

THE CHAPEL ROYAL HAMPTON COURT PALACE



CHAPEL NOTES

LENT V: PASSION SUNDAY 2020

Dearly Beloved,

I AM sure that I am not alone in trying to come to terms with what is going on, not least here Hampton Court. Things have been moving so fast, that it has been exhausting trying to keep apace! It is very strange to see Tennis Court Lane, which is usually bustling with activity, almost deserted, and walk around empty gardens on such a lovely days as we have experienced this week. We are all adjusting to the *new normal* - which we all hope and pray will not be for too long. Nevertheless, we have a duty to ourselves and others to keep safe, and together to try and put a stem the advance of the horrid danger that faces this country and the world at the moment.

As with much of the week, today is a beautiful day and I am here with the windows open enjoying some unusually fresher air than normal! But despite this, we feel almost as if the darkness of Coronavirus is overpowering. The metaphorical night is upon us. That is why, as well as being responsible citizens, it is important to maintain hope (about which I preached) and keep the spirits up as much as we can. Whilst things look bad (and may indeed get worse before they get better) eventually this will pass. The sun will still shine, and one day we will be able to resume our lives and enjoy the glories of the natural world and not least the Chapel Royal we all love so much. Spring should, if anything, offer encouragement that, after what has felt like almost an endless winter, summer is coming.

Last Sunday Christians all over the nation paused at 7pm to light a candle and place it in their windows, to pray for those who have the virus, those

caring for them, the NHS, and for a cure. You may have joined in with this. In that moment of silence, I used this prayer, which you will immediately recognise as being the *third collect* from Evensong. I think is particularly apposite, given the metaphorical darkness and night in which we currently find ourselves:

**Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee O Lord,
and by thy great mercy,
defend us from all perils and dangers of this night,
for the love of thy only Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Along with the Lord's Prayer and others for healing, I would encourage you to say this every day, with these special intentions. Please pray for all who have the Coronavirus, not least for HRH The Prince of Wales, The Prime Minister, for the NHS and for our Country at this time. The *night* may be well and truly upon us; but let us hope and pray that the light, signified by the resurrection of Christ, will be here soon.

Due to restrictions laid down on Tuesday by the Archbishops, we have been told that we cannot broadcast a service from the Chapel this Sunday. We managed, however, to pre-record one for Palm Sunday (see below). In the meantime, prayer and the celebration of the Eucharist still takes place – and with this we can join in spirit; saying Morning and Evening Prayer, meditating on the words of the Collect, the Epistle and Gospel as well. We should try to make a spiritual communion every Sunday if possible and in so doing unite with Christians throughout the world, not least those who are suffering. In the mean time, please do let me know if you are in any need. Communications will continue as best as possible.

With every blessing,

As ever

Fr Anthony

Canon Anthony Howe MA

Chaplain

PALM SUNDAY - PRE-RECORDED SUNG EUCHARIST

THIS service for Palm Sunday was recorded with the Gentlemen before the restrictions, and it will be broadcast at 11am on Sunday 5 April, via the Chapel Website, Facebook Page and You Tube Account. It will be available along with that for Mothering Sunday.

EASTER DAY RECITAL

A CELLO and Piano Recital by Carl Jackson and Leslie Shrigley Jones has also been recorded in the Chapel, and this will go out on Easter Day. Please do keep an eye on the website etc. We will keep you informed of any other music and services.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

WHEN we are prevented from coming to Church to receive the Sacrament, the Book of Common Prayer states that they may make a Spiritual Communion. This can be done by reading the Lessons for the Day, making an examination of conscience and saying the Collect for Purity and the Lord's Prayer as well as other prayers. A particularly helpful one is this:

**Lord Jesus,
I believe that thou art spiritually present
in the Holy Sacrament of the altar.
I love thee above all things
and I desire that may I receive thee to myself.
Come now spiritually unto my soul
so that I may be united with thee,
both now and forever. Amen.**

THE COLLECT

WE beseech thee, Almighty God, mercifully to look upon thy people; that by thy great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore, both in body and soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE EPISTLE *Hebrews 9.11-15*

CHRIST being come an High Priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands; that is to say, not of this building; neither by the blood of goats and calves; but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh; how much more shall the blood of Christ, who, through the eternal Spirit, offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this cause he is the Mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

THE GOSPEL *St. John 8.46-end*

JESUS said, Which of you convinceth me of sin? and if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? He that is of God heareth God's words; ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God. Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well, that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil? Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me. And I seek not mine own glory; there is one that seeketh and judgeth. Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death. Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil: Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death. Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself? Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing; it is my Father that honoureth me, of whom ye say, that he is your God: yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you; but I know him, and keep his saying. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day, and he saw it, and was glad. Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple.