

Friday 11 June 2021

St Barnabas



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. He was a Levite from Cyprus so, like St Paul, was from the Greek world rather than Palestine. He introduced Paul to the leaders of the Church in Jerusalem and later became a leader of the Church.

Barnabas was sent to Antioch to guide the Christians there in their relations with non-Jewish converts and promoted the concept of all being one in Christ. He broke with Paul to go to Cyprus.

His name is a nickname and means 'son of encouragement.' Tradition has it that he was martyred there in 61 AD.

[The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration are included at the end.](#)

The hymns are YouTube links. To hear the hymns please hover the mouse over each link, press Ctrl and then return.

[To see service transcripts from previous weeks, please visit the page, http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm](http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm)

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Prayers of intercession @ Eric Simmonds CR

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Welcome and introduction

HYMN [For all the saints](#)

(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.

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.

Hymn 2 [A new commandment](#)

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

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

What's in a nickname? Have you ever had one ... perhaps at school? In first-century Israel (in the general absence of surnames) it was difficult to distinguish one person, of the same name, from another. Many were identified by relationships—Mary 'the wife of Clopas'; James, 'son of Zebedee' ... or a name might signify where a person came from—Mary 'Magdalene'; Simon 'of Cyrene'. A few earned (what we *could* call) 'nicknames'—Simon 'the rock' Peter; James and John 'the sons of thunder' Boanerges ... and Joseph 'son of encouragement' Barnabas.

As we read (in the Acts of the Apostles) Barnabas was a Jew, a Levite of the priestly class, born in Cyprus; one of the many Jews of the diaspora at that time.

We are not told *how* he came to be one of Christ's most devoted followers and dedicated evangelists. As our second reading simply says '*... he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith.*' But, perhaps, it's not too fanciful to believe that he might have been a member of the international crowd (gathered in Jerusalem) at that first Pentecost, who witnessed the effects on the disciples of the coming of the Holy Spirit. Perhaps he was one of the three thousand who heard Peter's words, came to believe, and was baptised that day? In any case, we learn that Barnabas willingly sold all his property and laid the proceeds '*...at the apostles' feet.*' (Acts 4:37). He was also the one to argue Paul's case to the disciples in Jerusalem. They were fearful and distrustful of Paul's true motivations due to his previous record of persecuting the earliest believers.

Soon, Barnabas and Paul became a (sort of) 'dream team'; the first line in spreading the good news—the most dedicated and trusted—to go out into the world beyond Jerusalem to teach, convert, and baptise in the name of Christ. They totally surrendered their lives to this calling ... even eventually to be martyred ... Paul in Rome, and Barnabas (by tradition) in his native Cyprus. So they truly lived up Jesus's words from John's Gospel ... '*No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.*'

Last Sunday, on the 77th anniversary of the D-day landings, a new memorial was unveiled overlooking 'Gold' beach in Normandy, and we often think of those words in

the context of war and conflict, laying one's life on the line and being willing to die for Queen and country.

If you happened to catch any of the coverage of the ceremony, you cannot fail to have been greatly moved by some of the tales of heroism and courage shown by the men and women who were there, and the sight of the more than twenty-two thousand names of the fallen, inscribed in stone. But I think our Gospel passage encourages, and challenges us to think outside the bounds of sacrifice in war.

Jesus speaks of an even greater challenge ... to *'love one another as I have loved you.'*

To find the tremendous courage to live our lives in the light of that seemingly simple (but oh, so difficult) commandment to just *'love one another'*.

And that is precisely what Barnabas and Paul were about. What greater love could there be than trying to reach out to the world so that all might know the love of Christ? And, indeed they did literally *lay down'* their lives. They devoted their whole lives to obeying that commandment ... to love as Jesus had loved. Jesus, who embraced our humanity, so that we might know and understand (as best we are able) the totality and enormity of Divine love.

Of course we know that Barnabas and Paul, as mere humans (and as fallible as us) had a 'falling out'. They eventually went their separate ways, but this did not deflect them from their life-long mission of love.

And so we celebrate the life of St Barnabas as he 'encourages' us. He encourages us (by his example) to love one another as Jesus loves us ... to remember that love is at the very heart of our faith ... and that (in the living out of that love) we will truly be able to lay down our lives for others in the service of the one who chose us and commands us to *'bear fruit'* ... our friend and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayers of intercession

Father of all,
from whom every family on earth is named,
we thank you for the apostolic labours of women and men
of every age, and especially for the life and witness of Barnabas.
We pray for the church in Cyprus
and that you will bless all parishes and institutions
dedicated in honour of St Barnabas.

Lord hear us:

All Lord graciously hear us.

Father of all, we pray for this nation,
and we thank you for the freedom and benefits of democracy

that we enjoy.

Take from us the narrowness of self-interest,
and grant to us leaders of vision, moral courage and integrity.

And grant to all nations the blessings of peace,
justice and freedom.

Lord hear us:

All Lord graciously hear us.

Father of mercies and God of all comfort,
be with the sick, support the elderly and the infirm;
may the evening of their life be calm and filled with light. Surround with your
compassion all who are in distress and all who mourn.

Lord hear us:

All Lord graciously hear us.

Father, give your blessing to all
who seek to bring healing, compassion
and encouragement into the lives of their fellow human beings,
all those who work in our National Health Service,
all counsellors and social workers.

Prosper their ministries, that there may be wise-hearted love in the relief of all
human affliction.

Lord hear us:

All Lord graciously hear us.

Loving Father,
remember in your kingdom all who have died,
all who have died in great fear, bitterness and loneliness:
fulfil now in them your promise to wipe away all tears
from every eye.

Lord hear us:

All Lord graciously hear us.

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

Hymn 3 [When I needed a neighbour](#) (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

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 17:6-9*

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

Hymn 4 [When the saints go marching in](#) (click on this link to hear the hymn)

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.**