

Church Family Newsletter 7th August 2020

Dear Church Family,

This Sunday week we start our short service of readings and prayers in church. For the time being it will not include singing, sermon, or children's work. During this time our main service will remain online till the 6th September, and the sermon will be as part of our online service.

To let you know what it will be like when you arrive at church:

- You may need to queue to get in (2 meters apart)
- We will need to note down your name and contact details as you come in (for contact tracing).
- You will need to gel your hands as you arrive
- You will need to wear a mask in church (this is now legal requirement for churches)
- You will need to remain socially distanced (2m) including space for others to use aisles
- After the service we sadly will not be able to stay and chat

9:30 Frant / 11:15 Eridge

Back to Church Questionnaire

Thank you so much to the 51 households who have managed to fill out our little survey, it will help hugely as we plan for September and beyond. There is still time this weekend to fill in if you haven't been able to already (we are reviewing this next week), just click:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/VBX9TXR>

Thanks!

This Sunday Online: Matthew 7:1-6 - Judge not

Our culture, particularly online, can seem very judgemental at times. Join us to see what Jesus has to say about judging others.

Join us anytime from 9:30:

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDtsdqyqX6S8yZZI5S-pK6Q>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/frantchurch>

A final reflection from Reader Roy

We are tremendously grateful to Reader Roy Goodship for his regular reflections for us through lockdown. Now we are back in church this is his final reflection as we head into this new period for the church. Thanks so much Roy for all the work and effort to keep us encouraged in the Lord these pasts months!

Reflection for today: **IT IS WRITTEN**

When you are trying to put your point across it is always a good idea to quote someone who is highly regarded in the hope that the quotation will support your point. We look up to some people more than others. For example, in the field of science we would be happy to quote Albert Einstein if what he said supported our argument. I would quote Einstein in support of our belief in God's creation. He said 'the harmony of natural law reveals an intelligence of such superiority that all systematic thinking of human beings is utterly insignificant'. The feeling is that if Einstein said this, it must be true.

Of course, as Christians we quote from the Bible because it is our supreme authority. In his parting words to the disciples as recorded in Matthew's gospel Jesus says – 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me' Matthew 28.18. He then tells his disciples to make disciples of all nations. It is noticeable that Jesus defers to the authority of scripture.

When Jesus faced the temptation in the wilderness he resisted the devil's temptations by quoting the scriptures and twice in resisting the devil he used the words 'it is written'. Jesus had fasted for forty days and so he was hungry. The devil said he should command stones to be turned into bread. Apparently, the devil believed this would prove Jesus was the Son of God. Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 8.3 which contains the famous statement 'man does not live by bread alone...'

The devil then suggested to Jesus that he should throw himself from the pinnacle of the temple in the holy city and the angels would bear him up and he would not be hurt. Apparently, the devil believed this would prove Jesus was the Son of God. Jesus quoted from Deuteronomy 6.16 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test....'.

Then the devil took Jesus to a high mountain and promised to give to Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if only Jesus would worship the devil. Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 6.13 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve'.

It is clear that the life and ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ and his death and resurrection were the fulfilment of scripture. What happened to him had to happen because scripture foretold it. In the final chapter of Luke's gospel which is Luke's record of the Great Commission we read 'Then he said to them, 'These are my words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled' Luke 24.44.

Many of the events recorded in the New Testament can be identified specifically as those foretold in the Old Testament.

Matthew 1.22 points out that the circumstances of Jesus' birth fulfil the prophecy in Isaiah 7.14 'behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel'.

The triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem recorded in Matthew 1-11 took place as predicted in Zechariah 9.9 'your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on an ass'.

When the crowd from the chief priests and elders came to the garden of Gethsemane with swords and clubs in the company of Judas the betrayer Jesus yielded to them saying 'But all this has taken place that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled' Matthew 26.56.

In the early chapters of the Acts of the apostles we see that the preaching and the witness of the apostles emphasise the fact that the scriptures have been fulfilled in Christ. Acts 3.18 says 'But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets that his Christ should suffer he thus fulfilled'. Therefore, we have no hesitation in relying upon the Bible which is our authority.

Every blessing,

-Rev Brendan