



# Connection

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2021**  
**Seventh Sunday after Trinity**



## **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.

**Amen**

## **Ephesians 2: 11-end**

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 – 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. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 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. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

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

The apostles returned from their mission. They gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. 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. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. 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. When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. 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.

### **Post Communion Prayer**

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.

**Amen**

### **Reflection**

## **God's Love In Action**

This week's reflection is by Reverend Katryn Leclezio, Priest in the Bredon Hill Group. You can listen to the podcast at: <https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/your-faith/prayer-worship/sermon-podcasts>

Do you remember the stories of medical staff who were living in caravans outside their houses, or hotel rooms for weeks on end in order to protect their families and friends? Those images of isolating medical parents with hands pressed against windows to 'touch' their children? That was 18 months ago.

We're now into a third wave of Covid. A few days ago I was reading an article online from an ICU consultant (anonymous) about the unrelenting pressure that our NHS has been under for these last 18 months. I was shocked by the figure of 5.3 million backlog of cases on top of an increasing Covid workload.

There is no let up for exhausted hospital staff. Covid wards require a whole new level of extra procedures and care. The emotional toll of caring for gravely ill people without the support of their family and friends has placed an added burden on staff. Many are falling by the wayside unable to continue physically and emotionally with the fear, the demands on their resilience, strength, mental health.

How sacrificial must sacrificial be?

It's possibly a question the disciples wondered about. They had just returned from an exhilarating but exhausting mission to the villages and towns, preaching, healing, teaching in the name of Jesus of Nazareth. They needed space and time to rest, to debrief, to make sense of their experiences. Jesus knows this and takes them away on a retreat. They get to the deserted location to find that the crowds have got there before them.

We read that Jesus' guts were unsettled, were roiling, with compassion. You know that anxious feeling deep in your belly when you're confronted with pain and distress and you respond viscerally to suffering. That is Jesus when faced with the needy crowds, he feels deeply, his entrails are disturbed. Crowds were there not because they wanted to become disciples of Jesus. People came because they had heard about an effective local healer. Who would not grab the opportunity for their loved one to be healed? This didn't necessarily mean they committed to becoming a full on disciple of Jesus.

The disciples were done in. No more resources give out. Compassion fatigue had set in. They needed rest. But not just yet. People had to be fed, a storm on the lake weathered, more people tended to and healed before rest would come.

I'm not advocating working yourself into the ground. Burnout is bad news for everyone. It takes a long time to recover from burnout. Lots of people are collateral damage to burn out.

Rest was promised and was coming, but for the moment the disciples and Jesus needed to persevere for compassion's sake. There are moments when we need to persevere, to dig deep and to keep loving. To keep doing those things which are God's love in action. We need to keep being Jesus' hands, feet and voice where we are. We need to trust God for strength, to take moments of down time, for rest, and for the moment leave the tasks that are not so necessary: A little more dust in the house won't matter, and another meal of beans on toast will not harm.

It seems that wherever Jesus and the disciples went, wholeness, healing, God's Shalom, followed. Whole communities were blessed with healing and we don't know what their ongoing relationship with Jesus was? We've heard of collateral damage in war. We, the church, are at war with evil. Would that through our perseverance, were the beautiful source of collateral healing in our communities for Jesus' sake.



## Requests for Prayers

**We pray for all those who are sick everywhere and for those who have asked for our prayers and for their carers:** Roy and Margaret Putnam, Brian Bolam, Wendy Dufty, Yvonne Seward, Andy Caddell, Gayle Richards, Laurence Alexander  
**We continue to pray for:** Percy and Sharon Blizzard, Jackie Pickford, Clive Hunt.

**We pray for those who are in residential care:** Sheila Bigland-

Gibbons, Barbara Milton, Rita Sheppy and David Wilkinson.

**We pray for those who have died everywhere:** Jane Rogers, Anne Wood and Edward Bunn and their families. And also for those whose anniversary of death falls at this time.



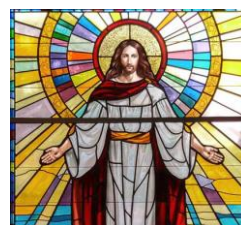
## Church Services

**The church services this week will be at:**

10.30am St James', Defford – Rev Allison Davies

10.30am St Michael's, Bricklehampton – Canon Roger Spiller

News from the Diocese  
Prayers and diocesan news can be found at  
[www.cofe-worcester.org.uk](http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk)



**The Rota for July 2021**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Minister</b>
25 <sup>th</sup> July	Chapel of Ease, Bredon's Norton	9.00am	Reverend Catherine Lack
	St Faith's, Overbury Family Service including the baptism of James Prior	10.30am	Reverend Allison Davies
	Holy Trinity, Eckington Baptism of Montgomery Mustin	12.30pm	Reverend Allison Davies
	Licensing and Installation of Rev Katryn and Licensing of Rev Allison, St Mary's, Elmley Castle	4.00pm	Bishop Martin Gorick

**The Rota for August 2021**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Minister</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> August	St Mary's, Elmley Castle	10.30am	Reverend Katryn Leclezio
	Holy Trinity, Eckington	10.30am	Reverend Allison Davies
8 <sup>th</sup> August	St Barbara's, Ashton Under Hill	10.30am	Reverend Katryn Leclezio
	St Giles, Bredon	10.30am	Reverend Allison Davies
15 <sup>th</sup> August	St Peter's, Besford	10.30am	Reverend Allison Davies
	St Peter's, Little Comberton	10.30am	Reverend Katryn Leclezio
22 <sup>nd</sup> August	Chapel of Ease, Bredon's Norton	9.00am	Reverend Doug Chaplin
	St Nicholas, Teddington	10.30am	Reverend Katryn Leclezio
29 <sup>th</sup> August	United Service St Giles, Bredon	10.30am	Reverend Katryn Leclezio

**Midweek Communion**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Minister</b>
11 <sup>th</sup> August	St Faith's, Overbury	10.00am	Reverend Allison Davies
18 <sup>th</sup> August	St Peter's, Little Comberton	10.00am	Reverend Katryn Leclezio
25 <sup>th</sup> August	St James', Defford	10.00am	Reverend Katryn Leclezio

**BBC Songs of Praise** will be featuring **Wheels for the World**, a Christian project transforming lives by restoring wheelchairs to send to developing countries – **1.15pm on Sunday on BBC One**. (Colin Reeves, who used to live in Pershore but has recently moved to Eckington, used to chair **Wheels for the World** and it was also a previous Pershore Lenten Project)



**Reverend Allison Davies**

Vicar of Eckington, Defford with Besford and Associate Priest for the churches of the Bredon Hill Group