



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

TRINITY 18

Sunday 8 October 2023

We are now able to receive the wine at communion. There will be a chalice on your left for those who wish to receive by drinking, and on your right for those who wish to receive by dipping their wafer in the wine. You are also welcome to just receive the bread.

Welcome to our service today.

Hymns are: 208 Christ is made the sure foundation (part 2 & doxology), 386 Be thou my vision, 112 My song is love unknown, 376 And can it be.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Melchbourne in our Diocese.
The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East.
Christians inspired by the lives of St Francis and St Clare.

The World: Hospice patients and staff.
People who suffer with arthritis.
People living with dyslexia.

The Community and Parish: Residents staff and families at the Chase Care Home.
Chater Infants School.
Churches in the Watford Deanery.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Jean Alexander, Violet Allen-Smith, Julie Alvarez, June Arnold, Janet Chandler, Paddy Gaffney, Jemima Hill, Owen Hutchinson, Kristine Jenkins, Lisa Mills, Josephine Stadden, Catherine Stone, Fay Storey, Adelaide Tonkin, and all who care for them.

The Departed:

COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Exodus 20.1–4, 7–9, 12–20

A reading from the book of Exodus.

- 1 Then God spoke all these words:
2 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;
3 you shall have no other gods before me.
4 You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.
7 You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.
8 Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.
9 Six days you shall labour and do all your work.
12 Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.
13 You shall not murder.
14 You shall not commit adultery.
15 You shall not steal.
16 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.
17 You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.
18 When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, and said to Moses, 'You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die.'
20 Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin.'

SECOND READING Philippians 3.4b–14

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

- 4 If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more:
5 circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee;
6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.
7 Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ.

8 More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing
Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard
them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him,
9 not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes
through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith.
10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his
sufferings by becoming like him in his death,
11 if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.
12 Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on
to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.
13 Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do:
forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,
14 I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL Matthew 21.33–46

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people:
33 ‘Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a
fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it
to tenants and went to another country.
34 When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his
produce.
35 But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another.
36 Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same
way.
37 Finally he sent his son to them, saying, “They will respect my son.”
38 But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, “This is the heir;
come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.”
39 So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.
40 Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?”
41 They said to him, ‘He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the
vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.’
42 Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the scriptures: “The stone that the
builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is
amazing in our eyes”?’
43 Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to
a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom.
44 The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone
on whom it falls.’
45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he
was speaking about them.
46 They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him
as a prophet.

Our service today is available to attend in person
or via livestream on our YouTube channel
“St Michael’s Church Watford”

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8GTX0MfiICGmcDUkXTGFSw>

The 10.00am Eucharist on Thursdays is also available to attend in person, and livestreamed.

The Church will be open for tea and coffee on Wednesday mornings from 10.00am – 12.00 noon.

Many thanks to everyone for their contributions to Harvest Festival last week. We had a very good collection of goods for the Food Bank which were collected on Wednesday, and £110 was given on Sunday for the Bishop of St Albans’ Harvest Appeal.