

Hymns & Readings for Sunday 18th October, 2020 – St Luke

Hymn: 840 **Ye holy Angels bright**

Ye holy angels bright,
who wait at God's right hand,
or through the realms of light
fly at your Lord's command,
assist our song,
for else the theme
too high doth seem
for mortal tongue.

Ye blessèd souls at rest,
who ran this earthly race,
and now, from sin released,
behold the Saviour's face,
God's praises sound,
as in his sight
with sweet delight
ye do abound.

Ye saints, who toil below,
adore your heav'nly King,
and onward as ye go
some joyful anthem sing;
take what he gives
and praise him still,
through good or ill,
who ever lives.

My soul, bear thou thy part,
triumph in God above:
and with a well-tuned heart
sing thou the songs of love;
let all thy days
till life shall end,
whate'er he send,
be filled with praise.

Richard Baxter (1615-1691) & John Hampden Gurney (1802-1862)

Reading: **Acts 16.6-12a (NRSV)**

⁶ Paul and Timothy went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. ⁷ When they had come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them; ⁸ so, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. ⁹ During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' ¹⁰ When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

¹¹ We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, ¹² and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days.

Reading: **2 Timothy 4.5-17 (NRSV)**

⁵ As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

⁶ As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

⁹ Do your best to come to me soon, ¹⁰ for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹ Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry. ¹² I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. ¹³ When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. ¹⁴ Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will pay him back for his deeds. ¹⁵ You also must beware of him, for he strongly opposed our message.

¹⁶ At my first defence no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! ¹⁷ But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth.

Hymn: 645 St Luke, beloved physician

Saint Luke, belov'd physician,
with honour now recall,
who served his Master's mission,
who ministered to Paul;
whose skill to distant ages
bequeathed a gift unpriced,
a gospel in whose pages
we see the face of Christ.

He tells for us the stories
of Jesus here on earth,
the unsung pains and glories
that marked the church's birth;
the Spirit's pow'r in preaching,
the contrite sinner freed,
the grace and mercy reaching
our deepest human need.

For all who work our healing
we lift our hearts in pray'r,
the love of God revealing
in science, skill and care:
his gifts be still imparted
to those who make us whole,
like Luke the tender-hearted,
physician of the soul.

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926) © 2000 Timothy Dudley-Smith

Reading: Luke 10.1 -9 (NRSV)

¹⁰ After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. ² He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. ³ Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. ⁴ Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. ⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" ⁶ And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. ⁷ Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. ⁸ Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; ⁹ cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you."

Hymn: 487 Lord, You call us to a journey

Lord, you call us to a journey,
to a never ending quest;
always seeking new horizons,
always reaching for the best.

Young or old, it makes no difference,
still the journey's just begun,
keep on looking in the distance,
never dream the race is run.

Let the search for truth continue,
may its flame for ever burn –
what we know is only partial,
there is more we need to learn.

Do not fear what seems to challenge,
do not cling to what is dead.
Let the voice of God disturb you –
by the way of Christ be led.

Faith must always be evolving,
if it is to stay alive –
not viewed as some destination,
where one day we must arrive.

Lord, you call us to a journey,
always taking one step more.
Help us then to keep believing
that you hold the best in store.

Nick Fawcett (b. 1957) © 2004 Kevin Mayhew Ltd

Hymn: 625 Praise the Lord, ye Heav'ns adore Him

Praise the Lord, ye heav'ns, adore him!
Praise him, angels, in the height;
sun and moon, rejoice before him,
praise him, all ye stars and light.
Praise the Lord, for he hath spoken;
worlds his mighty voice obeyed:
laws, which never shall be broken,
for their guidance he hath made.

Praise the Lord, for he is glorious:
never shall his promise fail.
God hath made his saints victorious;
sin and death shall not prevail.
Praise the God of our salvation,
hosts on high, his pow'r proclaim;
heav'n and earth and all creation
laud and magnify his name!

Worship, honour, glory, blessing,
Lord, we offer to thy name;
young and old, thy praise expressing,
join their Saviour to proclaim.
As the saints in heav'n adore thee,
we would bow before thy throne;
as thine angels serve before thee,
so on earth thy will be done.

*vv.1-2 from Foundling Hospital Collection (1796)
v.3 Edward Osler (1798-1863)*