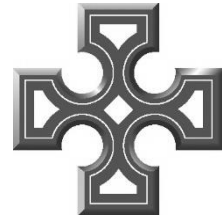




SAINT JOHN'S MALONE



Sermon on the Mount, detail Date:ca. 1860 Artist: Olrik, Henrik, 1830-1890
Building:Sankt Mattheus Kirke Object/Function:Altarpiece
City/Town:Copenhagen

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany.

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 29th January 2023

9.00 a.m. Eucharist in the Side Chapel

10.30 a.m. A Service of Wholeness & Healing - Sung 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>
Celebrant		The Rev. B Cadden
Opening Hymn		190
Collect of the Day		
Liturgy of the Word		
First Reading		
Psalm	15	
Second Reading		
Gradual Hymn		503
Gospel (stand)		
Sermon		The Rector
Peace (stand)		<i>page 207 / 131</i>
Offertory Hymn		6
Liturgy of the Sacrament	Great Thanksgiving (1)	<i>page 209</i>
The Lord's Prayer		
Communion		
Motet		Listen Sweet Dove - Ives
Great Silence		
Post Communion Hymn		643
Going Out		<i>page 220 ff /145</i>
Post Communion Prayers		<i>page 220</i>
Blessing		
Dismissal		
Organ Voluntary		
Office Setting		How



Collect

Creator God,
 who in the beginning
 commanded the light to shine out of darkness:
 We pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ
 may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief,
 shine into the hearts of all your people,
 and reveal the knowledge of your glory
 in the face of Jesus Christ our Lord.. **Amen.**

First Reading **Micah 6: 1-8**

6Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

² Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the Lord has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³ 'O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.'

⁶ 'With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷ Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?'

⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 15

Second Reading **1 Corinthians 1: 18-31**

18 For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.’

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

26 Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, ‘Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.’

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

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

Matthew 5: 1-12

5When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

3 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

Post Communion Prayer

Generous Lord,
in word and eucharist we have proclaimed
the mystery of your love.
Help us so to live out our days
that we may be signs of your wonders in the world;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen

Services this week

Wednesday 1st Zoom Compline is at **7:30pm**. Passcodes for Zoom are emailed in the latest Update to parishioners.

Thursday 2nd February St Brigid's Day (tr) 10.30am Eucharist with prayer for those in need will take place in the Side Chapel. The prayer list is in the Side chapel.

A cup of tea/coffee is now available after this service.

Next Sunday: Candlemas (3rd before Lent) 5.02.23

9.00 a.m. Eucharist in the Side Chapel

10.30 a.m. Sunday First & Holy Baptism with a Christingle Celebration



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.
- **If you would like to help out on a Sunday after church and become a team member on the tea/coffe rota please speak to Rosemary Macartney.**
- **The Register of Vestrypersons is open for revision. Please speak to the Churchwardens for the required form and complete and return by Monday 6th February at 7:30pm when the Review Meeting will take place in the Edward Darling Room.**

READINGS:

Following on from last week, the Lectionary this week explores the interconnectedness of our intimacy with God and our lives lived in justice and mercy. It also begins a short Epiphany journey through the Sermon on the Mount. Without a lived expression of our intimacy with God, our faith is little more than platitudes and dreams. But, in a challenging call this week, the Scriptures demonstrate how we find God in the poorest, the weakest and the most vulnerable among us, and how as we work for justice and mercy, we participate in God's reign and God's

life. There is no division between justice and worship, between ministry and liturgy, in the Gospel. And so we are called to embrace a vibrant relationship with God that is manifest and experienced in a vibrant interaction with the world.

May we find God not just in our sanctuaries this week, but also in the world we enter into as we live through the week.

READINGS:

Micah 6:1-8: God challenges God's people regarding their tiring of God, and calls them to love mercy, do justice and walk with God in humility.

Psalms 15: Those who are true worshipers, who may enter God's presence, are the ones who live with consideration and compassion for their neighbours, and with justice and integrity.

1 Corinthians 1:18-31: God is not known through the wisdom and power of this world, but in the foolishness of the cross, which, to those who believe, is the wisdom and power of God. In this cross alone do we boast.

Matthew 5:1-12: Jesus teaches his disciples that those who are poor, mourning, pure in heart, working for peace, desperate for justice and persecuted for following Christ are the ones God blesses.

REFLECTIONS ON THEME:

This week we get a glimpse into God's longings and the 'workings' of God's heart. God longs for us to know God and be in intimate relationship with God – as shown by Micah's challenge and the Psalmist's question, by Paul's reflection and Jesus' teaching – all of which show us God's longing to have us in God's presence (Psalms 15), to bless us (Matthew), to be walking with us (Micah), and to be known by us (Corinthians). But, what also stands out is that knowing and being in relationship with God is not done in ways that make sense from a human perspective – individualist spirituality, self-protection and using material gain, personal satisfaction, power and human wisdom as measures of God's blessing. Rather, God is known and encountered in our following of Christ into different values, different interactions with others and different ways of being in the world. Sacrifice, justice, compassion and integrity – these are the doorways to God's presence, the crosses in which we know Christ and the places in which we discover God's presence and blessing. It's time – these verses seem to say – that we move away from the dualistic spirituality that makes worship and social action separate, that makes God's presence and the work of justice separate and that leaves us hoping for evacuation to another world, while this world suffers and dies. It is time that our worship leads us into lives of justice and transformation, and that it teaches us to encounter God in the least and most vulnerable in our world.

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.

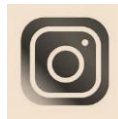
Our warehouse is Unit 4, 23 Sunwich Street, Belfast, BT6 8HR

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

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.