



## SAINT JOHN'S MALONE

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Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard: ca. 1752 Artist: Dietrich, Christian Wilhelm Ernst, 1712-1774  
City:Warsaw

### **Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity. *Proper 20***

**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 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023**  
**9.00 a.m. Eucharist in the Side Chapel *said***  
**10.30 a.m. Parish Eucharist**  
**6:30 p.m. Choral Evensong**

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

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>The Gathering</b>            | <i>page 201/125</i>                                 |
| Presiding                       | Revd Dr B Crowe                                     |
| Opening Hymn                    | 24 (omit vs 5&6)                                    |
| Collect of the Day              |   |
| <b>Liturgy of the Word</b>      |   |
| First Reading                   |   |
| Psalm                           | 145:1-8   |
| Second Reading                  |   |
| Gradual Hymn                    | 8   |
| Gospel (stand)                  |   |
| Sermon                          | The Rector  |
| Peace (stand)                   | <i>page 207 / 131</i>                               |
| Offertory Hymn                  | 365   |
| <b>Liturgy of the Sacrament</b> | Great Thanksgiving (1) <i>page 209</i>              |
| The Lord's Prayer               |   |
| Communion                       |   |
| Motet                           | Love Divine – Amy Summers                           |
| Great Silence                   |   |
| Hymn                            | 358   |
| <b>Going Out</b>                |   |
| Post Communion Prayers          | <i>page 220</i>                                     |
| Blessing                        |   |
| Dismissal                       |   |
| Organ Voluntary                 | Prelude and Fugue in G Minor (BuxWV149) - Buxtehude |
| Office Setting                  | Shepherd  |



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**Collect**

O Lord,  
Hear the prayers of your people who call upon you;  
and grant that they may both perceive and know  
what things they ought to do,  
and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### First Reading **Jonah 3: 10 - 4: 11**

10 When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

4But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>He prayed to the Lord and said, 'O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. <sup>3</sup>And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.' <sup>4</sup>And the Lord said, 'Is it right for you to be angry?' <sup>5</sup>Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

6 The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup>But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, 'It is better for me to die than to live.'

9 But God said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?' And he said, 'Yes, angry enough to die.' <sup>10</sup>Then the Lord said, 'You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup>And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?'

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

Psalm

### Second Reading **Philippians 1: 21-30**

<sup>21</sup>For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far

better; <sup>24</sup>but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup>Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup>so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

27 Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup>For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— <sup>30</sup>since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

Gospel Reading *Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ according to Matthew chapter twenty beginning at verse sixteen. **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ***

### **Matthew 20: 1-16**

20'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage,\* he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" <sup>7</sup>They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." <sup>8</sup>When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.\* <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup>saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?\*" <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I

choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

### **Post Communion Prayer**

God of mercy,

through our sharing in this holy sacrament

you make us one body in Christ.

Fashion us in his likeness here on earth,

that we may share his glorious company in heaven,

where he lives and reigns now and for ever. **Amen**

### **NOTICES & ACTIVITIES |**

**Sunday** Visit your mosque trip 24/9 1pm met at Mosque.

Today:- Loose plate collection in church for the victims of the Morrocco earthquake and the Libya floods to be administered through British Red Cross Earthquake Appeal and the Bishops' Appeal for Libya. Both organisations are online too.

**Tuesday** Toddler Café 10am-11:30am

*Laura Walker Ballet Class from 2-6:30pm laurawalker@hotmail.com*

*Evening: Guiding Organisations from 6:30pm*

**Wednesday Zoom Compline** 7:30pm details in the email Update. Please email the office if you'd like added to the email Update list [secstjohns@btconnect.com](mailto:secstjohns@btconnect.com)

**Wednesday** 9:15am Reader Ministry Prep. - Edward Darling Room.

*Scottish Country Dancing: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month 8-10pm Lynn Rankin 90812249*

**Thursday St Michael & All Angels** 10.30am Eucharist with intercessions for those in need. A cup of coffee is available after this service.

*Laura Walker Ballet Class from 2-6:30pm laurawalker@hotmail.com*

Parish Choir: 7:30pm contact Mr Richard Campbell organist.stjohns.malone@gmail.com

*Pilates in Seaver Hall 7:30-8:30pm contact Catherine catbutler4@yahoo.com*

**Friday Tango** 7:30-10pm petermacauley@talktalk.net -not meeting until the new year.

### **Next Sunday: Trinity XVII 1st October ~ Harvest Festival**

9:00 Eucharist; 10:30am Sunday First for Harvest

### **HARVEST APPEAL – COLLECTION FOR SOUTH BELFAST FOOD BANK**

- See back page of this Pewsheet for more details.

### **Notices:**

- Bible Reading Fellowship BRF Notes are available each quarter for the year. Please consider taking some. Please speak to or email Rev. Brian Cadden if you are interested in having the quarterly BRF Notes.
- **Welcome** to all our visitors whether you're joining us in the building or online. 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.

- **Welcome** if you are disabled, unwell, have experiences of cognitive or mental health issues. There is a hearing loop installed in the church for those who need it. Step-free access to church is available through the north porch door and to the halls via the Seaver Hall main door.
- **Welcome** to babies, children and young people. We understand that young children make noise. If your baby becomes upset during the service, you are welcome to go to the back of the church if you need to settle – or to Sunday School in the halls where there is lots of space. Our toilets have baby change facilities.
- **Welcome** to all experiences of race, colour or language. At the Lord's Prayer all are invited to bring the gift of your first language to our worship. You are also welcome if you are LGBTQIA+
- **Welcome** if you are unsure about faith, **Welcome** if you are exploring, **Welcome** if you are here for someone else. We run study courses through the year. These are notified here, in the parish magazine or on Facebook or on our parish website.
- If you need to reach out to our **Safeguarding** team please contact Stephen, Patricia or Tony [malone@connor.anglican.org](mailto:malone@connor.anglican.org) (Rector's email) or see the info posters in the halls.
- We are collecting for **South Belfast Food Bank** again. Please leave your contributions in the vestibule on the way in.
- 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 or add the name(s) on the list in the side chapel.
- 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.
- **Giving and Stewardship** in St Johns' much of our income received is through the Free Will Offering Scheme using either envelopes or increasingly, by Standing Order. Standing order forms are available by asking the Churchwardens or contacting the Office [secstjohns@btconnect.com](mailto:secstjohns@btconnect.com). Alternatively if you wish to make a donation then the account details for St John's are also available from the Wardens. Thank you. Your donations help us maintain our buildings and support ministry and outreach here in St John's and more widely.
- **Coffee/tea** will follow this service and all are welcome.
- **Parents & Toddlers** meets in Seaver Hall Tuesday 10am-11:30am. All are welcome.

## **READINGS:**

**Jonah 3:10-4:11**: When the people of Nineveh repent because of Jonah's preaching, Jonah gets upset and finds a place outside of the city to brood. Then God provides a plant to grow and shield him one day, and a worm to destroy the plant the next, using this to confront Jonah about his anger at God's compassion.

**Psalms 145:1-8**: A psalm of praise for God's greatness, God's mighty acts that will be told from one generation to the next, and God's compassion, mercy and forgiveness.

**Philippians 1:21-30**: Paul reflects on how he is united with Christ whether he is alive or dead, but how he is convinced that he must remain in order to keep serving God's people. Then he encourages them to continue to live in ways that reflect God's reign, even when it results in suffering.

**Matthew 20:1-16**: Jesus tells a story about an employer who hires workers throughout the day, but pays them all the same at the end. When those who started at the beginning of the day complain, he challenges them, asking whether they resent his generosity to others. This story leads Jesus into his famous words about the first being last and the last first.

## **REFLECTIONS ON THEME:**

The central theme, that flows through all of this week's readings, is a simple one – God is compassionate and merciful, generous and forgiving. This is a fitting response to last week's focus on forgiveness, because we must recognise, if we are to take Christ's message seriously, that God seeks the best for people, and that God encourages us to do the same – which takes us beyond just forgiveness into a life of seeking the blessing of others. Jesus' parable demonstrates God's generosity and challenges us not to resent generosity shown to others, but to rejoice in it. Paul is a living example of this since, though he expressed his desire to come to his life's end and go to be with Christ, he was willing to continue to suffer and serve for the sake of the Philippian church which he had founded. Both Psalms celebrate God's generous goodness to God's people with [Psalm 105](#) (which we have encountered before in the last few weeks) connecting with the continuous Old Testament reading (Exodus) in which God provides food for the Israelites in the wilderness in spite of their doubt and complaining. [Psalm 145](#), celebrates, among God's mighty acts, God's forgiveness and the blessing God gives to God's people. Finally, Jonah is a mirror for us showing how bitter we can easily become when God shows mercy and generosity to others, and how easily we become ungrateful for what we have enjoyed, especially when we fall into a feeling of entitlement. The challenge of this week, then, is to learn to appreciate what we have received from our generous God, while celebrating God's generosity to others. This applies, most especially, to God's mercy and forgiveness and the welcome God gives to all people to share in God's reign.

*Citations from the Revised Common Lectionary, used and adapted for use in the Church of Ireland with permission, copyrighted © 1992. Consultation on Common Texts.*

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The Parish Office for administrative matters, or for information about organisations connected with St John's (90667861) e-mail: [secstjohns@btconnect.com](mailto:secstjohns@btconnect.com)

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





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

You can either pop the items directly into the basket at Tesco Newtownbreda or donate directly to the foodbank. Or *please place in the baskets in the entrance vestibule/porch.* 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](mailto:info@southbelfast.foodbank.org.uk)



**URGENTLY NEEDED FOOD ITEMS**

- **LONG LIFE JUICE**
- **LONG LIFE MILK**
- **TINNED FISH**
- **TINNED SPAGHETTI**
- **TINNED FRUIT**
- **JARS OF JAM**
- **TINNED POTATOES OR SMASH**
- **NAPPIES SIZE 5 OR ABOVE ONLY**
- **TOILETRIES - SOAP, SHAMPOO, SHOWER GEL, TOOTHPASTE ETC**
- **HOUSEHOLD CLEANING ITEMS - WASHING UP LIQUID, WASHING POWDER**

St John's Malone  
@malonestjohns



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