

Sunday 16th November 2025

Safeguarding Sunday

Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute.

Proverbs 31:8

COLLECT

Loving God,
the embodiment of living and loving community,
help us to be a church that:
loves, welcomes, protects, listens, learns, serves,
repents, restores, transforms, values, cares and believes.
God of justice and compassion, hear our prayer.
Help us, heal us, guide us, we pray.
In Jesus name.
Amen

FIRST READING

1 John 3: 16-24

A reading from the first letter of John.

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us - and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

PSALM

Psalm 91

R *Keep me as the apple of your eye*

1. You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,

2. Will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress;
My God in whom I trust.'

3. For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and
from the deadly pestilence;

4. He will cover you with his wings and you shall be safe
under his feathers;
His faithfulness shall be your shield and buckler.

5. You will not be afraid of any terror by night,
nor of the arrow that flies by day;

6. Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
nor of the sickness that destroys at noonday.

7. Though a thousand fall at your side,
and ten thousand at your right hand,
yet it shall not come near you.

9. Your eyes have only to behold
to see the reward of the wicked.

10. Because you have made the Lord your refuge,
and the Most High your stronghold,

11. Then shall no evil happen to you,
neither shall any plague come near your tent.

12. For he shall give his angels charge over you,
to keep you in all your ways

13. They shall bear you in their hands,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

14. You shall tread on the lion and adder, the young lion
and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

15. Because they have set their love upon me, therefore
will I deliver them; I will lift them up, because they know
my name.

16. They will call upon me and I will answer them;
I am with them in trouble, I will deliver them and bring
them to honour.

17. With long life will I satisfy them and show them my
salvation.

R: *Keep me as the apple of your eye.*

*Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy
and, as you have bound us to yourself in love, leave us
not who call upon your name, but grant us your
salvation, made known in the cross of Jesus Christ our
Lord.*

SECOND READING

James 2: 14-26

A reading from the letter of James

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

But someone will say, 'You have faith and I have works'. Show me your faith without works, and I by my works will show you my faith. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe - and shudder. Do you want to be shown, you senseless person, that faith without words is barren? Was not our ancestor Abraham justified by works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works and faith was brought to completion by the works. Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness' and he was called the friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. Likewise, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by another road? For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.

POST COMMUNION

God of peace, we thank you that by sharing bread and wine, we are more aware of your love for us and for all humanity. Guide us when encountering those in distress, loving as you love, and being prompted to action. May we share in keeping your precious ones safe and cared for.