

# THE SUNDAY SUPPLEMENT

18<sup>th</sup> July 2021 – The Seventh Sunday after Trinity (Proper 11)

## NOTICES

### Relaxation of Covid restrictions

I'm sure that everyone is aware of the lifting of almost all remaining restrictions this coming Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> July. You will know that, while removing legal constraints, the government is still strongly advising caution, and the retention of restrictions on a voluntary basis. We should be mindful of the very rapidly rising number of infections, uncertainty around the impact of vaccination on transmission, and a number of other factors.

Once again, we find ourselves in a position where some will regard precautions as too restrictive and others as not restrictive enough. This time, we do not have the simple expedient of following the law available to us. As a church community, we must again call upon God's grace, to steer the right course and to respect and hear differing opinions within our congregations.

The Church of England has produced guidance, which you can view by [clicking on the link here](#).

Bishop James advises that decisions about continuing precautions should be made at a local level, which I interpret as the level of individual churches (and services), by the minister and wardens. The shape and size of our buildings and congregations, and the style and format of our worship, varies between churches in ways that are significant in the management of risk. We know this and have taken different approaches in different churches and services, in the recent past.

My personal view is that we should remain cautious and be encouraging of all voluntary steps which individuals might take for the protection of others. The opportunity to sing as a congregation seems to me worth 'paying for' by retaining other precautions, such as maintaining good social distance in church and keeping doors and windows open for ventilation. I started to consult with churchwardens over the last few days, as government guidance began to appear, and will aim to have clear and simple plans in place by next week, the fourth Sunday of the month.

**Right:** The picture is James Tissot's 'Jesus Teaches People by the Sea' (*Jésus enseigne le peuple près de la mer*) painted between 1886 and 1893 and published in the artist's comprehensive collection of New Testament scenes, published as 'The Life of Christ'.

## READINGS AND PRAYERS

### Collect

Lord of all power and might,  
the author and giver of all good things:  
graft in our hearts the love of your name,  
increase in us true religion,  
nourish us with all goodness,  
and of your great mercy keep us in the same;  
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.

### Jeremiah 23:1-6

*A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah.*

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. <sup>2</sup>Therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. <sup>3</sup>Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. <sup>4</sup>I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

<sup>5</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>6</sup>In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

*This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.***



## Psalm 23

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;  
<sup>3</sup> he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.  
<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff—  
they comfort me.  
<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
my whole life long.

## Ephesians 2:11-end

*A reading from the letter to the church in Ephesus.*

<sup>11</sup> So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called 'the uncircumcision' by those who are called 'the circumcision'—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—<sup>12</sup> remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup> For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. <sup>15</sup> He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, <sup>16</sup> and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. <sup>17</sup> So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; <sup>18</sup> for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. <sup>21</sup> In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; <sup>22</sup> in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

*This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

## Mark 6:30-34, 53-end

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.***

<sup>30</sup> The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. <sup>31</sup> He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. <sup>32</sup> And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. <sup>33</sup> Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. <sup>34</sup> As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

<sup>53</sup> When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. <sup>54</sup> When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, <sup>55</sup> and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. <sup>56</sup> And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the market-places, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.***

## Prayer after Communion

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine  
and the source of life,  
ever giving himself that the world may live:  
may we so receive within ourselves  
the power of his death and passion  
that, in his saving cup,  
we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love;  
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.