

# THE SUNDAY SUPPLEMENT

28<sup>th</sup> February 2021 – Second Sunday in Lent

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## Lent study catch-up

If you've not been able to pick up our lent book or attend the discussion groups, you may nevertheless be interested in a brief catch-up on what we are looking at.

We are reading *Living His Story*, a book on evangelism by Revd Dr Hannah Steele, who is Director of St Mellitus College, the ministerial training institution.

As the title implies, evangelism is not a specialist activity of converting people, to be undertaken by ministers or experts in the field. It is the duty *and the delight* of every Christian, whether lifelong believer or recent enquirer. Evangelism is not about convincing or persuading others, but about telling the story of our journey of faith. It is about living our lives in a way that witnesses to the love and purposes of the God in whom we trust. Evangelism is the act of explaining in our own words what we believe and why (including what we don't know or can't answer) and showing in our actions how it affects our lives.

When we think of evangelism in these terms, it isn't coercive but loving. It tells of the good news as we understand it: of a love so great that, because we have picked up a little of it, we are moved to offer it to others, if they would like it. This sort of evangelism isn't hard to do, because the only knowledge we need is the knowledge of our own life story, a subject in which we are hopefully acknowledged experts! We are not expected to explain why God allows suffering, or how God can be a Trinity and yet one – or anything else, if it is not our calling to be knowledgeable in that area. We are expected only to say what we believe and what it means to us.

In the second chapter of the book, we have been looking at how evangelism is a work we do in partnership with the Holy Spirit. We do not have to go forth, seeking out unbelievers with an argument honed so as to obtain instant and complete conversion from nothing. God calls and God converts, not us. Our role is to be living proof of what faith in God does and has done for each of us. God is the embodiment of love and relationship: for others to see this and be drawn to it for themselves, we have only to model how real and good it is – how it makes us what we are.

As we enter the third week and third chapter of the study, we will be looking in more detail at how powerful our personal stories can be.

## Lent group login

Our lent groups are Tuesday 7.30pm and Wednesday 2pm and 7.30pm. You don't need attend the same one each time, or attend all of the sessions. One click from the following link from the electronic *Sunday Supplement* will gain entry:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4235751855?pwd=VklnMDhaVkZhTGZYa0lBZ0lRdldqUT09>

Or you can use the Zoom app on any device, or the Zoom website [zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join) by entering the following login details when prompted:

Meeting ID: 423 575 1855

Passcode: 5RKuy8

## READINGS AND PRAYERS

### Collect

Almighty God,  
you show to those who are in error  
the light of your truth,  
that they may return to the way of righteousness:  
grant to all those who are admitted  
into the fellowship of Christ's religion,  
that they may reject those things  
that are contrary to their profession,  
and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;  
through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

*A reading from the Book of Genesis*

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. <sup>2</sup> And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' <sup>3</sup> Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup> 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup> No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup> I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup> I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. <sup>15</sup> God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife,

you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup> I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

### **Psalm 22:23-end**

<sup>23</sup> You who fear the Lord, praise him!

All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;  
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

<sup>24</sup> For he did not despise or abhor  
the affliction of the afflicted;  
he did not hide his face from me,  
but heard when I cried to him.

<sup>25</sup> From you comes my praise in the great  
congregation;  
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

<sup>26</sup> The poor shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek him shall praise the Lord.  
May your hearts live for ever!

<sup>27</sup> All the ends of the earth shall remember  
and turn to the Lord;  
and all the families of the nations  
shall worship before him.

<sup>28</sup> For dominion belongs to the Lord,  
and he rules over the nations.

<sup>29</sup> To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow  
down;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,  
and I shall live for him.

<sup>30</sup> Posterity will serve him;  
future generations will be told about the Lord,

<sup>31</sup> and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying that he has done it.

### **Romans 4:13-end**

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the church in Rome*

<sup>13</sup> For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup> For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup> as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. <sup>18</sup> Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according

to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' <sup>19</sup> He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. <sup>20</sup> No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup> being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup> Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' <sup>23</sup> Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup> but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup> who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

### **Mark 8:31-end**

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St Mark*

<sup>31</sup> Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup> But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

<sup>34</sup> He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup> Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup> Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

### **Prayer after Communion**

Almighty God,  
you see that we have no power  
of ourselves to help ourselves:  
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,  
and inwardly in our souls;  
that we may be defended from all adversities  
which may happen to the body,  
and from all evil thoughts  
which may assault and hurt the soul;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.