

The Bride Valley Service for Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Luke the Evangelist Trinity 19

This service can be accessed via the telephone on 01308 293062

*At the beginning of our services in church today we will light a candle,  
you may wish to light a candle at home too.*

### **Welcome and Opening Scriptures**

*Welcome, wherever you are, to our service on this 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity*

Jesus said Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest

The peace of the Lord be with you, **And also with you.**

### **CONFESSION**

*As we come into God's presence we confess our faults and failings with words from Psalm 51*

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sins.

Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me

Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

### **ABSOLUTION**

May Almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to save sinners, bring us pardon and peace,  
now and for ever. **Amen**

### **THE COLLECT** (*special prayer for today on St Luke's day*)

God, who called Luke the Physician, whose praise is in the Gospel, to be an Evangelist and Physician of the soul; may it please you that, by the wholesome medicines of the doctrine delivered by him, all the diseases of our souls may be healed; and give your church the same love and power to heal, through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen**

### **OLD TESTAMENT READINGS** Isaiah 54:5-14

5 - Your Maker is your husband, The LORD of hosts is His name; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth.

6 - For the LORD has called you like a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, like a youthful wife when you were refused," says your God.

7 - "For a mere moment I have forsaken you, but with great mercies I will gather you.

8 - With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; but with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you," says the LORD, your Redeemer.

9 - "For this is like the waters of Noah to Me; For as I have sworn that the waters of Noah would no longer cover the earth, so have I sworn That I would not be angry with you, nor rebuke you.

10 - For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, but My kindness shall not depart from you, Nor shall My covenant of peace be removed," says the LORD, who has mercy on you.

11 - "O you afflicted one, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay your stones with colourful gems, and lay your foundations with sapphires.

12 - I will make your pinnacles of rubies, Your gates of crystal, And all your walls of precious stones.

13 - All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children.

14 - In righteousness you shall be established; You shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near you.

## NEW TESTAMENT READING Luke 10: 1-9

- 1 - After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go.
- 2 - Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest.
- 3 - "Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves.
- 4 - "Carry neither money bag, knapsack, nor sandals; and greet no one along the road.
- 5 - "But whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house.'
- 6 - "And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest on it; if not, it will return to you.
- 7 - "And remain in the same house, eating and drinking such things as they give, for the labourer is worthy of his wages. Do not go from house to house.
- 8 - "Whatever city you enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you.
- 9 - "And heal the sick there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

## REFLECTION

When was the last time you went to the Doctor to talk about a problem? Was it helpful? Those of us who have lived & worked abroad often say "We are so blessed in the UK with our NHS. Thank God for our Drs, nurses, dentists."

I guess we are especially grateful after a medical examination or tests to hear those three words 'It's Good news'

Today we celebrate the feast of Luke the Evangelist. Luke was a multi-tasker

1<sup>st</sup> he was a Doctor (Paul in Colossians 4:14 calls *Luke the beloved physician*) hence his interest in peoples' medical conditions

2<sup>nd</sup> he was a Writer. Having *researched the facts* (as Luke says in his introduction to our 3<sup>rd</sup> Gospel) *I write to you, Theophilus, giving you an orderly account ... so that you can know the truth* and 3<sup>rd</sup> he was a missionary - who supported St Paul in the proclamation of the good news about Jesus.

It is interesting that in his record of Jesus' ministry he is the only writer who gives an account in Luke 10 of the sending out of the 70 *After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also to go where he would go.*

Because Luke was a non-Jew he had a special interest in the non-Jewish world. That is why he dedicated his book to Theophilus - the Greek

Luke in ch 24:47 also recalls Christ's last command *that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to ALL nations, beginning at Jerusalem.*

So after giving us the account of the commissioning of the 12 apostles to the Jews Luke tells us about *70 others sent to every city Jesus would go* - (like Tyre & Sidon), so prefiguring the whole church (Jew & non-Jew) hearing and taking the message of Jesus to every nation and people. This he describes as a great Harvest.

Back in ch 10:2 Luke zooms in on Christ's words *The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest.*

-This harvest involves prayer and people going *therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers.*

-Then Jesus warns them that this harvest would be risky *I send you out as lambs among wolves.*

-it would be financially challenging *Carry neither money bag, knapsack, nor sandals; and eat what you are given.*

-it would be life changing *whatever house you enter first say, 'Peace to this house. and if the Son of peace is there, your peace will rest on it. If not, it will return to you', adding heal the sick there, saying to them, 'God's kingdom of has come near to you.'*

The Prince of Peace calls **us** above all to share his peace - his peace that heals hearts, minds and bodies.

Earlier in Matthew 5 Jesus advocated the blessing of peace - *Blessed are the peacemakers*

How lovely to be able to receive and give the gift peace.

This is the good news all people need to hear and have and hand on (not just in church when we say The Peace, but wherever we go) It's a bit like the greeting visitors hear echoing throughout Israel - 'Shalom'

Peacemakers have, and hold out for all, 'Peace'. This peace is peace with God and peace with people. It is Peace of mind, peace of heart, peace of body. It is a Peace that the world cannot understand, it's a peace that comes in the person and name of Jesus.

Amen

## **DECLARATION**

*Let us declare our faith in God by saying We believe*

Do you believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and earth is named?

**We believe**

Do you believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love?

**We believe**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high?

**We believe**

Do you believe in one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

**We believe**

*And so, in the presence of Xt, we pray*

**Thank you Father** you have made all things beautiful in their time. We pray for those who are concerned for the welfare of our world and who work for a better environment. Give peace to the earth that travails from humanity's sin

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

**Thank you Father** you have your hand on leaders of the nations. We praise you for our Queen and her government, and pray all those set in authority throughout the world. May they be workers for peace, justice and mercy

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

**Thank you Father** you give gifts of leadership and service in our communities. We pray for all those who work in the NHS to bring healing and help at this difficult time. Give wisdom to those making decisions, and peace to those facing pressure. And be with all those struggling with sickness in its various shades, especially the bereaved

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

**Thank you Father** you have birthed the church of Christ throughout the world by the blood of Jesus. Bless all bishops, priests, ministers and mission workers with grace and faithfulness for their calling to bear witness in the world to the gospel of reconciliation and peace with God and one another

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

**Thank you Father** for our neighbours, friends and families. May your shalom peace be in their hearts and homes, and in ours. And always give us gratitude for all your blessings, most especially for Jesus Christ our Lord without whom life would be meaningless

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

*We gather all our prayers together in the prayer that Jesus taught us*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name;**

**thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation;**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,**

**for ever and ever.**

**Amen**

*Finally we pray God's blessing of peace on each other*

**The Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us; may he turn his face towards us, and give us peace.**

**Amen**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with us and remain with us, and those whom we love and pray for, this day and for evermore.

**Amen**

Song: Make me a channel     <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RNagMjn1zXg>  
Or     <https://youtu.be/RNagMjn1zXg>