

# St Barnabas the Apostle

**Friday 12 June 2020**

Though not named among the twelve apostles of the evangelists, Barnabas first appears in the Acts of the Apostles as one of the most significant of their number.

He sold his estate and gave the proceeds to the Church, since all things were to be held in common, and clearly became a leader. He is described as a Levite from Cyprus so, like his friend Paul, was from the Greek world rather than that of Palestine, and he introduced Paul to the leaders of the Church in Jerusalem.

He was sent to Antioch apparently to guide the Christians there in their relations with non-Jewish converts, promoting the concept of all being one in Christ. He broke with Paul to go to Cyprus and tradition has it that he was martyred there in 61 AD.



Greek Orthodox fresco of  
St Barnabas ca. sixteenth century

- All Bible readings come from the *New Revised Standard Version*.
- The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration have been included at the end rather than in situ because many following the service will be in isolation and unable to celebrate the sacrament.
- The hymn is a Youtube link. Please hover the mouse over the link, press Ctrl and then return.

HYMN **He who would valiant be**

(please click on this link to hear the hymn)

## **The welcome**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

**All Amen.**

The Lord be with you

**All And also with you.**

## **The Preparation**

**All Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,

with all your soul, with all your mind,

and with all your strength.’

And the second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**All Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

Christ calls us to share the heavenly banquet of his love with all the saints in earth and heaven. Therefore, knowing our unworthiness and sin, let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God’s commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

**All** Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.  
Amen.

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All** Amen.

## **The Gloria**

This version of the Gloria is sung to the tune of 'Cwm Rhondda'. Click [here](#) for the tune.

**All** Glory be to God in Heaven,  
Songs of joy and peace we bring,  
Thankful hearts and voices raising,  
To creation's Lord we sing.  
Lord we thank you, Lord we praise you,  
Glory be to God our King:  
Glory be to God our King.

**Lamb of God, who on our shoulders,  
Bore the load of this world's sin;  
Only Son of God the Father,  
You have brought us peace within.  
Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy,  
Now your glorious reign begin:  
Now your glorious reign begin.**

**You O Son of God are Holy,  
You we praise with one accord.  
None in heav'n or earth is like you,  
Only you are Christ the Lord.  
With the Father and the Spirit,  
Ever worshipped and adored:  
Ever worshipped and adored.**

### **The Collect for St Barnabas**

Bountiful God, giver of all gifts,  
who poured your Spirit upon your servant Barnabas  
and gave him grace to encourage others:  
help us, by his example,  
to be generous in our judgements  
and unselfish in our service;  
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.

**All Amen.**

**Hymn [A new commandment](#)**

**([please click on this link to hear the hymn](#))**

### **First reading**

A reading from the book of Job

When the ear heard, it commended me, and when the eye saw, it approved; because I delivered the poor who cried, and the orphan who had no helper. The blessing of the

wretched came upon me, and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy. I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; my justice was like a robe and a turban. I was eyes to the blind, and feet to the lame. I was a father to the needy, and I championed the cause of the stranger. *Job 29:11-16*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Second reading

A reading from Acts of the Apostles.

Those who were scattered because of the persecution that took place over Stephen travelled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, and they spoke the word to no one except Jews. But among them were some men of Cyprus and Cyrene who, on coming to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists also, proclaiming the Lord Jesus. The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number became believers and turned to the Lord. News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast devotion; for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were brought to the Lord.

Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for an entire year they met with the church and taught a great many people, and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called 'Christians'.

At that time prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them named Agabus stood up and predicted by the Spirit that there would be a severe famine over all the world; and this took place during the reign of Claudius. The disciples determined that according to their ability, each would send relief to the believers living in Judea; this they did, sending it to the elders by Barnabas and Saul. *Acts 11:19-30*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**All Glory to you O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.'

*John 15:12-17*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**All Praise to you O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

I can't imagine, at the end of one's life, any better way to be thought of than what we read about the Apostle Barnabas: 'he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith.' What more does a man need in life? We'll come back to the life of St Barnabas in a moment.

Whenever the Church has fallen on hard times — that means when she has become indolent and fat and complacent — God has mercifully raised up saints who have followed closely the instructions Our Lord gave to His seventy disciples. To show to all humankind the presence of the kingdom of God, the continuing presence of Christ in the world, we were to heal the sick, including those declared 'unclean' because of their skin diseases or other illnesses, cast out demons and even raise the dead. The Acts of the Apostles shows the early Church doing all these things. When St Francis set about renewing the Church, he and his disciples were famous for repeating such signs, signs of the power of the Holy Spirit. I believe that in our day, as the Church recognises its need for renewal, the Holy Spirit is raising up men and women to do that very thing. They will practise evangelical poverty, become signs of the presence of God through their good works and miracles, and attract many to Christ and His Church. History teaches us that God does not abandon the good work He began in the first century. No, He will raise up these new saints to astonish the world and become the vessels of His Word.

Barnabas must have been a giant in the early Church, but he appears only briefly in the Acts of the Apostles. His birth name was Joseph. He practiced the poverty encouraged by Jesus, and in fact is there named with a new name — Barnabas, which

is Aramaic for ‘son of encouragement.’ He was sent to Antioch by the college of Apostles in Jerusalem and oversaw a church of exponential growth and went to Tarsus to find Paul and bring him back as a master teacher. He and Paul worked there for a year, and then a charismatic oracle set them aside to do missionary work, which became Paul’s first missionary journey. This took them through what we now know as Turkey—Asia Minor—where they established several churches that themselves became centres of missionary activity.

We can appreciate Barnabas in another way. He constantly showed himself to be as weak as we are in appreciating the depth and breadth of the Gospel. Two examples will suffice:

First, Barnabas had a deep affinity for his cousin, John Mark—who may have been the author of the Gospel of Mark. John Mark went with Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey, but it appears that Mark got homesick on the journey and went back to Jerusalem. Paul and Barnabas completed that missionary work and went back to Antioch. But when they planned their second mission, Barnabas wanted to recruit John Mark again, and Paul refused. Their missionary work then separated and we don’t hear anything about Barnabas after that in Acts. So, if Christians disagree about strategies and persons to work with, that may just be God working with our weaknesses to—as it is said—write straight with crooked lines.

Second, we read in Paul’s letter to the Galatians that when the Judaisers went around telling Gentile Christians that they weren’t real Christians without circumcision and the Jewish ritual laws, ‘even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy.’ But it’s implied that he eventually saw the light and began treating Gentile and Jew Christians equally. This suggests that we need spiritual counsel from time to time, because every Christian is challenged to an unique application of the Gospel to his own life and times, and doesn’t always do it correctly when flying by his own flawed spiritual GPS. St Barnabas, pray for us.

## **Prayers of intercession**

Our Heavenly Father promises to hear the prayers of those who have faith in his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. As we pray for the church and for the world let us also pray that, like Barnabas, we will be a source of strength and encouragement to those we meet in our daily lives.

Lord let us pray for God’s church throughout the world that she will welcome all who turn to her and enfold in love and prayer those who suffer for their faith that they

might be freed to worship God without fear.

Let us pray for the healing of the nations in a world bruised and torn apart by war, oppression and injustice. We pray for all nations suffering with Coronavirus and suffering from lockdown conditions: Lord we ask you to guide our scientists as they seek a cure for this disease. And release all your children from the bonds of current restraint.

We pray especially for all those who seek to bring peace and reconciliation where there is conflict and hatred that they may bear fruit and hasten the coming of God's kingdom on earth.

Let us pray for people on the fringes of our own communities: those isolated by poverty, mental illness or because of their colour or race. Especially at this time we remember all those caught up in the trouble in America. May God's all-embracing love reach out to them through his appointed people so that all people are brought into fellowship with them, our brothers and sisters

Lord, in your Mercy

**All hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for ourselves and for each other that we will find strength and encouragement in our fellowship to grow in faith and, like Barnabas, to follow the example of love that Jesus has given us. And today we pray for all those suffering through physical mental and spiritual illness especially anyone known to us ...

Lord, in your Mercy

**All hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, you have called us to serve you; give us the grace and strength to respond to your call and fill us with your love, the love that knows no limits. Let us offer your love to those who are grieving the loss of a loved one

And we pray for those who offer comfort and counselling to all who are grieving at this time.

Merciful Father,

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

## The peace

We are fellow-citizens with the saints and of the household of God, through Christ our Lord, who came and preached peace to those who were far off and those who were near.

The peace of the Lord be always with you:

**All And also with you.**

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below

## The Dismissal

Jesus said, 'I have made your name known to those you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours.' *John 17:26*

May God, who kindled the fire of his love in the hearts of the saints,  
pour upon you the riches of his grace.

**All Amen**

May he give you joy in their fellowship  
and a share in their praises.

**All Amen**

May he strengthen you to follow them in the way of holiness  
and to come to the full radiance of glory.

**All Amen**

and the blessing of God the Almighty:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and remain with you always.

**All Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All In the name of Christ.**

**Amen.**

# The Liturgy of the Sacrament

## Eucharistic Prayer (prayer E)

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
And now we give thanks, most gracious God,  
surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses  
and glorified in the assembly of your saints.  
The glorious company of apostles praise you.  
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.  
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.  
We, your holy Church, acclaim you.  
In communion with angels and archangels,  
and with all who served you on earth and worship you now in heaven,  
we raise our voice to proclaim your glory,  
for ever praising you and saying:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;

and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.  
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with St Barnabas and all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.

**All Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

## Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

**All Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.**

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ  
which he gave for you,  
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink

in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts  
by faith with thanksgiving.

**All We do not presume  
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in your manifold and great mercies.  
We are not worthy  
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.  
But you are the same Lord  
whose nature is always to have mercy.  
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ  
and to drink his blood,  
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body  
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,  
and that we may evermore dwell in him,  
and he in us.  
Amen.**

Communion is distributed.

## Prayer after Communion

Almighty God,  
who on the day of Pentecost  
sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles  
with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame,  
filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel:  
by the power of the same Spirit  
strengthen us to witness to your truth  
and to draw everyone to the fire of your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen**

**All Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out  
in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work  
to your praise and glory.  
Amen.**