

Shellrock Benefice Service Sheet for Trinity 3, June 28th 2020

Collect

God our Saviour look on this wounded world in pity and power; hold fast to your promise of peace won for us by your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

Readings

Genesis 22, 1-14; Psalm 89, 8-18; Romans 6, 12-end; Matt 10, 40-end

A Reflection

On Wednesday of this week (24th) it was the birthday of John the Baptist and I went to a zoom diocesan seminar about this amazing man, the last of the prophets and the first of the Saints. As always I learned a lot and came away from the session buzzing. We read the passage in the first chapter of Luke's gospel where the child is named, eight days after his birth. All who had come to witness this event were shocked that he was not to be called after Zechariah, his father. This and the firmness with which Elizabeth, his mother, said "No, his name is John" were quite contrary to what would have been normal practice at that time. People were amazed and not a little afraid and spoke of this event "far and wide". The name John means "God is gracious" and indicated, not just that he arrived after a long period of infertility, but also to highlight just what a special child and man he was to become. John was from the start a radical, pointing the way in dress, words, and action, to something that was about to happen; a new beginning, a change of direction, a welcome time of excitement but also of anxiety for many with the birth, growth and ministry of Jesus. I suspect that we too need to prepare to be amazed at the possibility of a change of direction; in our society as a whole, in our priorities, and in the ways in which we come together as the church.

Suggestions for prayer:

For thanks for all who have worked so strenuously throughout the major crisis brought by the pandemic

For all people known to us who are ill at this time, especially those in the benefice

For guidance from the Holy Spirit as we move forward in all our daily activities and as the churches start to re-open for worship

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, For ever and ever Amen

Blessing

The good and gracious God grant us refreshment, renewal, restoration, that in his power we may work to his praise and glory. And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen