

St James', Wulfstan Way, Cambridge

The **Weekly Sheet**

29 March 2020

THE 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT / Passiontide begins

Our church is now closed to all services, meetings and gatherings, but we intend to carry on praying, caring and serving the local community as best we can. We will be providing a variety of resources for creative worship, prayers and learning over the coming weeks and the best way to access these is to keep visiting the website for more details and regular updates. We are looking into the possibility of having an online gathering for prayers, Bible readings and reflection time together. This could happen on a Sunday morning, and/perhaps one evening in the week. If you would value this and would be keen to participate please email the Vicar at s.rothwell3@btinternet.com

Collect for today

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.

Today's readings are: Ezekiel 37.1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8.6-11; John 11.1-45.

Ezekiel 37.1-14

The Valley of Dry Bones

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord GOD, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.'

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.'

Psalm 130

John Goss



Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord;
Lord, / hear my / voice; ♦
let your ears consider well the / voice of my / suppli/cation.
If you, Lord, were to mark what is / done a/miss, ♦
O / Lord, / who could / stand?
But there is for/giveness with / you, ♦
so / that you / shall be / feared.
I wait for the Lord; my / soul / waits for him; ♦
in his / word / is my / hope.
My soul waits for the Lord,
more than the night watch / for the / morning, ♦
more than the / night watch / for the / morning.
O Israel, / wait for the / Lord, ♦
for with the / Lord / there is / mercy;
with him is / plenteous re/demption ♦
and he shall redeem / Israel from / all their / sins.

Romans 8.6-11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

John 11.1-45

The Death of Lazarus

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

Jesus the Resurrection and the Life

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

Jesus Weeps

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

The Plot to Kill Jesus

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Readings for Next Sunday, PALM SUNDAY, (5 April) are:

Liturgy of the Psalms: Matthew 21.1-11; Psalm 118.1-2, 19-end.

Liturgy of the Passion: Isaiah 50.4-9a; Psalm 31.9-16; Philippians 2.5-11; Matthew 26.14-end of 27 (or Matthew 27.11-54).

Reflection by The Very Rev'd Peter Judd

As we turn our attention to the passion of Jesus- it marked a huge change in his life. Before he went where he liked, preached where he wanted, stayed where he chose. After his arrest he was completely in the hands of others. He had to wait to see what would happen to him next. He had no control over his circumstances. Yet in these hugely different circumstances he remained calm, dignified, loving and concerned about others.

W.H Vanstone wrote a book called 'The Stature of Waiting.' In it he mentions a bishop who was dynamic and creative and much admired in his working life. However, at the end when he was infirm and bedridden his friends said that what they saw in that helpless person was even more impressive than what he had been. They saw a person glowing with calm faith and outgoing love that lifted the spirits of those who visited him, when they thought they were going to comfort him. In our present circumstances, as we wait at home for all this to pass over, we can follow and identify with Jesus in his passion even more intensely than ever before.

As we wait and watch with Jesus, we can reflect on there being grace and stature in waiting, and that we can radiate calm faith and outgoing love even when we are in effect under arrest and housebound.

Intercessions for the beginning of Passiontide

Let us bring to God our prayers of intercession through Christ who gave himself for the life of the world.

For forgiveness for the many times we have denied Jesus,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For grace to seek out those habits of sin which mean
spiritual death, and by prayer and self-discipline to overcome them,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Christian people, that through the suffering of disunity
there may grow a rich union in Christ,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who make laws, interpret them, and administer them,
that our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who still make Jerusalem a battleground,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who have the courage and honesty to work openly for
justice and peace,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those in the darkness and agony of isolation,
that they may find support and encouragement,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who, weighed down with hardship, failure, or sorrow,
feel that God is far from them,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we, with those who have died in faith,
may find mercy in the day of Christ,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

A prayer for the current situation re coronavirus:

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

Caroline is working from home. Her working mornings will be as usual, please continue to email or phone as you would normally. Caroline can access both the internet and the church office phone from home.

Prayer for Friends and Congregation of St James'

Sunday	Ian Rowland
Monday	David Sanders
Tuesday	Caroline and Michael Sanford and family
Wednesday	Molly Sayer and family
Thursday	Janet and Robert Scott, Anne and Adam
Friday	Peggy Shortley
Saturday	Jordan Skittrall

Contacts

Priest-in-charge	Rev'd Steve Rothwell 246419 s.rothwell3@btinternet.com
Curate	Rev'd Anne Strauss stjamescurate@gmail.com
Churchwardens	Pam Butler, 07745 591235 pambutler27@hotmail.com Michael Smale, (01223) 478650 michaelsmale05@gmail.com
Pastoral Assistants	Mary Calladine, (01223) 246742 Rosemary Monk, (01223) 246421
Director of Music	position vacant
The Music Group	Grae Worster, 846295 mgw1@cam.ac.uk
Safeguarding Officer	Jill Bradley, 07971 013645 happybeadsuk@gmail.com
Church Office:	246419 (Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays 9.15 am -1.15 pm)
e-mail:	stjameschurchcambridge@yahoo.co.uk
Website:	stjamescambridge.org.uk

Weekly Church Activities – *currently suspended*

Junior Choir Practice	Sundays, 11.15 am – 12 noon
Choir Practice	Mondays 6.30 pm—7.30 pm
Meditation Group	Fridays 1.30 pm—2.00 pm

Community Activities – *currently suspended*

Beavers (6-8 yrs)	16thcambridgebeavers@gmail.com
Cubs (8-11 yrs, QE Schl)	Stephen Harrison, 07548 765421
Scouts (10½ - 14 yrs, QE Schl)	16thcambridgescouts@gmail.com

Our parish magazine **Crosspiece** is available on the website.

If you are ordering goods from **Amazon**, please remember to use the Amazon link on the St James' website fundraising page. It doesn't cost you any more but gives St James a percentage of the price you pay.