

WEDNESDAY SUPPLEMENT

13th May 2020

Christ is Risen! **He is Risen Indeed!**

Welcome to this week's Wednesday Supplement. For devotions, you will find *Compline* on page 4.

01229 715259 – stephen@kdbchurches.com

ANNOUNCEMENT

Bishop James has been in touch to let me know that I will be licensed as Priest (rather than Curate) in Charge of our parishes, with effect from 1 June 2020. Please note that our Bishops are not conducting licensing services at present.

THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE

Following Sunday's night's announcement by the Prime Minister and the detailed document published on 11th May, it is clear that churches will not open until Phase 3 of the government's plan (alongside retail and hospitality businesses where people might gather). The current indication is that Phase 3 will not be introduced earlier than 4th July. It is therefore almost certain that our current pattern of twice-weekly *Supplements* plus online recorded services will continue until at least 4th July. Where the current necessity has introduced changes which are advantageous, I am open to continuing these provisions after the lockdown (subject to available time and resources, and discussion with PCCs). If you have particular views on this, for example if you are housebound and would like to continue to receive some form of *Supplement* or recorded service, it would be a great help if you could let me know.

You may be aware that many churchgoers (perhaps including yourself) have felt keenly the inability to use church buildings. There has also been a campaign for Bishops to lift their prohibition on ministers entering their churches to pray for the community, to celebrate communion on their behalf and to record services. The decision to lift this latter restriction was left to individual Diocesan Bishops. Bishop James (whose guidance has been prompt and clear throughout the crisis) announced yesterday that he would lift the restriction on ministers. I shall therefore film parts of our Sunday service from our churches, rather than from home, starting this Sunday.

FOODBANK UPDATE

I had a pleasant exchange of emails with Ann Mills, project manager at the Foodbank, this week – which was, as always, encouraging and informative:

"Hello Stephen

I am so glad you had an opportunity to see around our warehouse. People have been immensely generous over the last month. I think the lock down has allowed people to think of those who are not as fortunate as themselves and want to change the unequal society we live in. At present we have 22 tons in the warehouse which will cover the needs of Barrow, Millom and Ulverston for the next three months provided we do not [have] another spike again.

Parents who are struggling for food, also struggle to find things for the children, so Signal Films recently supplied some craft products which were gratefully received. These can be craft kits, felt tip or gel pens, colouring books, paper, card. 'The Range' [online] have got interesting things, like a card colouring book where they can create gift boxes for birthdays and Christmas. Despite all the food we have got we do run out on certain items, such as sponge puddings and during this lock down, we also try and give the children some chocolate treats - we break down multipacks so they go further.

That was just some ideas. Thank your congregation again for their generous support during these unusual times.

Kind regards

Ann"

I will be directing donations to these ends until the Foodbank alert me to any particular shortages, such as the current 'Sponge Pudding Shortfall'. We have, in fact, been big donors of sponge puddings in recent weeks!

REFLECTION

Chris Smith (Broughton) reflects on Luke 5:17-26, Jesus' healing of the paralytic, which is part of the second reading set for Morning Prayer today. Parallel accounts can be found in Matthew 9:1-8 and Mark 2:1-12.

This story, from today's morning prayer, can be found in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. The miraculous story of a paralytic being lowered to Jesus through a roof for healing is well known in Sunday schools. I remember being told about it when I was a child but haven't really delved deeper into it until now. It strikes me that our faith is like an onion. It has varying layers that we peel away into, as our faith matures. But it's necessary to have that first layer to build upon, which makes our work in schools so important.

To begin with, this passage can tell us a lot about prayer. The Gospel of Mark provides more of a background to this story. This miraculous healing takes place in Capernaum but it wasn't the first time Jesus had been here. We are told in Mark 1:32-34 that Jesus had been here already. People had brought to him all the sick and demon-possessed and Jesus had healed many who had various diseases.

Why on his previous visit to Capernaum had Jesus only healed many of the sick and not all of them? And had the paralytic man seen Jesus already and not been healed? If so, this paralytic man must have been confused and frustrated at the fact that Jesus had healed many others but not him. We can also feel like this when our prayers go unanswered; when some people are healed through prayer and others not.

This makes it even more poignant that these men try again to bring their friend to Jesus. What faith they must have had in Jesus that they go to the lengths of digging through someone's roof! After all, back in Luke's Gospel now (Luke 5:20), we read that Jesus was moved when he saw the faith of the friends.

What Jesus says first is the interesting part. "*Friend, your sins are forgiven.*" Surely this wasn't what the paralytic wanted to hear! He wanted to be healed of his physical paralysis! You can imagine what he was thinking.

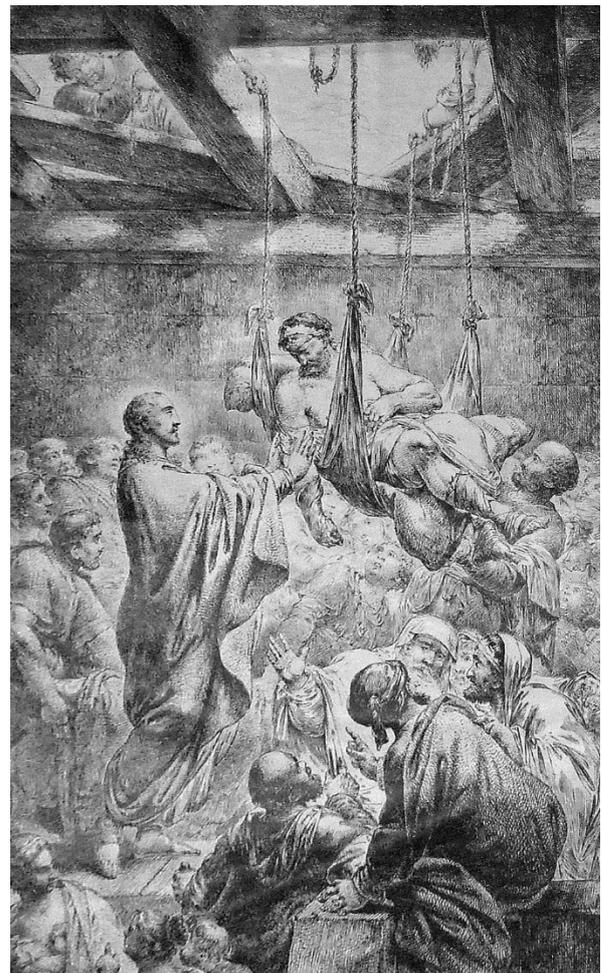
Then ensues arguably the most important part to this story. Jesus's teaching on the forgiveness of sins. Only God can forgive sins which is why the Pharisees, not knowing that Jesus is fully God, accuse him of blasphemy. But what are the main points to consider here?

Is it more important for us in the long run to have good spiritual health or good physical health? I would argue that spiritual health alone is needed for salvation. It's interesting here how Jesus forgives this man of his sins before correcting his physical debilitation. As hard a concept as this may seem in the eyes of the world and in the personal suffering of an ill or disabled person,

Jesus is clear that in his Kingdom, things work differently.

Secondly, I wonder what your response would be to the question in Luke 5, verse 23? Is it easier to forgive sins or correct paralysis? From a veterinary point of view, some acute forms of paralysis are correctable but recovery can take months. To forgive someone that has deeply hurt you? Its easy to say you forgive someone with words but to truly forgive from the heart can take a lifetime. Perhaps Jesus is hinting that in the Kingdom of God where things work differently it should be that forgiving others their sins should be your focus. Indeed, getting right with God should be the priority.

So in summary this is a story of compassionate friendship whereby friends are driven to action through their faith. It is a story of unanswered prayer. It is a story to give us an appreciation of God's greater plans in our lives. The paralytic was perhaps not healed in Jesus's first visit to Capernaum as Jesus knew that this second encounter would be an important lesson for a wider audience. There was a bigger narrative at play. Finally it is a call for us to appreciate more deeply how the values of Gods Kingdom are different from what the secular world teaches.



Christ healing the paralytic at Capernaum, Bernhard Rode (1780).

NEWS FROM BLACKPOOL VICTORIA HOSPITAL

*John Rousseau (Broughton Mills) writes from his hospital bed. John was moved from Furness General to Blackpool Victoria at the beginning of this week, after collapsing as a result of a previously-undetected heart problem. It was therefore a delight this morning to receive an email from John with an article describing his experience. **A word of warning: this article does convey a mild sense of the procedure and the experience of undergoing it.** We wish John all the best for his continuing recovery and pray that he can be discharged from hospital as soon as it is safe to do so.*

It wasn't an operating theatre. It was a studio: extensive – huge, even – with studio lights, boom lights, and extraordinary camera-style machines, seemingly without lenses, intertwined with booms and joints and moving arms, all part of a fantastical whole, centred on a narrow gurney with two steps up and a handle to spin round on. The whole stage can be seen from here and is huge.

Today there seems to be a cast of thirteen or fourteen young men and women, all having stations of their own of some sort; all having a definite purpose, that much was clear, without it being actually clear what that purpose was. The nearest one to me told me to get up and on the gurney and we will pin you in and make a start. And so there I am, facing the ceiling, with unseen hands arranging who knows what.

Suddenly there is a sharp pain near my right wrist, and a channel of unpleasant but not unbearable pain grows from there, up my right arm and beyond, and unseen hands are pushing and rearranging the realignment of my body at the same time as these spinning machines are repositioning and realigning in a sort of mad dance, crashing almost to destruction but eerily stopping within a millimetre of each other, and then whirling away.

This just goes on – there is no explanation given in my direction, but an increasing technical counterbabble, never quite stopping, but impossible to understand. Eventually, some steady lights come on, and I venture to hope that this may not go on for very much longer as I am actually bursting for a pee, and say so.

A voice comes from somewhere to say that at most there will be five or ten minutes more, and that they have found something, which they can definitely do something about, if I can but hold on just a few more minutes.

What they have actually found is a significant narrowing of one of the three arteries that supply my heart itself with blood, and they have found that by actually going there to have a look down each of them in turn, from my right wrist.

What they propose to do is to permanently enlarge this narrowing with an expandable stent, which they have for the first half an hour or so been navigating around my arterial system, with a combination of high tech and human guile, all in charge of a master surgeon in charge of a bank of radioactive supercameras working in the blackness of my living body.

The whole of this totally dedicated enterprise is to save one life – my life – at almost any trouble and expense. Compare that with the ravages of a wholly indifferent plague. What does the world look like just now? What should it look like?

SCHOOL GOVERNORS

Two Church of England schools outside our parishes, but within reasonable driving distance, are seeking new governors.

Our 5000 church schools are heirs to a tradition of service to the community which goes back to the foundation of the National Society in 1811. Supporting their ministry through governance, and volunteering of all kinds, is one of our most important duties as a Christian community.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Charlotte confidentially:

charlotte.tudway@carlisle-diocese.org.uk

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK



There are now resources for prayer and worship, a daily quiz and opportunities for e-giving on the Christian Aid website:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-week/virtual-fundraisers>

Fortunately, Christian Aid is no longer as dependent on its annual door-to-door collections as it once was. Nevertheless, its income, and its ability to work with the poorest in the world is bound to be affected, like other charities, by the lockdown. Please visit the website and consider how you might support Christian Aid this year.

COMPLINE

Our *Wednesday Supplement* has recently featured orders of service for Morning and Evening use, but in recent weeks several people have told me how much they value Compline (Night Prayer). Today I offer an order for Night Prayer in traditional language. A contemporary version can be found in *Daily Prayer* or on the C of E website, but the service is somehow more effective in traditional language. It may look reasonably long on the page, but doesn't take long.

The ancient office of Compline derives its name from a Latin word meaning 'completion' (*completorium*). It is a service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day. It is most effective when the ending is indeed an ending, without additions, conversation or noise. If the service is in church, those present depart in silence; if at home, they go quietly to bed.

Preparation

✠ The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end. **Amen.**

Brethren, be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist, steadfast in the faith. *1 Peter 5.8,9*

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.
Thanks be to God.

Our help is in the name of the Lord
who hath made heaven and earth.

Silence for reflection on the past day may follow.

Confession

**We confess to God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost,
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,
through our own grievous fault.
Wherefore we pray God to have mercy upon us.
Almighty God, have mercy upon us,
forgive us all our sins and deliver us from all evil,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and bring us to life everlasting;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May the almighty and merciful Lord grant unto us pardon and remission of all our sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

Office Hymn

The following or another seasonal hymn may be said or sung

Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world we pray,
That with thy wonted favour thou
Wouldst be our guard and keeper now.

From all ill dreams defend our eyes,
From nightly fears and fantasies;
Tread underfoot our ghostly foe,
That no pollution we may know.

O Father, that we ask be done,
Through Jesus Christ, thine only Son;
Who, with the Holy Ghost and thee,
Doth live and reign eternally.

(Tune: Te Lucis)

Psalmody

One or more of the following psalms may be used

Psalm 4 Psalm 91 Psalm 134

At the end of the psalmody there follows:

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

One of the following short lessons or another suitable passage is read

Thou, O Lord, art in the midst of us, and we are called by thy name; leave us not, O Lord our God.
Jeremiah 14.9

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. *Matthew 11.28-30*

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. *Hebrews 13.20,21*

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsory

Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

For thou hast redeemed me,
O Lord, thou God of truth.
I commend my spirit.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost.
Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Keep me as the apple of an eye.
Hide me under the shadow of thy wings.

Gospel Canticle

The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon) is said or sung

**Preserve us, O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep we may rest in peace.**

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in
peace : according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen :
thy salvation;

Which thou hast prepared :
before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles :
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.**

**Preserve us, O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep we may rest in peace.**

Prayers

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

Blessed art thou, Lord God of our fathers:
to be praised and glorified above all for ever.

Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost:
let us praise him and magnify him for ever.

Blessed art thou, O Lord, in the firmament of heaven:
to be praised and glorified above all for ever.

The almighty and most merciful Lord guard us and give
us his blessing. **Amen.**

Let us pray.

One or more of the following Collects is said

Visit, we beseech thee, O Lord, this place,
and drive from it all the snares of the enemy;
let thy holy angels dwell herein to preserve us in peace;
and may thy blessing be upon us evermore;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord;
and by thy great mercy defend us
from all perils and dangers of this night;
for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

O Lord Jesus Christ, son of the living God,
who at this evening hour didst rest in the sepulchre,
and didst thereby sanctify the grave
to be a bed of hope to thy people:
make us so to abound in sorrow for our sins,
which were the cause of thy passion,
that when our bodies lie in the dust,
our souls may live with thee;
who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy
Ghost, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Look down, O Lord, from thy heavenly throne,
illuminate the darkness of this night with thy celestial
brightness, and from the sons of light banish the deeds
of darkness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through
the silent hours of this night,
so that we who are wearied
by the changes and chances of this fleeting world,
may repose upon thy eternal changelessness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Conclusion

We will lay us down in peace and take our rest.

**For it is thou, Lord, only
that makest us dwell in safety.**

Abide with us, O Lord,
for it is toward evening and the day is far spent.

As the watchmen look for the morning,
so do we look for thee, O Christ.

*If Holy Communion is to be celebrated the following day,
this line is also used:*

[Come with the dawning of the day
**and make thyself known
in the breaking of bread.]**

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

 The almighty and merciful Lord,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost,
bless us and preserve us. **Amen.**