

The Collect

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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.

Amen

First Reading: Exodus 3 - 1.15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed.

³ Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' ⁴ When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.'

⁵ Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' ⁶ He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. ⁷ Then the Lord said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings,

⁸ and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

⁹ The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them.

¹⁰ So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.' ¹¹ But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?' ¹² He said,

'I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.' ¹³ But Moses said to God, 'If I come to the Israelites and say to them, "The God of your ancestors has sent me to you", and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them?'

¹⁴ God said to Moses, 'I am who I am.' He said further, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "I am has sent me to you."' ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you": This is my name for ever, and this my title for all generations.



King Charles the Martyr
Tunbridge Wells

**Twelfth Sunday
after Trinity
30th August 2020**

We are delighted to announce that some Services at **KCM** are **bookable in advance to attend in person** contact the Parish Office: 01892 511745, **St Mark's Church** is also open for Services, booking not required

Today's Services:

8.00am - KCM Holy Communion (BCP)
Bookable - The Revd Canon Sarah Partridge
live streaming on FB

8.00am - St Mark's Holy Communion (BCP)
The Revd Claire Allwood -

10am - All-age Holy Communion (CW)
The Revd Canon Sarah Partridge
The Revd Claire Allwood
From homes - Live streaming on FB and Zoom
Zoom link for 10am Holy Communion Service from
King Charles the Martyr until further notice:
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82593820722?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82593820722?pwd=cExlZHF2SHk3V295ZWdSRTJEMXJOUT09)
[pwd=cExlZHF2SHk3V295ZWdSRTJEMXJOUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82593820722?pwd=cExlZHF2SHk3V295ZWdSRTJEMXJOUT09)
Password: 072916

Wednesday 2nd September

11.30am - KCM - Holy Communion (BCP)
Bookable- Revd Laurence Powell

Next Sunday 6th September 13th Sunday after Trinity

8am - Holy Communion (BCP) St Mark's
10am - Holy Communion (CW) KCM
Bookable - Live streaming on FB and Zoom

Vicar: The Revd Laurence Powell
01892 525455 - laurence.powell@me.com

Associate Vicar:

The Revd Canon Sarah Partridge
01892 853451

Associate Vicar:

The Revd Claire Allwood
079769 59280

Parish Office

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Reflection

by Simon, Bishop of Tonbridge

SNAP JUDGMENT

Are first impressions right? Many pride themselves on their ability to make quick judgments about other people. Sometimes they are right; other times they are not. It's human nature to remember our successes more readily than our failures in life, so we become complacent in our judgment of others.

We ordinarily meet more people in one day than someone living in the middle ages would have encountered in a lifetime. So, we form quick judgments of others because we have little time to make an assessment. Sometimes this is essential: a stranger who stops us in the street must be sized up quickly. On other occasions we make these calculations lazily, resorting to stereotypes about people based on their looks, weight, clothes and how they speak. We deny Human judgment is clouded. In Matthew 16, Jesus asks his disciples who others think he is. It is the critical turning point in his ministry. People have had time to watch Jesus closely, to observe his power and to hear his wisdom. There was a buzz about him; opinions were being formed and shaped. Yet the answer he receives is: 'some say you are John the Baptist, but other Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets'. When we are stuck for a judgment, we usually try to make sense of what is in front of us by turning to the past. The people couldn't imagine that Jesus was unique. He's the new Elijah, isn't he?, they were saying. Except he wasn't.

No sooner had Peter correctly identified Jesus as Messiah among this parade of prophets than Jesus turned the tables on his friend. In re-naming Simon as Peter, he saw him as the rock on which the Church would be built. This would have raised eyebrows at the time because Peter was impatient, mercurial and rash – qualities which are almost the opposite of what we expect from the leaders of the Church. But Jesus saw how Peter would grow into his role.

Once Peter had identified Jesus for who he was, Jesus was able to mould Peter into who he would become. We perhaps place less emphasis on character formation in discipleship than we ought to. This is partly because the surrounding culture is much more interested in personality than character, in being lively, outspoken and witty rather than patient, gentle and faithful, for instance. But our goal is to be transformed into the likeness of Christ, which places a priority on character.

The key to the transformation of Peter was the encouragement Jesus offered him. He showed Peter what God saw in him and dared him to live up to it. We are woefully short on encouragement in life.

Competition is valued over co-operation in too many spheres; people are reluctant to offer praise because it is too effusive; they are suspicious when they receive it too, assuming they are being flattered or flirted with. Our consumer instinct means we keep people on their toes; they are never quite sure if they are good enough. No wonder so many people feel insecure today. Despite the urge to judge others quickly and not subsequently change our view, many of us have experienced epiphanies in life. The man you fall for after a long time; the woman you suddenly see as a friend; the child who gives a glimmer of what they will become. Today we are preoccupied with the make-over; a superficial attempt to change the way others view us. A deeper task is the naming of others in a way that releases them to be the person God has called them to be.

This is the creative task God is asking of all those who owe their faith to the rock on which the Church was built. We can release and empower someone with just a word. So, who will we set free this week?

Second Reading: Romans 12. 9-end

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16. 21-end

²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' ²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷ 'For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'