LIVE the WORD

SUSTAINING YOU THROUGH THE WEEK

Edited by
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and
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READINGS

MONDAY 11 MAY
Acts 14:5-18
Psalm 118:1-3. 14-15
John 14:21-26

TUESDAY 12 MAY
Acts 14:19-end
Psalm 145:10-end
John 14:27-end

WEDNESDAY 13 MAY
Acts 15:1-6
Psalm 122:1-5
John 15:1-8

THURSDAY 14 MAY
Matthias the Apostle
Isaiah 22:15-end *or* Acts 1:15-end
Psalm 15
Acts 1:15-end *or* 1 Corinthians 4:1-7
John 15:9-17

FRIDAY 15 MAY
Acts 15:22-31
Psalm 57:8-end
John 15:12-17

SATURDAY 16 MAY
Acts 16:1-10
Psalm 100
John 15:18-21

REFLECTION

What's the gift for the world that Jesus says he will leave? It's not a special secret, it's not a recipe for success or even a programme of government. If Jesus shares in the deepest being of God then the invitation to all creation is to "abide", to rest, in that place. The word for such a state of peace is *shalom* in Hebrew, and *salaam* in Arabic. It has a much bigger meaning than our understanding of the word "peace". It has within it the idea of the fullness of life, the wholeness, not just of the individual but of the community to which we belong. It is not a selfish peace. The image of the vine grafted onto a vigorous rootstock points to the peace of God as a relational, active process and so much more than a passive peacefulness that is half asleep. Then comes the commandment to "love one another" and the hint that such abiding, such active peace and love, won't necessarily lead to worldly approval but may provoke the opposite reaction. Peacemakers of this godly kind are not kept immune from those who hate, as many have found.

PRAYER

God of love and delight,
when we try for an easy peace and a quick fix of the problems of our communities,
lead us into that deeper peace that comes from abiding in you.
As we are grafted into the lively wholeness of the true vine,
so may this world and the whole of creation also find peace.

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PART III – A TWO-WAY RELATIONSHIP

The Church of England recommends that every child has at least three godparents, who must be baptised themselves, and ideally also confirmed. The guidance found on the C of E's website advises that, in essence, a godparent should:

- encourage their godchild to develop Christian values of kindness, compassion and generosity, and to take a stand against injustice and suffering;
- pray for the godchild through the ups and downs of life and faith;
- show their godchild how to make good practical choices concerning health, peer pressure and caring for the environment;
- help them to learn more about the Christian faith, through their church and in other ways;
- go to church with them, talk about the Bible and help them learn to pray.

That's quite a tall order, involving a godparent in their godchild's spiritual, emotional and material well-being. One godparent – let's call her Jen – encapsulates how worthwhile godparenting can be if it's grasped with both hands:

"I had only been to church a couple of times in my life and I don't have kids myself, so I was daunted to say the least when Kate, who's a single mum, asked me to be godmother to her new baby, Marcus. How scary is that? Now my gorgeous godson is eighteen, has a girlfriend and is just starting an apprenticeship. It's been an amazing experience growing up with him – and I don't say that lightly.

"Kate had a cancer scare a few years ago and she asked me to tell Marcus what was going on. He was just twelve at the time and you can imagine how terrified I was. But it's amazing how you find the words when you need them. It completely choked me to pray for his mum with him, but we did it. She's fine now, thank God. One day I'll let Marcus know that being a godparent to him has helped me to grow up every bit as much, if not more, than I've helped him. It's not something to be taken lightly, but I highly recommend it."

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Fifth week of Easter

Monday 11 May to Saturday 16 May 2020

WEEK

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