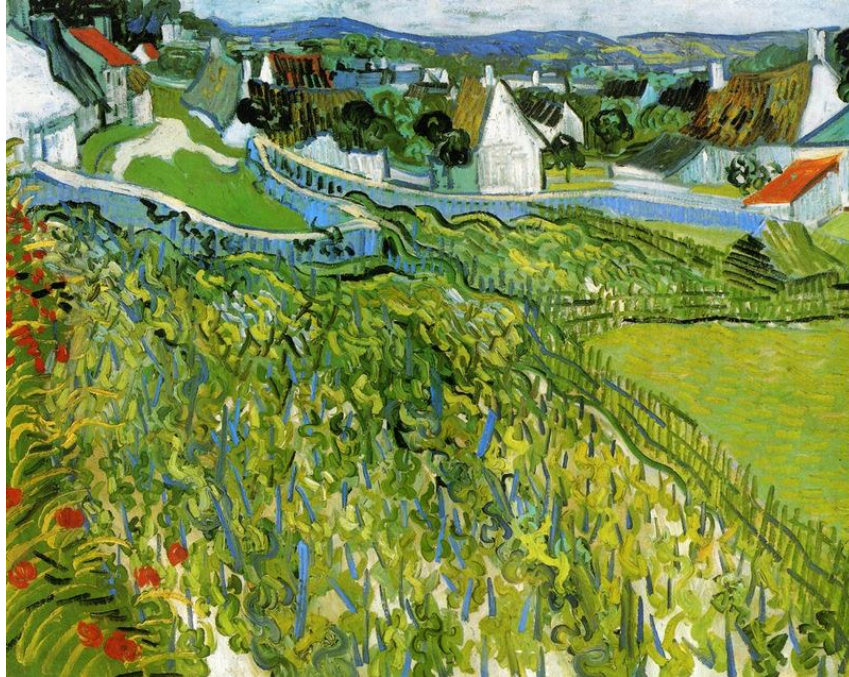




SAINT JOHN'S MALONE



Vineyards with a View of Auvers Date:1890
Artist: Gogh, Vincent van, 1853-1890
Building: St. Louis Art Museum, MO

Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity. *Proper 22*

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 8th October 2023

9.00 a.m. Eucharist in the Side Chapel *said*

10.30 a.m. Parish Eucharist

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

The Gathering	<i>page 201/125</i>
Presiding	The Rector
Opening Hymn	51
Collect of the Day	
Liturgy of the Word	
First Reading	
Psalm	80:8-16
Second Reading	
Gradual Hymn	493
Gospel (stand)	
Sermon	The Rector
Peace (stand)	<i>page 207 / 131</i>
Offertory Hymn	376
Liturgy of the Sacrament	Great Thanksgiving (1) <i>page 209</i>
The Lord's Prayer	
Communion	
Motet	A Gaelic Blessing – John Rutter
Great Silence	
Hymn	376
Going Out	
Post Communion Prayers	<i>page 220</i>
Blessing	
Dismissal	
Organ Voluntary	Prelude on Darwall's 148 th - Whitlock
Office Setting	Archer



Collect

Almighty and everlasting God:
Increase in us your gift of faith
that, forsaking what lies behind,
we may run the way of your commandments
and win the crown of everlasting joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading **isaiah 5: 1-7**

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard:

My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.

² He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watch-tower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?

⁵ And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down.

⁶ I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷ For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm

Second Reading Philippians 3: 4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value

of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ,^{*} the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ^{*} and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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 21: 33-46

³³ ‘Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, “They will respect my son.” ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, “This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.” ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’ ⁴¹They said to him, ‘He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.’

⁴² Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the scriptures:
“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;

this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes"?

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom.* ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.*

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Post Communion Prayer

All praise and thanks, O Christ,
for this sacred banquet,
in which by faith we receive you,
the memory of your passion is renewed,
our lives are filled with grace,
and a pledge of future glory given,
to feast at that table where you reign
with all your saints for ever. **Amen**

NOTICES & ACTIVITIES |

Sunday

Monday *Scouts from 6:30pm*

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

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

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

Thursday St Philip the Deacon 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 XIX 15th October

9:00 Eucharist; 10:30am Family Eucharist

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 (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. 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:

Isaiah 5:1-7: A prophecy of judgement in which the people of Israel and Judah are likened to a vineyard which God tends and cares for, but which produces rotten grapes instead of good ones.

Psalms 80:7-15: A plea to God to come and save the vine that God planted, but which has now had its wall torn down, and is vulnerable and open to destruction.

Philippians 3:4b-14: Paul, who has good reason for confidence under the law because of his upbringing and observance, values only the righteousness which he has received through Christ, and through which he knows the power of Christ's resurrection and participates in Christ's sufferings.

Matthew 21:33-46: Jesus tells a story about a farmer who cultivates a vineyard and then rents it to tenant farmers, who, instead of giving the farmer his share of the fruit when it's due, kills his servants and then the farmer's son. In this way, he explains, God's reign is being given to those who will produce fruit.

REFLECTIONS ON THEME:

In the Isaiah reading, which connects with the Gospel, the Song of the Vineyard demonstrates what happens when God's people fail to live out the life that the Law is supposed to bring, and fail to find real relationship with God and one another. The fruit they produce, in this case, is rotten, rather than good and life-giving. In Philippians Paul, who could celebrate his righteousness under the law, express his disregard for legalistic purity, and embraces, rather, the life of Christ – both his resurrection and his suffering – for it is in Christ that he knows true life, and true connection with God and others. In Jesus' parable, it is the people of the law – the religious leaders, who are represented by the wicked tenants. Their inability to recognise their place as custodians of God's vineyard, and their unwillingness to receive the "farmer's son" reveals how their devotion to the law has robbed them and others of life, and has led them into a destructive legalism. In response to this, the Psalm offer us two songs that are helpful expressions of our longing for God, and our desire to keep God's law in its rightful place. In Psalm 80 the response of grief and prayer for the vulnerable vineyard that has failed to produce fruit guides us away from judgement and into intercession for those (including ourselves) who make of the law an idol and end up producing fruit that is contrary to God's life and God's reign. So, here at last, we recognise that this week is not a contradiction of last week, but a development of it. The only ones who end up excluded are those who use the law to exclude others. The result is less a judgement than a consequence. When Christ seeks to include all, those who insist on excluding some, end up only excluding themselves. What a tragedy that the Law, which is designed to bring life, should become such a destructive idol for some – and what a warning against any tendency to legalism we might find in ourselves.

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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

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.

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



URGENTLY NEEDED FOOD ITEMS

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

St John's Malone
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