

Readings for the week

Today	Acts 1 v 6 - 14 John 17 v 1 - 11
Monday	Luke 7 v 36 - 50
Tuesday	Luke 8 v 1 - 15
Wednesday	Luke 18 v 16 -25
Thursday	Luke 8 v 26 - 39
Friday	Luke 8 v 40 - 56
Saturday	Luke 9 v 1 - 17



Prayer

The Ministry Leadership Team would like you to pray for the following topics:

1. *Pray for those who have lost work or are furloughed and face an uncertain future. Pray that Government and other initiatives may reduce the economic impact on families.*
2. *Pray for all those working at home and those home schooling children, that they be able to maintain a good work/life balance in these unusual circumstances.*

Minster Zoom Prayer Gathering for Thy Kingdom Come

A 30 minute midday prayer gathering will be hosted by Adrian on **Tuesday 26 May at 12 noon.**

Please email Adrian to receive a link invitation to join in the on-line prayer meeting. Participants will also need to download the Zoom App. Don't worry you will also receive instruction on how to use Zoom.

Link to the Diocese page for 'Thy Kingdom Come':

<https://www.coventry.anglican.org/equip/thy-kingdom-come/>

How are you? Means so much more during lockdown and isn't it also lovely to see people's faces.

In our weekly on-line service we would love to add some photographs of Minster people, taken during lockdown. If you would like to take a photograph to be shared on-line please send your photograph to the Administrator's email address. They will be put together in a collage.



Did you know that you can now 'LIKE' Alcester Minster on Facebook? Find details and pictures of events at www.facebook.com/AlcesterMinster If you would like to submit event notices or photos to be published on the page then please email administrator@alcesterminster.org



Welcome to the Alcester Minster Group of Churches Sunday 24 May 2020

Easter 7 *White*

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses."

Acts 1 v 8a

Collect

O God the King of glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus
Christ
with great triumph to your kingdom
in heaven:
we beseech you, leave us not
comfortless,
but send your Holy Spirit to
strengthen us
and exalt us to the place where our
Saviour Christ is gone before,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Alternative Collect

Risen, ascended Lord,
as we rejoice at your
triumph,
fill your Church on earth
with power and
compassion,
that all who are estranged
by sin
may find forgiveness and
know your peace,
to the glory of God the
Father.

Common Worship, material from which is included on this pew leaflet, is copyright of The Archbishop's Council and The Central Board of Finance of the Church of England.
St Nicholas, Alcester: Copyright licence: CCLI 296655

Ministry Team:

Revd Adrian Guthrie: St Nicholas Rectory, Old Rectory Garden,
Alcester, B49 5DB Tel: 01789 764 261 email: rector@alcesterminster.org
Revd Sue Henwood: Kinwarton Rectory, Sperral Lane, Great Alne
Alcester B49 6HY Tel: 01789 488 344 email: sue.henwood@live.co.uk
Revd Julian Davey: The Field House, Allimore Lane
Alcester, B49 5PR Tel: 01789 764 640 email: jw.davey@yahoo.com

Children & Family Worker:

Beth Clarke email: beth.clarke@covLEC.org Tel: 0749 432 9638

Administrator:

Tricia Berry (Monday - Friday 10.00am - 1.30 pm) Tel: 07840 284 294
email: administrator@alcesterminster.org Alcester Minster Office, Church House,
17 Butter Street, Alcester, B49 5AL (Office Opening Hours 10.30 - 12.30pm)

Alcester Minster website: www.alcesterminster.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/AlcesterMinster

Easter 7 Thought for the Day' presented by Julian

Reading: John 17 v 1 - 11

"This is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent "(John 17.v3)

Passing through County Antrim in Northern Ireland a few years ago, we saw the following words engraved in the stone outside an old chapel: "A MAN MAY GO TO HEAVEN WITHOUT HEALTH, WITHOUT RICHES, WITHOUT HONOURS, WITHOUT LEARNING, WITHOUT FRIENDS, *BUT HE CAN NEVER GO THERE WITHOUT CHRIST.*"

This morning's Gospel quotes the words of Jesus on the night before he died and speaks of *eternal life*. It is a favourite theme of St John to which he returns many times. On each occasion it is connected with faith in Jesus. Those who believe in him "will not perish but have eternal life"; Simon Peter declares that Jesus has "the words of eternal life".

We may have noticed that, whereas the older translations of the Bible use the word "everlasting life " which emphasises the lack of an ending to life , the modern versions more accurately translate the word "eternal life " which conveys not only the *quantity* of life that we receive through faith in Christ , but also its *quality* . Eternal life then is not simply *a life that never ends* but a *fullness of life that is unending*, and Jesus promises us that fullness of life now.

As we receive communion we may hear the words of administration , "*The body of Christ , keep in you in eternal life "* and this reminds us that eternal life is not only something to which we can look forward to after death but an experience that we can share now, as soon as we put our faith in Jesus . To use the old cliché "It's not just pie in the sky when you die, its steak on the plate while you wait!

"Life in its fullest measure" as one translation puts it. To be a follower of Jesus, to know who he is and what he means, is to have "a super-abundance of life", as the writer William Barclay put it. For when we try to live our own lives, life can be a dull dispirited thing. But when we live with Christ "we begin to live in the real sense of the word".

And so we return to our text:

Eternal life, life in all its fullness, life without beginning or end lasting forever, can be experienced now simply by stepping over a line, asking God to forgive us those things that are in the past and putting our trust in Jesus as our Lord and Saviour.

Knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ whom he sent, is not an intellectual experience, it is a personal relationship which grows in us through worship, prayer, reading the stories of Jesus and asking him daily to come and share his life with ours.

As St Paul put it "All I care about is to know Christ and experience the power of his Resurrection ". As we await the coming of the Holy Spirit may that be our desire too.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, Please forgive me of my sins. I trust you as my Lord and Saviour. Come into my life now so that I may experience eternal life with you forever. Amen

