

Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people – Matt 4:19

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September**

**Notices:**

**Wednesday Communion Service @ the Church Centre.** From Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September we will be returning to celebrating our mid-week communion. We recognise that a number of those who normally attend this service are in "bubbles" which are particularly vulnerable. Therefore, is necessary we will use the main hall to ensure at least a 2m social distancing. Our normal practice at present for sharing communion is to use separate cups and wafers prepared in advance.

To help us safely plan for this service could you email me to let me know if you would like to attend. Also, if you would like to chat through our safety procedures call or email me.

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**APCM will be held on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 7pm.** Due to the new rule of 6 people, we are unable to hold the meeting in person. Therefore, we will have to hold the meeting on Zoom. I am hoping to offer some places to people who would like to be guests at the meeting. I need to check how many we can host in one meeting before the technology starts to fail. If you would like to "attend" the meeting as a guest please could you let me know, and when I know how many we can host I will send out the Zoom invitation details.

There will be **NO Mother's Union meetings** until further notice.

You search out **my path** and **my lying down** and are acquainted with all **my ways**. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, **O LORD you know it** altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay **your hand upon me**. *Ps139:3-6*

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**Sunday 20th September**

Grace, mercy and peace  
From God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with us all – wherever we are.

**Sing:** (*click on the song title, and it should open up and play in YouTube*)

From Heaven you came (*if you look just below the YouTube video window, below the "St. Laurence Upminster" title, click on the "SHOW MORE", and you can see the lyrics to the hymn*)

Almighty God,  
To whom all hearts are open,  
All desires known,  
And from whom no secrets are hidden:  
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
By the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
That we may perfectly love you,  
And worthily magnify your holy name;  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen

Gathering our thoughts, we remember and confess:

Our Lord Jesus Christ said;  
The first commandment is this;  
'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only  
Lord. You shall love the Lord your God  
With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your  
Mind, and with all your strength.'  
The second is this, 'Love your neighbour  
as yourself.' There is no other commandment  
greater than these. On these two commandments  
hang all the law and the prophets.

You search out **my path** and **my lying down** and are acquainted with all **my ways**. Even  
before a word is on my tongue, behold, **O LORD you know it** altogether.  
You hem me in, behind and before, and lay **your hand upon me**. *Ps139:3-6*

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Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy  
forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly,  
love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God.  
Amen.

May almighty God have mercy on us and forgive us our sins and  
bring us to everlasting life. Amen

*Take a few moments to sit and think about receiving that  
unconditional offering of forgiveness through grace.*

### **Collect**

Lord God,  
Defend your Church from all false teaching  
And give your people knowledge of your truth,  
That we may enjoy eternal life  
In Jesus Christ our Lord.

You search out **my path** and **my lying down** and are acquainted with all **my ways**. Even  
before a word is on my tongue, behold, **O LORD you know it** altogether.  
You hem me in, behind and before, and lay **your hand upon me**. *Ps139:3-6*

## **Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16 | Labours in the Vineyard**

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ So the last will be first, and the first last.”

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*This parable has much to teach us what is fair and what is not!.For Jesus it was a warning to his disciples and it still holds true for us today. We received the great privilege of coming into the Christian church and fellowship. In later days ,others will come in . We must never not claim as a special honour and place because we where Christians before they where . All men and women , no matter when they come are equally precious to God , all matters to him.*

*Within this parable there is the comfort of God. It means that no matter when people come to faith late or soon , in the first flush of youth,in the strength of the middle years ,or when shadows are lengthening they are equally dear to God.*

*The Rabbis had a saying “some enter the kingdom in an hour , others hardly enter in a lifetime.”. The thief hanging next to Jesus on the cross comes to mind. Some times people die full of years with their days work ended and their task complete . Some times young people die almost before the door of life and achievement has opened at all . I know that my beloved son and grandson has been welcomed into heaven . Jesus Christ is waiting and in neither case , in the divine sense has life ended to soon or late. This gives me so much comfort.*

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*I love the response that Jesus gave to those who felt hard done by, !They had agreed to work for a price after calling them friends he tells them in no uncertain terms that it was his money and that he would do what he liked with it!!. Today we have the unemployed , those who find it hard to earn enough to live. We have the food banks to help, but I am sure that they would much prefer to put food on the table themselves.*

*God gives us grace We cannot earn what God gives us, we cannot deserve it, what God gives us is out of the goodness of his heart. What God gives is not pay , but a gift , not a reward but a grace,. In our moments of discontent , when we feel life is not fair , lets think that maybe one of the things which we may learn from these difficult times is to value the things we have and be thankful to God for his comfort and blessings. Life is not fair and deal us some painful blows , Jesus never said that it would be easy, it never was for him, but if we choose to follow him agree on the cost of discipleship then he will never leave us or forsake us . The last shall be first and the first shall be last. Amen*

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**Sing:** (click on the song title, and it should open up and play in YouTube)

Great is thy faithfulness.

Let us declare our faith with confidence:

Holy, holy, holy  
is the Lord God almighty,  
who was, and is, and is to come.  
We believe in God the Father,  
who created all things:  
for by his will they were created  
and have their being.

We believe in God the Son,  
who was slain:  
for with his blood,  
he purchased us for God,  
from every tribe and language,  
from every people and nation.

You search out **my path** and **my lying down** and are acquainted with all **my ways**. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, **O LORD you know it** altogether.  
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We believe in God the Holy Spirit:  
the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'  
Even so come, Lord Jesus!  
Amen.

Gordon Clifford leads as we pray for the needs of the world, the church,  
and for our family, friends' & our neighbours':

*We have no right to be envious at the generosity and mercy God shows to others.*

*For the grace of faithful service to the Church and to the world, let us pray to the Lord*

*Let us come with openness to express our concerns for the church and the world, to the God of compassion and gracious understanding. Sustain your people to be strong in prayer.*

*Loving Father, when ever we start to get offended by your generosity or open mindedness, give us grace to repent and join your rejoicing. Guard the Church against self righteousness and all rules and limits which you would not own, but keep always before us the rule of love.*

*Lord in your mercy.....hear our prayer*

*Loving Father, increase in us love not only for the victims but for the perpetrators of evil and violence and troubles in our world; for all governments which run on corruption and fear. We pray for a change of heart and attitude, an awakening to a better way of living, and the courage to reject wrong principles. We pray for all in authority, that they may lead the nations in peace and just governments. We ask that all who are entrusted with responsibility may be faithful and honourable in their work. We pray for our Queen, members of the Royal Family and for our Prime Minister and all politicians as they lead our country through these difficult times.*

*Lord in your mercy.....hear our prayer*

*Loving Father, may our closeness to family and friends make us never exclusive, shutting others out, but always inclusive, welcoming others in. Encourage us in outgoing hospitality and keep us from becoming possessive with those we love.*

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*Bless our families with peaceful and safe lives. Keep us all free from any failures of honesty in our work. Give us the grace of integrity in all our relationships.*

*Lord in your mercy.....hear our prayer*

*Loving Father, we pray for all offenders in prison, that on release they will not re-offend but find enough support to start a new life in the community. We pray for all who are vulnerable especially those with Coronavirus and unable to cope with the demands of life, for alcoholics, drug addicts and all who are sick in mind. We ask for proper, compassionate help for them all. Be with all those who have lost their employment and feel in despair for the future.*

*Lord in your mercy.....hear our prayer*

*Loving Father, we pray for those who are unwell at this time. Those known to us and to you.*

*Hold their hand Lord in their times of trouble and in the small hours of nighttime. We thank you Lord for our National Health Service and for all those who work in the medical profession caring for the needs of others.*

*We remember all those who have died especially those who have died alone, un-mourned and unnoticed. We pray for those who have committed suicide or died in accidents of their own making.*

*Receive them in the love of Christ who gave himself as a ransom for many.*

*Lord in your mercy.....hear our prayer*

*Loving Father, thank you for helping us to pray together in church this morning or at home using the electronic service; deepen our loving so that as we pray through this week we may do it with your heart of compassion.*

*We offer these and all our prayers in His name.*

*Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ our Lord  
Amen.*

**We pray with confidence as our saviour has taught us:**

**Our Father in heaven,**

**You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD you know it altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Ps139:3-6**

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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 forever. Amen.

**Sing:** *(click on the song title, and it should open up and play in YouTube)*

O Lord hear my prayer

**Numbers 6:24-26**      May the LORD bless you and protect you.  
May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.  
May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'

You search out **my path** and **my lying down** and are acquainted with all **my ways**. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, **O LORD you know it** altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay **your hand upon me**. *Ps139:3-6*