



# Worshipping & Praying Together as a community dispersed

during the week beginning  
Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> October

*Feast of St Luke, Evangelist and Martyr*

## The Parish of Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle.

The worshipping communities of the Cathedral and St Peter's Hamilton.

In last week's **Worshipping & Praying Together** we indicated that we would use the lectionary readings for the twentieth Sunday after Pentecost. This Sunday also happens to be the **Feast of St Luke, Evangelist and Martyr**, and with the joyful return of choral singing at the Cathedral this week, we have decided that we will acknowledge this special feast day in our Church Calendar. It is a red-letter day!



How much do we know about the evangelist and martyr, Luke?

Here are a few “fun facts” about the author of Luke and Acts:

- As the author of Luke and Acts, Luke actually wrote 27.5% of the New Testament.
- Luke wasn't an eyewitness to Jesus' ministry but he likely had direct access to the apostles as well as other accounts of Jesus' life and ministry (e.g. Gospel of Mark) and according to his own writings, he “carefully investigated everything from the beginning”. (Luke 1:1-4)
- From the Book of Acts and Paul's writings, we know that Luke was one of Paul's companions:
  - From Acts 16:10 Luke suddenly inserts himself into the narrative, including himself among Paul's companions using the pronoun, “we”.
  - In Colossians 4:14 Paul refers to a man named Luke as a “dear friend”.
  - In Philemon 1:24 Paul refers to a man named Luke as one of “my fellow workers”.
  - In 2 Timothy 4:11 Paul says “only Luke is with me”.
- The Anti-Marcionite Prologue to the Gospel of Luke (circa 2<sup>nd</sup> century), also records that Luke “was born in Antioch, by profession, was a physician. He had become a disciple of the apostle Paul and later followed Paul until his [Paul's] martyrdom. He died at the age of 84 years”.

**Our next Families@Five will be on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 5.00pm at the Cathedral.**

**Morning and Evening Prayer continue to be streamed every day,  
and Holy Communion at the Cathedral is streamed on Sundays and Wednesdays:**

**You Tube:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXyas2uhJUNOnDetOpPdUOg>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/christchurchcathedralnewcastle/>

**Eucharists are offered at Christ Church Cathedral on Sundays at 8.00am and 11.00am,  
and Monday to Friday at 8.30am (following Morning Prayer).**

**Eucharists are also offered at St Peter's Hamilton at 11.00am on Tuesdays and Thursdays.**

## **Feast of St Luke, Evangelist and Martyr**

### **Jerimiah 8:22-9:3**

Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored? O that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might weep day and night for the slain of my poor people! O that I had in the desert a traveller's lodging place, that I might leave my people and go away from them! For they are all adulterers, a band of traitors. They bend their tongues like bows; they have grown strong in the land for falsehood, and not for truth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they do not know me, says the Lord.

### **Psalm 145:10-18**

10 All creation praises you O Lord:  
and your faithful servants bless your name.  
11 They speak of the glory of your kingdom:  
and tell of your great might,  
12 That the whole earth may know your mighty acts:  
and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.  
13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom:  
and your dominion endures through all generations.  
14 The Lord upholds all those who stumble:  
and raises up those that are bowed down.  
15 The eyes of all look to you in hope:  
and you give them their food in due season;  
16 You open wide your hand;  
and fill all things living with your bounteous gift.  
17 The Lord is just in all his ways:  
and faithful in all his dealings.  
18 The Lord is near to all who call upon him:  
to all who call upon him in truth.

## **2 Timothy 4:9-17a**

Do your best to come to me soon, for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry. I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will pay him back for his deeds. You also must beware of him, for he strongly opposed our message. At my first defence no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! 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.

## **Luke 10: 1-9**

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. 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. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house!’ And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. 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. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’”



## Reflection on a page by *The Reverend Angela Peverell*

On this Feast of the evangelist and martyr, St Luke, we are gifted with some useful “time out” from the lectionary readings, refocusing on the mission of our Lord Jesus through his incarnation and earthly ministry. This is a prophetically important sojourn for us before we return next week to the days leading up to Jesus’ crucifixion in Matthew’s Gospel and his teachings in the Temple in Jerusalem. We are back to where Jesus started, “having set his face to go to Jerusalem” (Luke 9:51).

I found it an interesting exercise to discern *why* the lectionary identified this particular reading from Luke’s Gospel on his feast day; *why* this account at the beginning of Jesus’ journey towards Jerusalem, would be the chosen text to exemplify such a prominent participant in the spreading of the Gospel message both in his own life and through his canonical contributions in Luke-Acts.

My determination is that this passage is actually the perfect representation of what Luke was about as an evangelist, and particularly as a companion to the great evangelist, the Apostle Paul.

And what an awesome experience he would have had as a companion to Paul! It is no wonder Luke felt compelled, “after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed”. (Luke 1: 3-4)

There are a number of themes that run through the Gospel of Luke, including the accomplishment of God’s plan, the salvation of *all* people, the great reversal of poverty and wealth, table fellowship, empowerment of the Holy Spirit, prayerfulness and joyfulness. The great song of praise, *The Magnificat* (Luke 1:46-55) introduces many of these themes at the outset of the Gospel.

Luke has a Gospel to proclaim!

And so, it is appropriate that we are reading and reflecting about Jesus’ sending out of the seventy (or seventy two depending on the translation) ahead of him, as he commences his journey over many months, towards his final destination in Jerusalem.

Whilst Luke would very likely not have been one of the seventy, it is a reasonable hypothesis that he may have been one of the many in Antioch in Acts 11. We see the change in language from the third person to the first person in Acts 16 as Luke joins in Paul’s mission to the Gentiles.

The sending of the seventy at the beginning of Luke 10 follows the sending of the twelve disciples at the beginning of Luke 9. The instructions are not dissimilar. The mission is radically dissimilar.

The sending of the twelve was apparently, to the lost sheep of Israel, the Jewish believers (Matt 10:6). The sending of the seventy is to those places where Jesus hasn’t yet been, and this would include to the people on the extreme margins of society, both in terms of socio-economic status and religious-cultural status. This is not going to be an easy mission for these disciple labourers, something like being sent as lambs into the midst of wolves! Luke would have known what that mission would be like as he travelled extensively with Paul on his mission to the Gentiles, planting Christian churches throughout Asia Minor.

Luke’s mission is played out in the mission of the seventy, sent by Jesus to fulfil his mission, declared in the Synagogue in Luke 4: 18-19:

***“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”***

## Readings for next week – The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

**Deuteronomy 34: 1-12**

**Psalms 90: 1-6, 13-17**

**1 Thessalonians 2: 1-13**

**Matthew 22: 34-46**



### **Prayers for use during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Ever present God,  
be with us in our isolation,  
be close to us in our distancing,  
be healing in our sickness,  
be joy in our sadness,  
be light in our darkness,  
be wisdom in our confusion,  
be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar,  
that when the doors reopen  
we may with the zeal of Pentecost  
inhabit our communities  
and speak of your goodness  
to an emerging world.  
For Jesus' sake. **Amen.**

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy  
in this time of uncertainty and  
distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and  
fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us  
from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

*Please do not hesitate to contact Dean Katherine or Reverend Angela if you have any concerns at this time and if you would like for us to visit you at home.*

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