

St. Francis of Assisi, Isleworth
www.stfrancis-isleworth.org

Ninth Sunday after Trinity: August 18th, 2019

Hymns: 474, 631, 605, 695



Today's Gospel is not an easy one to hear as surely Jesus is the 'Prince of Peace?' Yet here he says that he has not come to bring peace, but division. This difficult saying reflects the reality that Jesus' words and presence were divisive during his earthly ministry, and still he defies convention whether that be of family, people, nation, and so on.

For your prayers

For the Church especially Justin our archbishop, Sarah our bishop, and Graham our area bishop

For the needs of the world and for the needs of this land

For our local community, for the West London Ghanaian Association

For the sick and the suffering

For the departed especially those whom we have known and loved

Collect

To set the earth ablaze, O God,
your Son submitted to a baptism unto death.
and from his cup of suffering you call the Church to drink.
Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus
and give us strength in time of trial to run the race that lies before us;
through the same 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 *Jeremiah 23.23-29*

Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

Responsorial Psalm *Psalm 40. 2-24, 19*

O God, come to my aid.

I waited, I waited, for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry. **R.**

He drew me from the deadly pit, from the miry clay,
He set my feet upon a rock, and made my footsteps sure. **R.**

He put a new song into my mouth, praise of my God.
Many shall see and fear, and shall trust in the Lord. **R.**

As for me, wretched and poor, the Lord thinks of me.
You are my rescuer, my help, O God, do not delay. **R.**

Second Reading*Hebrews 11.29-12.2*

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, without us, be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Gospel Reading*Luke 12.49-56*

Jesus said, 'I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on, five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.' He also said to the crowds, 'When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, "It is going to rain"; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, "There will be scorching heat"; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?'

Notices

Welcome to members of the West London Ghanaian Association who meet monthly in the hall, and today join in worship to offer thanksgiving.

Refreshments after worship do come into the church hall for tea or coffee after the service.

Thursday morning eucharist this week at 10am.

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