



Sunday 30th August 2020

12th Sunday after Trinity

**The Beacon Parishes Mission Community of Ipplepen with Torbryan,
Denbury, Broadhempston and Woodland**

COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray
and to give more than either we desire or deserve:
pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid
and giving us those good things
 which we are not worthy to ask
but through the merits and mediation
of 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.

FIRST READING

Exodus 3.1-15

Moses at the Burning Bush

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.' But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?' He said, 'I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.'

The Divine Name Revealed

But Moses said to God, 'If I come to the Israelites and say to them, "The God of your ancestors has sent me to you", and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them?' God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' He said further, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "I AM has sent me to you."' God also said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you":

This is my name for ever,
and this my title for all generations.

PSALM

Psalm 105.1-6, 23-26, 45b

God's Faithfulness to Israel

O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.
Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
Seek the LORD and his strength;
seek his presence continually.
Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles, and the judgements he has uttered,
O offspring of his servant Abraham,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

Then Israel came to Egypt;
Jacob lived as an alien in the land of Ham.
And the LORD made his people very fruitful,
and made them stronger than their foes,
whose hearts he then turned to hate his people,
to deal craftily with his servants.

He sent his servant Moses,
and Aaron whom he had chosen.
that they might keep his statutes
and observe his laws.
Praise the LORD!

SECOND READING

Romans 12.9-End

Marks of the True Christian

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

GOSPEL

Matthew 16.21-End

Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

The Cross and Self-Denial

Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

'For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

REFLECTION BY READER, TESSA AMIES

'RITES OF PASSAGE;'

I've just returned from a short stay over in Sussex, where we've been celebrating my eldest granddaughter's 18th Birthday. A great day with a family lunch and then later, off she went to the Pub to order her first drink at the bar! A group of just 6 of them (with masks) to comply with the pubs' socially distancing rules and travelling by train, rather than car. The younger generation are certainly responsible and aware. She's managed to glide around the A levels fiasco and is off to university in a few weeks. Just one of the many Rites of Passage we go through in our lives. Birth, birthdays, school, college, university, coming of age, first job, marriage maybe and so forth. All part of our journey through life.

These Rites of Passage or Rhythms of Life are important to us. They are the pegs on which we hang our daily existence, our journey.

I am reminded of that wonderful passage in Ecclesiastes (Ch. 3)

*There is a time for everything;
and a season for every activity under heaven.
A time to be born and a time to die;
A time to plant and a time to uproot;
A time to embrace and a time to refrain;*

and on it goes, delving into all parts of our daily lives.

*A time to weep and a time to laugh;
A time to be silent and a time to speak;*

It's worth a read! Just to remind us of the beautiful patterns and rhythms we enjoy.

Lockdown and Covid have done much to interrupt this rhythm of life over the past few months. The pegs on which we hang our lives have been moved or discarded. No meetings with friends, no visitors, no Easter celebrations, no boat race, no Wimbledon, football season only just finished, the Proms starting late and what did happen to the rugby season? The 'pegs' will be different for everyone, but it is worth noting what has changed and how it has affected us.

One of the most important rhythms we experience is the seasons of the year. Luckily, they haven't changed. weather unpredictable maybe, but spring came and went; flowers grew, crops grew. Summer came, strawberries and blackberries came and went, apples fell plenteously with each passing gale and now conkers can just about be found on Denbury Green! Summer is beginning to slide into autumn. That 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness'.

The seasons, have prevailed despite Covid and Lockdown. They are part of God's wonderful creation. Some of the daily rhythms of life belong to his creation, but many are manmade.

Is it a coincidence that the man-made rhythms of life are falling apart at the moment, but God's creation somehow seems to transcend this and sails majestically on?

A thought perhaps, while you walk the dog, washup, pull up bindweed or whatever gives you that precious thinking time! God Bless!

POST COMMUNION

God of all mercy,
in this eucharist you have set aside our sins
and given us your healing:
grant that we who are made whole in Christ
may bring that healing to this broken world,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.