



Sunday 25th October

PREPARATION

Welcome

God is good

All All the time.

All the time

All God is good.

The Lord is with us

All Let us praise his name together.

Hymn **73 Christ is made the sure foundation**

Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and corner-stone
chosen of the Lord and precious,
binding all the Church in one;
holy Zion's help for ever,
and her confidence alone.

To this temple where we call thee
Come O Lord of hosts today.
With thy wonted loving kindness
Hear thy people as they pray
And thy fullest benediction
Shed within its walls always

Here vouchsafe to all thy servants
what they ask of thee to gain,
what they gain from thee forever
with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in thy glory
evermore with thee to reign.

Laud and honour to the Father,
Laud and honour to the Son,
Laud and honour to the Spirit,
ever Three and ever One:
one in might and one in glory
while eternal ages run.

Words by John Mason Neale
Music by Henry Purcell

Video ~ What's important to Barack Obama

Confession

God shows his love for us
in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Let us then show our love for him
by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.
Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Against you, you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight.

Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

Collect (20th Sunday after Trinity)

Leader God, our light and our salvation: illuminate our lives,
that we may see your goodness in the land of the living,
and looking on your beauty
may be changed into the likeness of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

This time at home *Neville and Tamara Pike*

Hymn **All the room was hushed and still**

All the room was hushed and still	Who it is you follow
And when the bowl was filled	<i>Love each other, One another</i>
He stooped to wash their feet	<i>Love each other,</i>
And when it was complete, he said	<i>In the way that I have loved you</i>
This is what I'm asking you to do	<i>Walk together,</i>
This is why I'm kneeling here	<i>And whatever comes</i>
beside you	<i>Love each other,</i>
This is what I want my church to be	<i>In the way that I have loved you</i>
This is what I want the world to see	

Let the room be hushed and still
Let us go to where he kneels
And join him as he serves
And learn his ways of love he said

This is what I'm asking you to do
This is why I'm kneeling here
beside you
This is what I want my church to be
This is what I want the world to see
Who it is you follow

Graham Kendrick
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Bible readings

Mark 12:28-31 – Read by Mick Moore

²⁸ One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” ²⁹ Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; ³⁰ you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Romans 16 – Read by Joyce Hunt, All Souls’

I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea:

² That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also.

³ Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus:

⁴ Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.

⁵ Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Salute my well-beloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ.

⁶ Greet Mary, who bestowed much labour on us.

⁷ Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellow-prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.

⁸ Greet Amplias my beloved in the Lord.

⁹ Salute Urbane, our helper in Christ, and Stachys my beloved.

¹⁰ Salute Apelles approved in Christ. Salute them which are of Aristobulus' household.

¹¹ Salute Herodion my kinsman. Greet them that be of the household of Narcissus, which are in the Lord.

¹² Salute Tryphena and Tryphosa, who labour in the Lord. Salute the beloved Persis, which laboured much in the Lord.

¹³ Salute Rufus chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine.

¹⁴ Salute Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermas, Patrobas, Hermes, and the brethren which are with them.

¹⁵ Salute Philologus, and Julia, Nereus, and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints which are with them.

¹⁶ Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.

¹⁷ Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

¹⁸ For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

¹⁹ For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil.

²⁰ And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

²¹ Timotheus my workfellow, and Lucius, and Jason, and Sosipater, my kinsmen, salute you.

²² I Tertius, who wrote this epistle, salute you in the Lord.

²³ Gaius mine host, and of the whole church, saluteth you. Erastus the chamberlain of the city saluteth you, and Quartus a brother.

²⁴ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

²⁵ Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

²⁶ But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

²⁷ To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.

Sermon *Sam Waako* – **Paul's values**

Romans 16.1-27, Mark 12.28-31

From our main Bible reading this week (Rom 16.1-27), it's my aim in this talk to share some of what I believe were the core values that were very important to the Apostle Paul. In this chapter, we find one of those texts that one can easily skip over, not only for the difficulty to pronounce some of the names Paul mentions, but for what comes before this chapter in the book of Romans. Prior to this, Paul writes to the people of Rome about wonderful things such as the righteousness of God being revealed in Christ, and justification by grace through faith and freedom from sin and condemnation and a glorious hope for the future. And so when you come to this chapter, it's quite easy to skip over it for what initially looks like

measly greetings. But let us not forget Paul's words to Timothy, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness..." And this text too is God's word, and as we are about to find out, very useful for teaching and encouragement especially.

Paul was a brilliant theologian, considered a prodigy at a young age, very educated and an extremely clever man. But in this final chapter of Roman's, we see Paul put that and 'his office/calling' on one side and we see him 'speak' from the heart. And in doing so, we get a glimpse of Paul the man and not Paul the Apostle. And when we do that, we are able to see some of the things that really mattered to him on a personal and almost intimate level. In my preparation for this talk, I was able to pick out 10 things in this text alone that I think were at the core of his values. But for the sake of time among other things, I will highlight only four of those values that I believe were top of the list.

1) Paul was very relational (People mattered)

Paul in Romans 16 lists a long list of names, some easier to read than others. Most of these people Paul had met on his missionary journey's. Take for example priscilla and Aquila, who we studied a couple of months ago. Chances are he hadn't spent much time with some of these people, but it's rather amazing that he remembers them by name. To Paul, we learn that names matter. Am sure we all agree that it's such a good feeling when one remembers your name especially when you don't expect them to. And in addition to this, Paul longs to be with these people, because that's what the kingdom of God is all about, relationship. Something many of us have sadly missed during Covid. In addition to this, this list of names shows the sheer diversity of Paul's relationships. Paul here sends greetings to no less than 26 individuals, 2 families and 3 churches. This list includes Roman's and Greeks, Jews and Gentiles, Men and Women, prominent citizens and prisoners, it crosses lines of gender, race and class. Paul's greeting alone is an indication of his love ~ love that shows no preference. If we are to call ourselves relational people and that people matter, i wonder if our relationships reflect the diversity especially of the body of Christ!

2) Paul valued Women's Ministry (Women Mattered)

I have heard a number of people in the past refer to Paul as a misogynist, which is sad and completely far from the truth. Chances are, these are the same people who skip over scriptural texts like Romans 16. In the last few months, I have studied the life of Paul, and it doesn't take

one long to realise how much he valued women's ministry especially in the early Church. In this text alone, we are introduced to Phoebe, who not only did Paul trust to deliver this important letter to Rome (I think the most important of letters he ever wrote), but Paul referred to her as 'servant', which in Greek translates 'deacon' or in Phoebe's case, 'deaconess.' And by doing this, Paul is affirming Phoebe to be his fellow co-worker, just like any other male co-workers with him in proclaiming Christ.

Looking back (and at present) at my own faith journey, am ever so grateful for the women who have imparted and continue to nurture living faith in my life. Among them, my mother, who not only taught me to pray and read the Bible, but took me to Church every Sunday without fail, whether I wanted to go or not. Then a young lady at the time by the names of Rebecca who introduced me to a youth club, where I gained my first ministry experience. And now my wife Lyz who am so blessed to co-partner with in this calling. And am also ever so encouraged by the national Church in every effort they are making to increase women ordinands within the Anglican community. The Church needs the ministry of Women.

3) Affirmation and Encouragement

I think it's fair to say that to begin with, Paul was not known for encouragement and affirmation. Paul in his early years of ministry was about vision, and went about it radically, which a number of times we read especially from Luke/Acts caused division. But having spent a lot of time in Barnabas company, Paul's life was changed in this area. Barnabas was a gifted encourager to the point that he was referred to as the 'son of encouragement.' And Paul being a constant learner, we see this important trait rubbing off on him and him using it especially in his letters to the different churches. Someone once said, 'the secret fuel of the Church is encouragement.' And for me, this has been specifically true during this pandemic. The encouragement (in its many forms) we (ministry team) have received since this pandemic broke has been immensely appreciated by everyone. Personally, it's one of those things that keep you going even when the going is quite difficult.

4) Unity in Christ (Unity mattered)

V5 of Romans 16 says, "...the Church that meets at their house.." This phrase gives us a glimpse into the organisation of the early Church in a city like Rome with a slightly large Christian community, where there would be several 'congregations' meeting in different houses, since there

was no 'church' building at the time. It's thought that each house where these congregations met each had a 'pastor' (not necessarily owner of the home). And in this chapter, we see Paul writing to encourage Unity among all these Churches that were congregating in homes. Paul goes on to appeal to these congregations to watch out for those who cause division especially by their false teaching with the aim of sowing discord among the congregations in Rome. You would have thought that now over 2000 years since then, we shouldn't be having this issue in the Church today. But we sadly still do. The church continues to be divided when don't see each other as one body of Christ with different parts, but rather see each other as competitors, hence the jealousy, gossip, and all sorts of things that cause divisions. And we sadly forget that just like in Rome, today, different churches, different denominations is no different from those who met in different homes at the time. Unity was so important to Paul that in Romans alone, he mentions (talks about it) atleast 16 times. Reason being, it's essential to God's purpose for the Church. Paul gives us a stark warning to avoid these divisions and those who cause it.

Whatever values Paul had, whatever mattered to him, it was built on the foundation of Jesus words in Mark 12.28-31, that in summary say, "Love God, Love people." When Paul encountered Jesus on that road to Damascus, his love for God produced an over flow of love for God's people. And whatever values we would love to have or imitate from Paul or be encouraged in, the starting point is Loving God, and out of that over flow we can have a deep and genuine love for God's people.

Hymn **799 All I once held dear**

All I once held dear,
built my life upon,
all this world reveres,
and wars to own,
all I once thought gain
I have counted loss;
spent and worthless now,
compared to this:

*Knowing You, Jesus,
knowing You,
there is no greater thing.
You're my all,
You're the best,*

*You're my joy, my
righteousness,
and I love You, Lord.*

Now my heart's desire
is to know You more,
to be found in You
and known as Yours,
to possess by faith
what I could not earn,
all-surpassing gift
of righteousness.

Knowing You . . .

Oh, to know the power
of Your risen life,
and to know You in
Your sufferings,
to become like You

in Your death, my Lord,
so with You to live
and never die.

Knowing You . . .

Words and music by Graham Kendrick
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Nicene Creed

All We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from
Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were
made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and
was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose
again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into
heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

The Peace

Leader We are all one in Christ Jesus.
We belong to him through faith,
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you

Prayers *Patrick Phillipps, All Souls'*

God our Father, we find ourselves at this time in a world which seems so different from the one that we have come to know over many years. Many of us still find it difficult to come to terms with the pace of change and the uncertainties which lie ahead both for ourselves and our nation.

We pray now as we face up to this continuing of period of challenge for your strength and guidance in all that we do. Help us to remember that whatever the problems, You alone remain the same loving Father whose love for each one of us is unchanged. You know our worries and needs even before we know them ourselves. Sometimes we may feel that we know what we need and that you are not listening to our prayers. At times like these we humbly ask for your understanding and forgiveness. Keep us mindful that this was, is and will always be your world and we need above all to trust You and your promises made to us through your Son Jesus Christ, in whose name we now pray.

Lord God of us all, we pray at this time for our government, our members of Parliament and all those who are called to make difficult decisions affecting each one of us in our daily lives. We ask that you will guide them in all that they do and say. Help them to put aside all personal and party issues and to work together to find solutions which meet the needs of us all as a nation.

We pray for others in our communities that, as your servant Paul commands, we may all come together and recognize that each one of us, whatever our circumstances, has a Christian duty to look to the needs and wellbeing of those around us and particularly those who are least able to fend for themselves. We think particularly of those suffering from illness and disability, loneliness and isolation, the very young and the frail. Be with them and us at this time.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Merciful Father, we bring before you at this time our children and young people who find themselves through no fault of their own surrounded by events which are or may well impact not just on their existing schooling but also their future lives whether at university, in training or in their choice of career.

We pray for those who are currently locked down whether at university or elsewhere and who find their situation very different to what they expected. Help them to adjust and to make decisions which will best suit them in the challenges they face. Be with the parents and those advising

our young people that each of them may receive the support and encouragement which many so desperately need.

We ask this in the name of Your Son and our Saviour Jesus Christ

Almighty God, we lay before you the many nations and communities throughout our troubled world who are facing unprecedented challenges and decisions whether as a result of the current pandemic, violence or other factors.

We pray for the leaders and the people of the USA as they approach the election of their new President. Help them too to put aside all prejudices and personal issues and to unite as a nation to reach a decision which will be for the good of them all and for other nations.

We remember those countries where the current pandemic is causing untold problems and suffering for so many. Help and guide the United Nations, the World Health Organisation and other world bodies who have power and influence to work together to support those countries in the challenges they face and to ease the suffering of so many.

We ask this in the name of Your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Loving Father we pray for Your Church both here in this Parish, our Diocese and beyond. We remember particularly the difficulties which we face at all levels arising from the recent report into child abuse and the ongoing suffering of those most affected. Be with us all as our leaders seek to re-establish trust and understanding amongst those both inside and outside the Church who may feel disillusioned and hurt by what has happened. Help all of us to find new ways in which we can play a part however small to restore confidence and belief in Your Church amongst both its members and those outside.

Nearer to home we continue to pray for our Parish and for Jonathan and his team as they continue to look for ways to overcome the challenges arising from the current pandemic and the restrictions imposed on all of us. Be with them in these unprecedented times and encourage and strengthen them in all that they do and say as they aim to guide us through the weeks ahead.

We remember those within our church family who face particular difficulties as a result of poor health or disability and especially Eileen and Peter Bliss, John Hunter, Catherine McCormack, Olive Park and Joy Storkey

We pray for your continuing care and compassion for those mourning the loss of family or friends and those who face the added problems of

loneliness and isolation remembering especially the families and friends of Kenneth Purser and Barbara Young.

Be with them all and help them to know the comfort and peace which only you can bring them.

We ask this in the name of Your Son and our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Gathering our praise and prayers together let us finish with the prayer that Jesus himself taught us

The Lord's Prayer

**All Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your Kingdom come, your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
 For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
 now and for ever. Amen**

Notices *(See Notes & News)*

Hymn **705 Thy hand O God has guided**

Thy hand, O God, has guided
Thy flock, from age to age;
the wondrous tale is written,
full clear on every page;
our fathers owned Thy goodness,
and we their deeds record;
and both of this bear witness:
One Church, one faith, one Lord.

Thy heralds brought glad tidings
to greatest as to least;
they bade men rise and hasten
to share the great King's feast;
and this was all their teaching
in every deed and word;
to all alike proclaiming:
One Church, one faith, one Lord.

Through many a day of darkness,
through many a scene of strife,
the faithful few fought bravely
to guard the nation's life.
Their gospel of redemption,
sin pardoned, man restored,
was all in this enfolded:
One Church, one faith, one Lord.

Thy mercy will not fail us,
nor leave Thy work undone;
with Thy right hand to help us,
the victory shall be won;
and then, by men and angels,
Thy name shall be adored,
and this shall be their anthem:
One Church, one faith, one Lord.

Words by Edward Hayes Plumptre
Music by Basil Harwood

The Blessing

May God, who gives patience and encouragement,
give you a spirit of unity
to live in harmony as you follow Jesus Christ,
so that with one voice
you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ;
and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be
with you now and always.

All Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

Worshipping ▶ Loving ▶ Sharing ▶ Growing

