

**Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives.**

**May you never give up praying.**

**When you pray, may you keep alert and be thankful.**

**Pray that together we may make the message of the mystery of Christ as clear as possible.**

**Amen**

**(Based on Colossians 3 and 4)**

**Welcome to our meeting.** Our meetings are designed so that we may grow together spiritually in a relaxed atmosphere of mutual respect and honour, recognising that we are all on a journey. Doubts and questions are welcome. We trust in God's unconditional love.

**We begin** by sharing time together then we pray, sometimes sing, read the scriptures, there is a short message and discussion.

**We then** pray for one another and for what is on our hearts.

**We finish** by praying together the prayer Jesus taught.

**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST -- PROPER 18** ☸

September 7, 2025

Year C, Revised Common Lectionary

Jeremiah 18:1-11 The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. Then the word of the LORD came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the LORD. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the LORD: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you, from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

## Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

- \* O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
- \* You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.
- \* You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.
- \* Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.
- \* You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.
- \* Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.
- \* For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- \* I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.
- \* My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
- \* Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.
- \* How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!
- \* I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.

Philemon 1-21 Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To our beloved coworker Philemon, to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. For this reason, though I am more than bold enough

in Christ to command you to do the right thing, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

Luke 14:25-33 Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple.

Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then while the other is

still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

### **Let us pray (Psalm 19)**

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable in your sight, Lord, my rock, and my redeemer. Amen  
Short talk and discussion

### **Listen carefully to these words from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount:**

Matthew 6:1-4

'Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

'So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

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.

### **Numbers 6:24-26**

The LORD bless you and keep you;  
the LORD make his face to shine  
upon you, and be gracious to  
you; the LORD lift up his  
countenance upon you, and give  
you peace.

Please join us to find a place of prayer and rest in a busy week. From intimacy in prayer God is able to do many things. Wednesday at 8pm.

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