

The Parish of Berkswich
in the Church of England Diocese of Lichfield

Sung Eucharist for
12th Sunday after Trinity



**Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand,
so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.**

Welcome to our worship this morning. Sections in each of our buildings are reserved for those who wish to maintain strict social distancing.

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Today Jesus makes it clear that if we wish to be genuine disciples we must make the choice to follow him wholeheartedly. So, as a first step towards that, let us each, in our heart, agree to be wholehearted in our worship today.

The gathering

Hymn 19:

All my hope on God is founded

The greeting

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you
And also with you

The Act of Penitence

Despite our failures, the Lord is always ready to receive us.

When we choose the worldly path, as we so often do:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy

When we fail to heed Christ's call to discipleship
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

When we fail to carry our crosses.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Words of forgiveness

May the Father of all mercies cleanse✠ you from your sins, and restore you in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Gloria



**Glory, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest heav'ns.
Peace, peace, peace on the earth;
peace to God's people, all people on
earth.**

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

**Glory, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest heav'ns.
Peace, peace, peace on the earth;
peace to God's people, all people on earth.**

Lord Jesus Christ, Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy, mercy on us.

Have mercy, mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand,
at the right hand of the Father:
receive, Lord, receive our prayer.
Receive, Lord, receive our prayer.

5 bar organ interlude

**Glory, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest heav'ns.
Peace, peace, peace on the earth;
peace to God's people, all people on earth.**

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord.
You alone are the Most High Jesus Christ, with
the Holy Spirit,
in the glory, glory of God, the Glory of God the
Father.

**Glory, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest heav'ns.
Peace, peace, peace on the earth;
peace to God's people, all people on earth.**

Amen,
Amen!

The Collect for the day

Let us pray

Silence is kept

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of 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.**

The liturgy of the word

First reading Jeremiah 18.1-11

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

No matter how much our life goes out of shape, if we remain flexible, God the divine potter will work with us, lovingly reshaping us into something beautiful.

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: 'Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words.' So I went down to the

potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 139.1-5; 12-18

The Lord knows me in every way.

**O God, you search me and you know me.
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.
When I walk or lie down you are before me;
ever the maker and keeper of my days.**

**You know my resting and my rising.
You discern my purpose from afar,
and with love everlasting you besiege me:
in every moment of life or death, you are.**

**Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,
you have known its meaning through and
through.
You are with me beyond my understanding:
God of my present, my past and future, too.**

**Although your Spirit is upon me,
still I search for shelter from your light.
There is nowhere on earth I can escape you:
even the darkness is radiant in your sight.**

**For you created me and shaped me,
gave me life within my mother's womb.
For the wonder of who I am, I praise you:
safe in your hands, all creation is made new.**

Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957)

Second reading 1-21

A reading from the letter to Philemon

This letter is about how Christians relate to each other and face very difficult choices, as their call to love can involve going against what is ingrained in society. The love that Christ calls for overrides all our barriers and boundaries

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, to Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow-soldier, and to the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith towards the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this

is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for ever, no longer as a slave but as more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel reading



Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

I am the light of the world, says the Lord.
Whoever follows me will never walk in
darkness but will have the light of life.

cf John 8.12

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke ✠

Glory to you, O Lord. 14.25-33

If we are truly to follow Jesus, we must take up his cross daily. Discipleship is no easy journey – we must give ourselves without reserve, giving up our earthly attachments. Discipleship has its cost and we have tough choices to make.

Now large crowds were travelling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, 'Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the

cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, "This fellow began to build and was not able to finish." Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily



Affirmation of faith



With our Christian siblings throughout the world, let us declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We

acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Christ calls us to follow him. Confident of God's love, mercy and compassion, let us offer our prayers to the Lord.



At the end of each bidding the following response is used

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

At the end, on behalf of us all, the intercessor gathers our individual prayers together into one, by saying on our behalf

Lord, we bring these prayers before you. May we live in joyful hope, confident in your love. **Amen**

The liturgy of the sacrament



The Peace

The Lord be with you
And also with you

"Welcome him as you would welcome me," writes St Paul. Let us welcome Christ in each person as we offer one another peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

**Hymn 757:
Ye servants of the Lord**

Offertory Prayer

Gracious God, accept the offering of your Church, the hearts of your people joined together as one in praise and thanksgiving, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

We praise you, Holy Trinity, mystery of being, and freedom of the world. You opened your love to bring into existence a world other than yourself, reflecting infinite beauty in matter's complex bonds and spirit's evolution. You drew near to Abraham and Sarah as the unexpected guest; you wrestled with Jacob and blessed him with wounds; you dwelt as glory and wisdom with the people of your covenant. Your jealous heart assumed our human story and came among us in Word made flesh. Through the scandal of Christ crucified and the restless Spirit of life, you bring life to our diversity, you end our isolation, you draw all our ways into the community of your grace. Therefore we join the eternal song of power and glory shared, of communion and integrity, of difference and delight:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of pow'r and God of might:
heaven and earth, heaven and earth
are full of your glory,
your pow'r and might.
Hosanna, hosanna,
hosanna in the highest heavn's.
Hosanna, hosanna,
hosanna in the highest heavn's.**

**Blessed, blessed is he who comes,
Blessed, blessed is he who comes;
blessed is he, blessed is he
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna,
hosanna in the highest heavn's.
Hosanna, hosanna,
hosanna in the highest heavn's.**

The priest then continues the prayer, recalling the words and actions of Jesus at the Last Supper during which we sing the Memorial Acclamation – a response to what has been proclaimed in the Eucharistic prayer

Praise to you Lord Jesus.
**Dying you destroyed our death,
Rising you restored our life,
Lord Jesus come in glory.
Hosanna, hosanna,
hosanna in the highest heav'ns!**

At the conclusion of the Eucharistic Prayer, we assent to the prayer by saying...

Amen!

The Lord's Prayer

Joining our voices with the whole company of heaven, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.



Breaking of the bread

Lord, we died with you on the cross.

Now we are raised to new life.

We were buried in your tomb.

Now we share your resurrection.

Live in us,

that we may live in you

The priest breaks the consecrated bread as we sing the Agnus Dei.

**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 your peace.
Lamb of God you take away
the sin of the world grant us your peace.**

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

As those in church receive, we sing this hymn

**Christ is the one who calls,
the one who loved and came,
to whom by right it falls
to bear the highest name:
and still today
our hearts are stirred
to hear his word
and walk his way.**

**Christ is the one who seeks,
to whom our souls are known.
The word of love he speaks
can wake a heart of stone;
for at that sound
the blind can see,
the slave is free,
the lost are found.**

**Christ is the one who died
forsaken and betrayed;
who, mocked and crucified,
the price of pardon paid.
Our dying Lord,
what grief and loss,
what bitter cross,
our souls restored!**

**Christ is the one who rose
in glory from the grave,
to share his life with those
whom once he died to save.
He drew death's sting
and broke its chains,
who lives and reigns,
our risen King.**

**Christ is the one who sends,
his story to declare;
who calls his servants friends
and gives them news to share.
His truth proclaim
in all the earth,
his matchless worth
and saving name.**

Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-)

Prayer after communion

God of all mercy, in this eucharist you have set aside our sins and given us your healing: grant that we who are made whole in Christ may bring that healing to this broken world, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The dismissal



**Hymn 503:
O Jesus I have promised**

The Blessing

The Lord be with you
And also with you

May God, who is the source of all holiness, keep you faithful to the Gospel and grant you joy in service and wisdom and understanding. And the blessing of God almighty, the ✠ Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Key Contacts...

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Fr Graham's usual day off is Monday

The Parish Office is situated behind Holy Trinity Church and is closed at the current time

Please send all items for next week's News from the Pews to Sue on ssnhatton@gmail.com (or 661767) by the end of Wednesday

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

HT = Holy Trinity Church

ST = St Thomas's Church **AS** = All Saints Church

V = Vicarage **CH** = Community Hall **OL** = Online

Sunday 4th September – Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

0845 Sung Eucharist AS
1045 Family Eucharist HT and OL
1830 Prayers for the evening with Devotions AS

Monday 5th September

Tuesday 6th September
1000 Drop In HT

Wednesday 7th September
1000 Private Prayer AS
1200 Said Eucharist AS

Thursday 8th September – Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary

1000 Private Prayer ST
1030 Sung Eucharist ST

Friday 9th September - Charles Fuge Lowder
1000 Crafty Café HT

Saturday 10th September

Sunday 11th September – Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

0845 Sung Eucharist AS
1045 Sung Eucharist HT and OL
1700 Digging Deeper HT
1830 Online Evening OL

Daily Bible Readings

Monday	Psalm 105 Micah 7:1-7 Mark 6:45-end
Tuesday	Psalm 107 Micah 7:8-end Mark 7:1-13
Wed	Psalm 119:129-152 Habakkuk 1:1-11 Mark 7:14-23
Thursday	Psalms 114, 116, 117 Habakkuk 1:12-2:5 Mark 7:24-30
Friday	Psalms 130, 131, 137 Habakkuk 2:6-end Mark 7:31-end
Saturday	Psalm 118 Habakkuk 3:2-19a Mark 8:1-10

Welcome!

Welcome to you all as we continue to try and meet at this unusual time in the history of our nation and world. We hope that you will join with us in prayer and worship, either in church, or via Zoom, Facebook or YouTube (details <https://www.berkswich.org.uk/worshipping-from-home.html>)

Sign up for our weekly email newsletter, or see older issues here <https://us17.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=5991be44ea1b9738d6262c1e2&iid=a28b74cddb>

If you wish to make a donation towards the life and work of the Parish, there is an opportunity to do so during the service. Please consider joining the Giving Direct scheme (<https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/finance/financegiftaid/financegivingdirect/>) or make a one-off donation via JustGiving (<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/berkswichparish>)

You can follow us on Facebook! To sign up for our weekly email newsletter, please email Fr Graham (graham.adamson@berkswich.org.uk)

Points for Prayer

For the world... 1/3 of Pakistan is now thought to be under water – in satellite photographs of the area, Pakistan looks more like a lake than a country. Pray for all those affected by the floods: for the almost 2,000 who have died, the grieving and those whose homes and land have been destroyed. May the people of Pakistan receive the practical support they need to rebuild their lives and communities.

For the church... pray for the church in Syria. Iktimal (not her real name) fled her home when militants targeted her village because of its Christian population. The organisation *Centre of Hope* in Latakia helped her, her husband and six children with food, rent and spiritual care. "God sent those people to stand with us," she says. "They were like angels." Ask God to bless her as she now serves in children's ministry at the Centre of Hope.

For our community... Pray for all those starting at primary, secondary or further education. Pray for the faculty, teachers, teaching assistants and support staff. Schools too are facing cost of living challenges – pray for Governors and all who will be making difficult decisions about heating buildings, providing school dinners, and other expenses.

For those known to us, near and far...
... who suffer in body, mind or spirit: Alistair, Sally, Brenda, Carolyn, Martin, Janet, Sarah, Charlie, Robert, Justine, Remi and family, M, Liz, Sheila, J, Archie, Simon, Chris, Alex, Joe, Baby Jesse, Phil and Maddy, Sue and Ian, John, Margaret

.... for the recently departed: John Mountfort; Audrey Lomas; Ashley Smith; Margaret Ellis; Sheila Jones; Jim Beard; Norman White; Betty Shoemark; Pat Lockley; Audrey Fell; Sidney Bury; Gerald Knight; Derek Toussaint; John Moss; Eileen Taylor; Ethel Barrass; Jean Hoggard; Mario Moldoveanu
+ May they rest in peace and rise in glory

In thanksgiving ... Thank you to everyone for their kind messages of sympathy and support following the loss of our Mum. They have helped enormously. With thanks from Sue and Dave Hatton.

Is there any news you'd like to join with the congregation in giving thanks to God for? Let us know and we'll add it.

News & Events

Are you puzzling over how issues of ethics and politics impact on your faith? Digging Deeper - The last discussion was led by Bokani Hart, a resident of the Parish who worked for the UN as a Peacekeeper for over 7 years. Bokani led an interesting and stimulating conversation and gave us an insight into such a challenging role. The next talk will take place on the second Sunday in September, in Holy Trinity – the 21st anniversary of 9/11. We'll be using that time to reflect on our own memories and experiences of the day and pay our respects for those affected.

Prayer requests - please send to david.clark@berkswich.org.uk or call 07999 596590

CORRECTION. The new **Poetry Cafe** at All Saints will start on **Monday 12th September 10 - 12**. Read your favourite poems or come along to listen. Coffee and socialising. Contact Judith Rennard on 663755 or by email for more details.

Crafty Café It is time to dust of your knitting needles, crochet hooks and paintbrushes! Crafty Café resumes after the summer break on Friday 9th September, in Holy Trinity, from 10 - 12

We are aware that many in our parish will be making difficult decisions about how to heat their home this coming winter. We are investigating the possibility of our buildings being used as **Warmbanks** – spaces of warmth and welcome. If you would be willing to be involved in this (financially or through offering other support) please let Fr Graham know.



A green poster for a 'Common Fund appeal'. At the top, there is a white semi-circular graphic with a needle and thread icon, and the number '0' on the left and '£67,788' on the right. Below this, the text 'Common Fund appeal' is written in large white letters. Underneath, it says 'Supporting ministry in the parish and diocese'. In the bottom right corner, there are two logos: 'PARISH OF BERKSWICH' and 'DIOCESE OF LICHFIELD'.