



Benefice of the Piddle Valley, Hilton & Ansty, Melcombe Horsey and Cheselbourne

Sunday 5th July 2020
Trinity 4 (Altar colour green)

Readings: Zech 9:9-12, Psalm 145: 8-15, Rom 7: 15-25, Matt 11: 16-29, 25-end

Collect: O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal; grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen

Zechariah 9:9-12 (ESV) - The Coming King of Zion

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

COMMENT: Christians readily recognise this passage as the model for Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem in all four Gospels. Matthew and John actually quoted part of it in their records of that event. (Matthew 21:5; John 12:15) Undoubtedly, it originated as a hopeful prophetic oracle with messianic implications based on Israel's sacred covenant with The LORD. The prophecy may also have in mind Solomon's entry into Jerusalem on the King's mule to be made king (1 Kings 1:38-40). The passage comes from what scholars designate as an anonymous appendix attached to the earlier chapters 1-8 of Zechariah. Modern scholarship places the prophecies of Zechariah in the early Persian period, soon after the return from the Babylonian exile (539 BC). Some Scholars place chapters 9-14 much later, but different opinions have claimed precedence for an exact date. One of the stronger claims dates it in the time of Alexander and his conquests in the late 4th Century. Verse 13 of this 9th chapter refers distinctly to Greece in the English versions. The first part of chapter from which this reading has been separated refers to many of Israel's neighbouring city states which are under threat of invasion or already captured from an overwhelming military power. This brief passage and subsequent verses defends Jerusalem as having the LORD's protection. Ultimately the LORD will triumph as earlier prophets like Amos, Isaiah and Ezekiel prophesied. The passage also has similarities to the so-called "Enthronement" Psalms 43, 93, 96-99. The king, however, is the messianic monarch anointed by the LORD to whom Israel looked for deliverance in such desperate times.

Matthew 11:16-30 (ESV) - John the Baptist

"But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their playmates, "We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.' For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds."

Come to Me, and I Will Give You Rest

At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the

Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

COMMENT: Jesus likely uttered these three remembered quotations at quite different times. The first saying not only described a children’s imitative game of biblical times, it also told of the frustration of teaching without visible response. The prayer in verses 25-27 has some similarity to the prayer in John 17, revealing a common tradition which has been recalled within different Christian communities. The final call to find rest in Christ’s service contained echoes of the final blessing in one of the books of the apocryphal; Ecclesiasticus 50:22-26 (also known as ‘Sirach’). That non-canonical book was originally written in Hebrew written about 200 years BC and translated into Greek by Jesus ben Sirach’s grandson in 132 BC. Hebrew fragments were found among the Qumran scrolls and in the fortress of Masada which endured the Romans-Jewish War of AD 69-70. In desperation the fortress held out much longer and fell to the Romans in AD 73 only after all surviving Jews had committed suicide. It was entirely possible that Jesus knew the work of Sirach with its aphorisms, moral maxims, proverbs, psalms of praise, theological and homiletic reflections. His own teaching had many of the same characteristics. Sirach wrote: “And now bless the Lord of all things, the doer of great deeds everywhere, who has exalted our days from the womb and acted toward us in mercy. May he grant us cheerful hearts and bring us peace in our time, in Israel for ages on ages. May his mercy be faithfully with us, and may he redeem us in our time.”

Post Communion: Eternal God, comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken, you have fed us at the table of life and hope: teach us the ways of gentleness and peace, that all the world may acknowledge the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Blessing: God give you grace to follow his saints in faith and hope and love; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Benefice Prayer list.

NHS Anniversary – founded 5th July 1948

Lord Jesus, who healed the sick and gave them new life,
be with all carers and health professionals,
as they act as agents of your healing touch.
In desperate times, keep them strong yet loving;
and when their work is done,
be with them in their weariness and in their tears.
Amen.



Please pray for those who are suffering in mind, body or spirit, through illness &/or hospital treatment, for the grieving, lonely, anxious and confused: *Ken Lester, Ann Lambert, Geoff Harris, Robin Dibble, Bernard, & David. For those in care homes: including June Kelloway (Blandford) who will hopefully be returning home soon and Roger Gray (Dorchester).*

Please pray for our two benefice schools of Piddle Valley and Cheselbourne: the teachers, staff, governors and pupils, as they approach the end of the school year, and make plans for September.

Any additions or amendments to the prayer list, please email the Rector.

Benefice Notices



Returning to worship: Fr. Roger is busy working with the Church wardens to ensure the buildings are Covid Safe for communal worship. More details to follow in due course.

Foodbank: Foodbank donations can now be taken into church at the appropriate opening times. Fr. Roger and I will collect from the churches when there is a bag full, store here at the Vicarage for 100hrs and then deliver to the Dorford Centre in Dorchester. Donations can still be left at Orchard Cottage Melcombe Bingham and The Vicarage Piddletrenthide. Thank you for your continued support of this scheme.

Churches are open for individual private prayer for residents - See separate poster.

Live Streaming: Please visit our live streamed services throughout the week, order of services are available on the website home page to download for Communion and Anglican Rosary.

UPDATED (4TH July 2020): ORDER OF SERVICE FOR ORDINARY TIME ON THE HOME PAGE OF THE WEBSITE

Sunday Communion Service are uploaded to YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0ru_v3_1MZyzyx72ka63g4A

Facebook to access livestream:

https://www.facebook.com/piddlevalley/?eid=ARAxjQNj5mPHQUQD2hKEx_uzUyyf17basudX3D22bYJx4HsCh7ByYB8lItrMbHsARvgwbTqvapn-Glq

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