

21st March 2021

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Imagine, you're hanging out in heaven. Moses and Peter walk past. They invite you to join their conversation. After a couple of minutes you pluck up the courage to ask. "What was it really like when the water's parted?", "How was it to walk on water with Jesus!"

They look at you and say "it was great, but I'd swap in a heartbeat." You look puzzled. They lean in and ask "How was it to have God's presence living inside you?"

The beauty of this passage from Jeremiah always inspires me. God whose loving kindness is without limit promises a new covenant. Something completely different. Totally new. Unprecedented.

The majority of the book of Jeremiah is a warning. God will judge Israel's failure to keep its side of the covenant. There are consequences to social injustice and immorality. But right in the midst of this doom and gloom there is a bright glimmer of hope. God is merciful. God has not given up on Israel.

Israel had abandoned their responsibilities, but God's loving-kindness is eternal and unilateral. Faced with rejection at every turn God's response is to enter more closely into relationship with his people. The laws once inscribed on tablets of stone will be inscribed on stony human hearts. Transforming them into hearts of loving-kindness and making it possible for believers to know God.

"I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more."

God's promise of unending, faithful, extraordinary love not written on tablets of stone or housed in a temple but breathed into our own hearts. So that we could know God. Every single one of us. Sometimes we get so familiar with the extraordinariness of this that we take it all for granted.

As Christians every one of us has equal access to God. Jesus, in his life and death made a way to fulfil the promised of a new covenant between God and his people recorded by Jeremiah.

We only know and see God in part. So, we need the guidance of scripture and a faithful community. Nevertheless, every one of us has the gift of the Holy Spirit to lead and to guide us into God's Truth. God's Spirit lives within us. We know God.

That's far more exciting than parting the sea or walking on water!

With love

Louise

NOTICES

Holy Trinity Blacon are the living church of our living God, and we continue to be at work here! If you are able, do check the parish website www.holytrinityblacon.org or our Facebook page (holyltrinityblacon) for updates.

LOCKDOWN continues, but fortunately we can still meet (socially distanced and with Covid precautions) in church to worship together, and we will continue meeting at 9.30am each Sunday. The minibus is also running, so do let us know if you would like a lift.

PRAYING FOR BLACON This week, Louise and Tina are joined by Jo Pemberton who is on placement with us, and we are prayerfully putting out chocolates, as we take our exercise. Do join us in praying for the residents of the following: *Muir Road, Elm Muir, Ash Muir, Beech Muir, Silver Muir.*

EVENING PRAYER We meet each Wednesday 5pm for Evening Prayer on Zoom. Do let us know if you would like the link – everyone is welcome to join us.

LENT Each Sunday in Lent, after the 9.30am service, there is a time of silent contemplative prayer in church from 11am. The Lent course continues on Thursday at 7.30pm 'Transformed by the presence of Jesus' – do let us know if you want the Zoom link.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS – The video is now on our website, do go to <https://holyltrinityblacon.org/whats-on/events/stations-of-the-cross.php> If you do not have access to the internet, and would instead like a DVD of our stations video, please let Tina or Louise know.

SING FOR FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT – Starting Monday March 1st at 6.30pm is a series of sessions to sing together and learn together about fruits of the Spirit. For a Zoom link and further information, please contact Tricia Hughes (07514 540287).

ELECTORAL ROLL – In preparation for our Annual Meeting on 11th April, we need to update our electoral roll. If you want to check your entry, please contact Sue Kelly (01244 373153) or Linda in the Parish Office. They will also be able to get a form to you if you need to add or amend an entry (forms are also available in church). Alterations to be completed by 1st April.

ANNUAL MEETING will be held after the 9.30am service on Sunday 11th April, in church. We will be electing Wardens (Deputy wardens), PCC members and there is one vacancy for Deanery Synod. Please pray about whether you could stand for election, or there is someone you want to nominate. Nomination forms are at the back of church.

CONTACTS:

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