

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

28th January 2024

If today you
hear his voice,
harden not
your hearts.

Take me
Home !!



Rector's Tidings

St. Mark makes it clear that, from the very first day of Christ's public ministry, his messianic power began to be manifested to those who saw and heard him. The Jews of Capernaum were "astonished" at his teaching and "amazed" at his power over the evil spirits. "What is this," they asked one another, "a new teaching and the unclean spirits obey him!" But they were still a long way from recognizing him for what he was, the Messiah and Son of God. This is as might be expected, the astounding mystery of the incarnation was way beyond human expectation or human imagination. And it was our Lord's own plan to reveal this mystery, slowly and gradually, so that when the chain of evidence had been completed by his resurrection, his followers could look back and see each link in that chain. Then they would be ready to accept without hesitation the mystery of the incarnation and realize the infinite love and power of God that brought it about. We look back today through the eyes of the Evangelists, and, like them, know that Christ was God as well as man—two natures in one person. We should not therefore be "amazed" at the teaching of Jesus or at his power over the unclean spirits. What should amaze us really is the love that God showed mankind in becoming one of our race.

Fr Hugo

H o l y C o m m u n i o n

Entrance Hymn:

5 All hail the power of Jesus' name!

Collect:

God our creator, who in the beginning commanded the light to shine out of darkness: we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief, shine into the hearts of all your people, and reveal the knowledge of your glory in the face of 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.

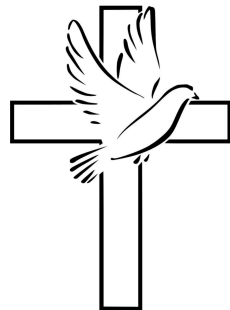
Amen

First Reading: A reading from Deuteronomy (18:15-20):

Moses said to the people: 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.'"

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God



Responsorial Psalm (95)

R./ If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD; let us acclaim the rock of our salvation. Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us joyfully sing psalms to him. **R./**

Come, let us bow down in worship; let us kneel before the LORD who made us. For he is our God, and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides. **R./**

Oh, that today you would hear his voice: "Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as in the day of Massah in the desert, Where your fathers tempted me; they tested me though they had seen my works." **R./**

Second Reading: A reading from 1 Corinthians (7:32-35):

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn:

103 Immortal, invisible, God only wise

Gospel Reading

Hear the The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark (Mark 1:21-28):

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus and his disciples went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the sabbath came he went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.



Prayers of Intercession

We remember in your presence all who have not heard the Good News. We pray for those who do not know anything of being healed or forgiven. Grant that the Church may proclaim your love and saving power. We pray for all who administer the sacraments and who preach the word.

Lord of all power and might,
hear our prayer.

We pray for areas of our world where darkness seems to triumph over the light. We remember people who are possessed by drug addiction. We remember also those who feel that they are possessed by evil. May they all come to know the glorious liberty of the children of God.

Lord of all power and might,
hear our prayer.

We give you thanks and praise for those who have shared their faith with us, for all who have encouraged us in the way of goodness. We ask your blessing upon them and upon our loved ones and friends.

Lord of all power and might,
hear our prayer.

We pray for all who have been ill for a long time, for those whose illness finds no cure. We pray for all who feel they are losing their faculties or mobility, all who cannot cope on their own. We remember those who are in hospices.

Lord of all power and might,
hear our prayer.

We rejoice in the fellowship of the saints. We remember loved ones who are departed from us. We commend the whole of creation and ourselves to your unfailing love.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Intercessions

- For the Church:

For Justin, our archbishop, Christopher and Martin our bishops and for the bishops, priests, deacons and people of the Diocese of The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East.

For everyone at Christ Church and St. Matthew's.

- For the world:

Zimbabwe, Russia and Ukraine, the Holy Land, China.

- For our community:

The Charity Shop and Food Cupboard

The Halls Trust and Co-op business centre

Christ Church Primary School, Van Gogh Primary School and Reay Primary School.

- For the Sick and Bereaved:

Anastasia, Bangori, Christina, Fay and family, Gladstone, John, Julie, Kandy & Benji, Karen, Kenneth, Maria, Neville, Pam, Ruby, Robert, Ron, and Stephen.

Offertory Hymn

149 Love divine, all loves excelling

Communion Hymn

16 Be Still and Know that I am God

Post Communion Prayer

Generous Lord, in word and eucharist we have proclaimed the mystery of your love: help us so to live out our days that we may be signs of your wonders in the world; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen.

Recessional Hymn

27 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

Services This Week

Sunday 4th February Bubble Church 9.45am, 11am Eucharist
& 6pm Spanish Mass

Next Bubble Church

Sunday 4th February at 9.45am

Regular Giving

We welcome online donations, which you can make via scanning the QR code. Many thanks for your generosity.



Daily Bible Verse Reflections

Fr Steve is doing daily 60 second videos on Christ Church's social media channels, reflecting on a Bible verse. To watch the reflections accompanying the verses, please visit our social media channels : **Monday** Matthew 5:3 **Tuesday** Matthew 5:4 **Wednesday** Matthew 4:4 **Thursday** John 15:15 **Friday** Luke 2:30

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