

Worship Resource for the parish of St Luke

6th Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2020.

This week's readings: Acts 17:22-31
Ps 66:8-20
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21

Sentence: 'Those who love me will keep my word,' Jesus promises, 'and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.'

John 14:23

Collect: **Eternal God,
light of the minds that know you,
joy of the hearts that love you,
strength of the wills that serve you;
grant us so to know you that we may truly love you,
and so to love you that we may gladly serve you,
now and always. Amen**



Reflection

This period of lockdown has been the longest period in my life as a Christian that I have not been able to receive the Holy Communion. Yet I have not felt any lessening of grace. As I thought about this I realised that through the Bible there is a very real connection with the living God. We call the scriptures the Living Word and there is a real sense that God lives in and through the Scriptures. We find God in the Gospel stories; in the letters; in the mysterious imagery of Revelation; and of course, in the Books of the Old Testament which set forth the mighty acts of the Creator God in preparation for the Messiah. As a Living Word and as a means of grace they stand alongside the Eucharist. We have not been deprived of grace in the lockdown. With this in mind we turn to the readings for the 6th Sunday of Eastertide.

In the Acts passage (17.22-31) Paul has left his companions behind at Berioa and moved on to Athens. He is wandering in the agora, and there he sees an altar dedicated to 'the unknown god' and apparently gets into conversation with philosophers who invite him to the Areopagos. This was the ancient council of magistrates chaired by the King Archon whose responsibility it was to invite speakers, and this is apparently what happened to Paul. He took his opportunity and began with the inscription on the altar he had seen earlier - 'What you worship in ignorance, these things I declare to you'.

Paul's speech continues with statements about God as creator and redeemer, and he finishes with the punch line that we know God as a result of the resurrection. Mention of the resurrection provokes further discussion and results in some conversions. The Word has its own converting power; God is in the narrative, not just as a historical record, but as a living presence.

The Bible is full of interest, and familiarity will help us to appreciate this. There are many ways in which we may experience the grace of Scripture and it has been a positive experience during lockdown.

Revered Dr Calum Gilmour.

This reflection might invite you to consider the ways in which you are sustained by Scripture:

- What are your favourite passages?
- What do you turn to for comfort or support?

You might like to assemble those that are most meaningful to you, mark them in your Bible or write them out in a notebook. Give thanks for the ways in which God continues to speak to you today.



Parish Morning Prayer by Zoom: Rev Anne will lead a service for St Luke's on Wednesday 20 May at 10 am. Join by this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84059373956>

Note: Charmaine provided helpful instructions for connecting to Zoom in an email on 13 May.

Remember also Bishop Andrew's evening prayer on Wednesdays and Sundays (see information in Notices).

Readings for this week:

Monday 18 May: Ps 65,(67) Num 16:1-35 Luke 6:27-38

Tuesday 19 May: Ps (124,125),126, (127) Num 16:36-end
Luke 6:39-end

Wednesday 20 May: Ps 132,(133) Num 17:1-11 Luke 7:1-10

Thursday 21 May: Ps 110;150 Isa 52:7-15 Heb 7: (11-25),26-28

Friday 22 May: Ps (20),81 Num 20:1-13 Luke 7:11-17
Prep for Pentecost Exod 35:30-36:1 Gal 5:13-end

Saturday 23 May: Ps (21),47 Num 21:4-9 Luke 7:18-35
Prep for Pentecost Num 11:16-17,24-29

Sunday 24 May: Ps 104:26-35 Isa 65:17-25 Rev 21:1-8