

The Dunster Benefice
Carhampton, Dunster, Timberscombe,
Withycombe with Rodhuish, Wootton Courtenay
Newsletter 28th May 2021



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BBC Radio 4 Sunday Worship, 8.10am or listen later on BBC Sounds. This week an array of senior Church leaders from across the United Kingdom will remember the death of George Floyd and challenge churches and communities in Britain and Ireland to stand up for justice, and against racism, ignorance, and hatred.

Sunday 30th May (Trinity Sunday) Readings & Collect

Holy God, faithful and unchanging: enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth, and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love, that we may truly worship you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Common Worship Collect taken from Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England © The Archbishops' Council 2000

Isaiah 6.1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph^b touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

Romans 8.12-17

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

John 3.1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

SERVICES THIS WEEK

*This Sunday there will be a Benefice Service of Holy Communion (Common Worship),
11am, Timberscombe.*

*Most churches will be open for private prayer on a Sunday or some other day of the week,
please keep an eye on the notice boards.*

Rector's Note

My dog Arthur cannot abide the wind. At night, if there is a gale or even heavy rain, he starts up and sits trembling and barks and dashes to the back door and back again. I have to shut the window at the very least and speak to him, before he will ever settle.

But generally, we are very fortunate in West Somerset that we have dark night skies and quiet. I remain amazed that I am often able to drive back from Minehead in the evening on the main road and be able to have the headlights on full beam most of the way, because there is no other traffic. Wakefulness at night can be very trying for the insomniac, but an opportunity also. If things are churning, a firm reminder to relax might help, but it can also be the time to listen. Just listen to the silence.

This is a quiet full of peace, people and animals at rest, the world sleeping, the tide gently breaking on the shore. RS Thomas was reminded of the Other, constantly awake, letting the tide of our prayers break up on him for eternity.

Night is a good time for praying. One of the spiritual exercises of Ignatius Loyola ask the person to rise in the small hours to pray. Monks and nuns traditionally begin their day before dawn, with Prime, in the first service of the day.

Some people find silence difficult and exhausting. Perhaps part of learning to embrace it lies in turning outward to the world, not inward to our own needs and desires.

And there is the rest of the night to sleep again.

Caroline

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