

Sunday 6 September 2020

13th Sunday after Trinity

Proper 18

Dear friends

What is the character of our Christian communities? This question is highlighted in the Gospel reading, as Matthew explores how hurts and disagreements are to be settled within the life of the early church. St Paul picks up on this theme in his letter to the Romans, speaking of how Christians are to behave towards one another as agents of light and love. There is a dose of reality in this-life together will it always be easy. To live as God's people is to learn to deal with disagreement well, recognising the presence of God in one another.

Collect

Almighty God,
you search us and know us:
may we rely on you in strength
and rest on you in weakness,
now and in all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 13.8–end

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; ¹³ let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling

and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Matthew 18.15–20

¹⁵ 'If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

Looking Ahead

APCMs

The annual parochial church meeting for St John's will take place immediately after the shortened service at 10.30am on Sunday 20th September. Please can as many of you on the electoral roll who are able, attend this. This year we are looking for 2 new members to sit on the PCC. We also need 3 new deanery synod reps. If you feel called to join the PCC or want to know more please let Sarah know.

Services this week

Sunday 6th September
10.30am Holy Communion -Milborne Port

Services next week

Sunday 13th September
10.30am: Holy communion- Milborne Port

6pm: Harvest evensong - Goathill Annual
leave.

Resources for Prayer and Keeping in touch

Website: www.milborneportchurches.org.uk

Facebook: St John the Evangelist Church Milborne
Port @milborneportchurches

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