 4pm to welcome you with refreshments, a chat or simply as a space for quiet reflection. Please pop in – we will be delighted to see you!

200 Club, Kirk Langley

Members' subscriptions are now due for 2023/24 and renewal letters will soon be distributed to existing members. The cost of membership is £15 per ticket and there are three draws each year – Harvest, Christmas and Easter - with prize money of £30, 1st place and £15, 2nd place. If you are not already a member and would like to join, please contact Michael Heap or Margaret Matthews for further information. Funds from the 200 Club help with the daily running costs of the Church.

Halter Devil Chapel Tercentenary

Join us on Saturday 15th July from 1pm to celebrate 300 years of worship at this historic chapel on Intakes Lane DE56 2LU. If you have never visited before, this is a great opportunity to learn of its unusual history. The chapel will be open from 1pm and there will be a short service between 2-230pm. Mugginton School children are busy making a timeline to add to the display boards compiled by members of the history group. There will be an opportunity to try the harmonium from 230-4pm and refreshments will be served. All are welcome!

Lectio 365

Lectio 365 is an excellent app providing a daily devotional resource. The current four-week series 'Questions of Jesus' explores questions Jesus asked of people he encountered. Each week, a different Gospel is explored as we reflect on how we would respond to Jesus' questions.

Dates for your Diary

Next Sunday.....

16th July – Trinity 6 Holy Communion at 9.30am.

Contacts

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If you would like to include a notice in the pew sheet please contact Emma Jones

WELCOME TO ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH KIRK LANGLEY

Sunday 9th July 2023

Fifth Sunday after Trinity



The service today is Holy Communion

If you have a prayer request, please pass to the Church Warden.

Please take this leaflet home with you for reference.