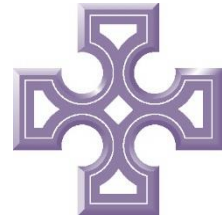




SAINT JOHN'S MALONE



Healing of the Man Born Blind

Notes: Duccio di Buoninsegna is thought to be one of the greatest Italian painters of the Middle Ages. He is one of the first painters to study space and depth, placing his subjects in architectural settings. His use of color and ability to make his subjects seem heavenly make his paintings breathtaking.

In his work, Healing of the Man Born Blind (AD 1307), Jesus is placed center stage, while the blind man is shown twice.

The blind man's rod moves the viewers eyes across the piece to tell the story of his miraculous healing. Jesus first touches the blind man's eyes and our eyes are led to the next scene where the blind man gazes upward with his sight restored as he is dropping his guiding stick. The miracle as described in John 9 comes alive in Duccio's rendering, inspiring in the viewer a sense of awe and wonder.

Fourth Sunday in Lent.

Welcome to Saint John's especially all who are visiting today.

An audio loop system is in operation for those with hearing aids. The order of service is available to download from the website and the 10.30am is livestreamed on St John's Malone YouTube channel. Those baptised in the name of the Holy Trinity and are communicant members of their own church are welcome to receive Holy Communion, according to conscience.

Today: Sunday 19th March 2023 - Mothering Sunday

9.00 a.m. Eucharist in the Side Chapel said with address

10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

7:00 p.m. Windsor Presbyterian Great Victoria St, Joint Churches Lenten Service

4/5

The Eucharist ~See service booklet for 10:30am if available or below for page references in the BCP 2004. 9am pg.201: Address-The Rector

The Gathering	<i>page 201/125</i>
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Opening Hymn	712
Collect of the Day	
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First Reading	
Psalm	95 pg702
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Gospel (stand)	
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Communion	
Motet	For the beauty of the earth - Rutter
Great Silence	
Post Communion Hymn	576
Going Out	<i>page 220 ff /145</i>
Post Communion Prayers	<i>page 220</i>
Blessing	
Dismissal	
Organ Voluntary	Fugue on the Magnificat (BWV 733) J S Bach
Office Setting	Davison / How



Collects

Lord God

whose blessed Son our Saviour

gave his back to the smiters

and did not hide his face from shame:

Give us grace to endure the sufferings of this present time

with sure confidence in the glory that shall be revealed;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty and everlasting God,
you hate nothing that you have made
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts
that we, worthily lamenting our sins
and acknowledging our wretchedness,
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading **1 Samuel 16: 1-13**

16The Lord said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' ²Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the Lord said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the Lord."' ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.' ⁴Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' ⁵He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. ⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord.' ⁷But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.' ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen any of these.' ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.' ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the

one.’ ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 23

Second Reading **Ephesians 5: 8-14**

⁸For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— ⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

‘Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.’

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading *Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ according to John chapter nine beginning at verse one. **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ***

John 9: 1-25

⁹As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ ³Jesus answered, ‘Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We* must work the works of him who sent me* while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.’ ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, ‘Go, wash in the pool of Siloam’ (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbours and those who had seen him

before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' ⁹Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' ¹⁰But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' ¹¹He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' ¹²They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' ²⁰His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus* to be the Messiah* would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.' ²⁵He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Post Communion Prayer

Father, through your goodness
we are refreshed through your Son
in word and sacrament.

May our faith be so strengthened and guarded
that we may witness to your eternal love
by our words and in our lives.

Grant this for Jesus' sake, our Lord. **Amen**

Services this week Services this week

Wednesday 22nd 7.30pm Lent Compline with address and hymns in-person and on YouTube. Theme for Compline during Lent 'The Lord & His Prayer'

Thursday 23rd 10.30am Eucharist (1) with intercessions for those in need.
A cup of coffee is available after this service.

Next Sunday 26/03/23 Lent IV 9:00am Eucharist; 10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist & Holy Baptism; 7pm Joint Churches in McCracken Memorial Church

6:30pm Stainer's Crucifixion in St John's this evening

Notices:

- **Easter General Vestry** 11:45pm follows the 10:30am service 26.3.23
- Samples of Bible Reading Fellowship BRF Notes are available in the vestibule. Please consider taking some. Lent Notes to follow. Please speak to or email to Rev. Brian Cadden if you are interested in having Lent notes or in having the quarterly BRF Notes.
- Parish Lenten Books are on sale and available there too.
- Copies of the Diocesan magazine Connor Connections are now available.



Notices:

- Welcome to all our visitors. If you need assistance with anything, please ask one of the Churchwardens.
- Under GDPR guidance we need to tell you that we will be recording the service and/or livestreaming today. The cameras will point towards the nave altar and pulpit and only

on occasion, towards the entrance doors. Those coming to and from the side areas and exiting will be in the camera view for a short time.

- **We are collecting for South Belfast Food Bank** again. Please leave your contributions in the vestibule on the way in. Thank you.
- Prayers for the sick and all those in need are offered on Thursday morning at the Eucharist. You can send names for the list to the Rector via his email.
- If you're **new to the parish** please ask the Churchwardens or a member of the clergy about the following: GDPR, Free Will Offering Scheme, Gift Aid Magazine, organisations or wanting to know more about life at St John's. We'd be delighted to help and to get to know you.
- **Coffee/tea** will follow this service and all are welcome.
- **Parents & Toddlers** meets in Seaver Hall Tuesday 10am-11:30am. All are welcome.

READINGS:

1 Samuel 16:1-13: God instructs Samuel to stop mourning for Saul and to anoint a new king for Israel in Bethlehem. After examining seven of Jesse's sons and rejecting them, Samuel finally anoints the youngest boy, David, and God's Spirit comes upon him.

Psalm 23: David's Psalm of praise for the God who cares for him like a shepherd, providing nurture, peace, care, protection and an eternal place of belonging.

Ephesians 5:8-14: Paul encourages the believers to live as people of the light, doing what pleases God.

John 9:1-41: Jesus heals a man who was born blind, and, because this was done on the Sabbath, the religious leaders start an investigation, calling in the man's parents and ultimately throwing the man out of the synagogue. Then, Jesus teaches that he came to bring sight to the blind and to reveal the blindness of those who think they see.

REFLECTIONS ON THEME:

Blindness and sight, light and darkness, rejection of those in power and anointing of those who are unknown – these are the threads in the Lectionary readings of this week. The heart of the theme is this: how do we choose to see? Samuel is tempted to look at Jesse's sons in an ordinary human way – outward strength and primacy in the family hierarchy – but God commands him to look differently, ultimately choosing the son who is the least. Paul encourages believers to walk in God's light, avoiding the "deeds of darkness" that cause brokenness, stumbling and pain, but rather seeking to live in the light – seeing clearly and moving securely through the world because we can see. David's famous psalm gives a picture of what this "living in the light" looks like – being shepherded by God in grace and nurture. Finally, and most importantly, the Gospel uses a dramatic story to show the difference between those who claim to see but don't, and those who truly can see. The corruption, power-grabbing and judgmental condemnation of anything new and different is a mark of those who cannot see – although they always protest that they see clearly. On the other hand, the acceptance, healing and grace that Jesus shows – and the response in worship of those who have been made to see by Christ's touch – is the mark of those who "live in the light". Our choice, then, as individuals and as Church, is whether we will allow God's light to change how we see, or whether we will go through the motions and continue to see as the rest of society does, while claiming falsely that we see as God does.

Organising your wedding in St John's

Weddings are special occasions in the life of any family and of the Church. We'd be delighted to talk to anyone contemplating their wedding in St John's. When considering getting married please check possible dates with the Rector before confirming any other arrangements. It is expected that couples will make a regular commitment to the life of the Church in preparation for marriage.



If you are considering donating any items to the foodbank then we would really appreciate any of the following...

Tinned meat Tinned potatoes/ Smash Long life juice Tinned soup Toiletries Toilet roll Washing up liquid Washing powder You can either pop the items directly into the basket at Tesco Newtownbreda or donate directly to the foodbank.

We are open for donations every Wednesday 1-3pm and every Thursday 10am-12pm.

Our warehouse is Unit 4, 23 Sunwich Street, Belfast, BT6 8HR

Any questions regarding donating please call us on 07743332489 or email us on info@southbelfast.foodbank.org.uk



St John's Malone
@malonestjohns



stjohnsmalone



ITEMS REQUIRED AT PRESENT: *Please place in the baskets in the entrance vestibule/porch.*
Long life juice; Tinned fish; Tinned spaghetti; Tinned fruit; Jars of jam; Tinned rice pudding; Tinned potatoes or Smash; Toiletries – soap, shampoo, shower gel, toothpaste etc.

www.malone.connor.anglican.org

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Registration Number NIC101984*

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The Rector, Rev. Canon Stephen Fielding can be contacted on pastoral matters (90666644)
e-mail : malone@connor.anglican.org



Please take this booklet home with you for the readings, notices and reference during the week and recycle.