

**Tuesday 11 June 2024**

# **St Barnabas the Apostle**



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**Sermon** Revd Dr Paul Monk.

**Prayers of intercession** © Eric Simmonds CR.

**Liturgy** © 2000 The Archbishops' Council.

**Bible readings** © the publishers of the NRSV translation.

The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration appear at the end.

The hymn can be accessed via a YouTube link. Please click on the links.

To see service transcripts from previous weeks, please visit the page,

<http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm>

## Introduction and welcome

HYMN 1 [Amazing grace](#)

(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**

**All** Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.

**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 of God the Father.  
Amen.**

### **The Collect for St Barnabas the Apostle**

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 Amazing love**

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

## 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

If you think about it, a good nickname says a lot. A good nickname manages to encapsulate everything about a person and, if really clever or particularly appropriate, we hear the name and cannot thereafter see the recipient any other way. Jesus himself was a master at giving nicknames. Think of Peter ‘The rock’ or James and John who are ‘sons of thunder’.

I mention nicknames because our second reading tells us that in Antioch, while Barnabas was in the neighbourhood, the early believers were first collectively given their nickname of Christian—literally a ‘Christ-ian’. Being called a Christian in this way was the same as disciples of a modern political leader being called, for example, a ‘Thatcherite’ or a ‘Blairite’. It’s identifying with that person. We discern that those early disciples so obviously followed Jesus that folk on the street thought they looked, sounded, and behaved like their leader. The nickname stuck because it fitted. You heard the nickname and it became a shorthand.

Today may be St Barnabas’ Day, but today is actually named after a man called Joseph! Again, we discern a nickname. The ‘bar’ bit at its beginning straightforwardly means ‘son’—in effect a very Jewish way of saying, ‘the very essence of ...’. (Perhaps, today in our more inclusive age, we’d say ‘child of ...’ rather than ‘son of ...’) The Bible has many examples: we’ve already heard of the sons of thunder; Jesus regularly called himself ‘son of man’ and others called him ‘Son of God’; a *bar-mitzvah* is a coming-of-age ceremony for a Hebrew boy; so, when we think of ‘Barnabas’ we’re saying ‘son of ...’ But what was his son-ship relating to? The ‘-nabas’ bit in the name ‘Barnabas’ is very exciting!

All the stories that have come down to us about Barnabas appear within the pages of the Acts of the Apostles. Its author, Luke, wrote of course in Greek. And, as he wrote, he chose to write a common Greek word *parakleseos* (Παρακλήσεως). In all, *parakleseos* occurs 12 times in the New Testament and, according to context, it means a mix of three separate but clearly interrelated meanings.

Firstly, *parakleseos* means 'encouragement'. St Paul in Romans 15:4 uses the word in that way when it talks about 'the encouragement of the scriptures.' St Paul wrote Romans 15.5 in similar vein, 'Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus.' So something of Barnabas' nickname means 'son of encouragement.

Secondly, *parakleseos* has the sense of 'exhortation', 'urging,' 'entreating'. We sense something of urgency and importance here. The New Testament often uses the word in this sense so, for example, Hebrews 12:5 speaks of 'the exhorting words that God spoke to us as His children'. The implied sense is an entreaty intended to sponsor a positive change, begging with such an urgency that its meaning is best translated as 'pleading'. For a good example, see St Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 8:4 'they urgently *pleaded* with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people.' We see how something of Barnabas' nickname means 'son of entreaty, son of persistent urgin'.

And, thirdly, *parakleseos* means 'comfort'. The word is translated that way, for example, in 2 Corinthians 1:3, when St Paul speaks of 'the God of all comfort'. Or again in 2 Corinthians 1:4, when he speaks of the God who '*comforts* us in all our affliction so that we will be able to *comfort* those who are in any affliction with the *comfort* with which we ourselves are comforted by God.' In each of these verses *parakleseos* is best translated as 'comfort.' So something of Barnabas' nickname means 'son of comfort'.

Today, as we remember St Barnabas, we are saying that this Joseph in the Acts of the Apostles was the son of encouragement, the son of comfort, the son of urging goodness. He the very embodiment of this way of being such that a well-chosen, appropriate nickname spliced them together, abbreviating all these lovely characteristics into a single, memorable phrase. It's his nickname, *bar-nabas*.

Taken together, though, these thoughts make me wonder: if we, collectively or individually, were given a nickname, what would we be called? Would any of us here be called 'Son (or daughter) of generosity' or 'Son of meanness'? Would people who know us call us 'son or daughter of thankfulness'; '... of love'; '... of joy'; maybe 'child of godliness'?

Today is St Barnabas Day, named after a man with a delightful nickname. But it was more than a chance nickname because it brilliantly summed up his whole character. He was so filled with God that these warm words automatically came to mind when people saw him, 'Here comes the son of encouragement!' I think it's time that we decided what we would like people to call us when they see us approaching, a nickname based on our discipleship of the Lord Jesus. And, having decided, we need to actually live that way. What is your nickname going to be?

## The Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
the source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**All This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
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.**

**HYMN 3 O happy day**

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

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below

**HYMN 4 For all the saints**

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

**For all the saints**

[\(instrumental version\)](#)

## The Dismissal

The peace of God which passes all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;  
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 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.