



## Sunday Service

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2020  
The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

### Opening Prayer

God of all love and truth who mercifully allowed your one and only Son to come into this world to save us from our sins and bring us to eternal life: remind us of your goodness and increase your grace within us, so that, empowered by your Holy Spirit, our thoughtful praise may grow for your glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Bible reading - Philip and the Ethiopian

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road - the desert road - that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means "queen of the Ethiopians"). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it." Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,  
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.  
In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.  
Who can speak of his descendants?  
For his life was taken from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptised?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptised him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and travelled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

Acts 8 : 26 - 40

### Reflection

- The final Chapter of the first section of the Book of Acts
- Philip : An example for us all
  - (i) One of the seven (6 : 5)
  - (ii) Responds to the Holy Spirit (8 : 26)
  - (iii) Model of sharing the Gospel
    - Encounter (v 27 – 29)
    - Explanation (v 30 – 35)
    - Enactment (v 36 – 38)
    - Endless (v 39, 40)
- Application - All called to be like Philip
  - Share in word and deed, faithful to God's call
  - A lifelong ministry

### A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus

Keep us good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy.  
Sustain and support the anxious, be with all those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may find comfort knowing nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

**Final prayer**

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour into our lives through your Holy Spirit your mercy, forgive us our sins, and bless us with your gifts so that we may declare your Good News each and every day. For the glory of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

**Blessing**

And now grant that we who are made whole in Christ may bring your healing love and truth, in the power of the Holy Spirit, into this broken world.

And may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us all, today, tomorrow and for ever more. Amen.