

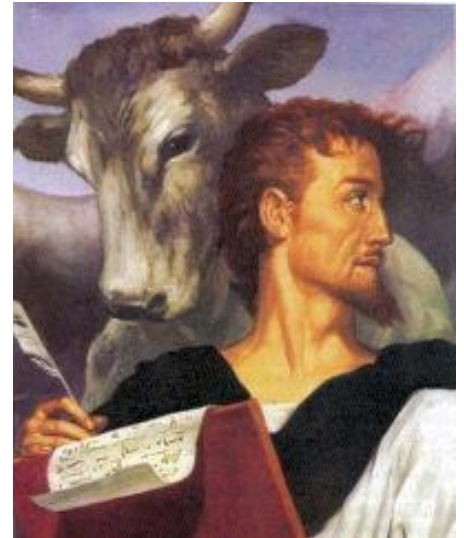


JOIN THE CELEBRATION

Worshipping together in spirit
ST LUKE:
DOCTOR & GOSPEL WRITER

The YouTube video link is https://youtu.be/VYa5bkB_dWU

Luke was a dear friend of the apostle Paul, and is mentioned by him three times in his letters, once as 'the much-loved physician', and another time as Paul's only companion in prison. Luke is credited with writing the Gospel that bears his name, and the Acts of the Apostles, which is clearly a companion volume to that Gospel. In these writings, Luke makes it clear that the good news of God's saving love is for all, regardless of gender, social position or nationality. Each Gospel writer has an animal symbol. In this picture we see the bull for St Luke – checking his grammar maybe?



REFLECTIVE MUSIC AS WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP
Winter from The Four Seasons by Vivaldi

OPENING WORDS:

As if this were the only time, and this the only place,
and we the only people, Jesus Christ will meet us.

As if this were the only time, and this the only place,
and we the only people, let us worship God.

OPENING PRAYER:

You found out what we were doing and you intervened.

"Come and do it together, come and do it with me," you said.

So, thank you, Lord, for intervening in our lives.

You promised us nothing by way of success,
recognition, possessions or reward. "These things will
come at the right time when you walk with me," you said.

So, thank you, Lord, for promising us nothing.

You gave us no resources apart from ourselves -
hands meant for caring, lips meant for praising, hearts meant for loving -
and the Holy Spirit to make us restless until we change.

So, thank you, Lord, for the essential gifts.

Then just when we think we've got it right as to where
we should go and what we should do; just when we're ready to take on the world,
you come, like a beggar, to our back door, saying, "This is the way.
I am the way". And offering us bread and wine.

**So, thank you, Lord, for coming again and keeping your word and showing
us you care for us and for all people. Amen**

THE FIRST READING – 2 Timothy 4.5-17

As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist,
carry out your ministry fully.

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my
departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have
kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness,
which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not only to
me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

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. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth.

THE GOSPEL READING – 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.

THE REFLECTION – *Luke in old age, a monologue*

My dear Theophilus. Of course, you are no longer with us. But I still talk to you in my head. OK – out loud, according to Demas. It is some years now since you asked me to write a sequel to my Life of Jesus of Nazareth. I felt old then, and now at 83, I realise that I was not. Or maybe I was, and now I am ancient – content to sit in my garden, doing a little painting, reading the writings of others, and be pampered by my house slaves. They are more like family, and certainly, Demas makes sure that I behave myself. It isn't difficult. This Apostle's body is finally paying the price for its Acts. Oh, never mind, my humour is obviously as feeble as my body.

Members of the church visit me; and a free medical consultation is a small price to pay for some company, news from the city, and the opportunity to pray with others. And of course, to re-live my adventures with the great Paul, to an appreciative audience. My faith is my comfort, and of course it was religion that got me into it all in the first place. I never could resist an interesting religious theory, from the cults of my native Antioch, through being a God-fearer on the margins of Judaism, to becoming a paid-up follower of The Way, after Paul had finished with me.

Paul! What a man! No wonder I am a worn-out old husk. He was a force of nature, and that most dangerous of human beings – an enthusiast. He and his entourage would come through Troas, and stay with me. It meant long nights, full of talk of what had happened along the way, where the Spirit was sending him next, and his latest grand plan. Paul never had small mishaps, like his mule getting colic, or a *mansio* full of bed-bugs. Mind you, he wasn't your average traveller. If you will go head to head with the leaders of every other organised, and dis-organised, religion, from Thessalonika to Jerusalem, you're bound to attract trouble. But Paul's charisma, a literal gift of the Spirit, was so incredible that he attracted converts too. We must be talking thousands, by now. Paul charmed me into faith.

The late nights were tough for a practising physician, but I don't regret them. On the contrary, I would sit up until dawn capturing all the events on parchment.

Then I would wake up Barnabas, or Mark, or some other unfortunate, to fill in all the details I had forgotten.

I miss Paul so much. You can't make a journey like the last journey, to Rome, and not become very close. I like to think that I was a calming influence, and he certainly opened the eyes of a provincial doctor, who had read about everything, but experienced nothing. I was his Doctor Watson, I suppose, (give or take a couple of millennia) several thoughts behind the brilliance, but writing it all down for posterity. He was brave – I forgot to say that. I know he had faith, but it still takes so much courage to live out faith as he did.

Well, Theophilus. The sun has slipped behind the large fig tree, and the garden is getting shadowy and chilly. Demas will soon be hobbling out with a shawl and dire warnings about rheumatism and pneumonia. Anyone would think he was the doctor!

I wonder what will happen to my stories? I hope that they survive, and that future Christians will read them. Not just because I think that my erudite and versatile writing style is rather fine; but so that they are fed by the word of our Lord, and inspired by the journeys of the greatest Apostle who ever lived. It is hard to be a Christian, in an indifferent or even hostile world. I know that from experience. Yes, I hope they read Scripture, and pray together, and encourage one another, because Christianity is the best religion there has ever been, or ever will be. Keep the faith alive, dear ones.

Here comes Demas, shawl in hand. *Antio, phile.* (Goodbye, friend).

THE PRAYERS

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ let us pray to the Father.

Almighty God, you inspired Your servant St. Luke the Evangelist and Physician to set forth in the gospel the love and the healing power of your Son. In faithfully detailing the humanity of Jesus, he also showed the divinity of Jesus and His genuine compassion for all human beings. May St. Luke intercede for us that we may deepen our understanding of the gospel. May his intercession enable our parish and benefice to follow Your way and plan for us. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. **Amen.**



Father, we gather before you today to express our concerns for the Church and the world, and to thank you for your goodness and all that you provide for us.
Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Faithful God we pray for Christians throughout the world, and particularly for those who are persecuted because of their faith in you. We ask for your protection for them, and strength and guidance for all individuals and organisations that seek to help them.

We also pray for all who are persecuted for being different – for their race, colour, religion, gender or sexuality. Help us to respect others for who they are as individuals, avoiding labels and stereotypes.

Almighty God, we pray for our Parish of St Peter and all in the North Beltisloe Benefice. We pray for the leaders in our parish, and particularly for Anna Sorenson our Rector. We pray for the members of our churches who are still unable to attend services, and thank you that there is nothing in earth or heaven that can separate us from your love.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Creator God, we pray for your world, particularly those countries that are torn apart by conflict, illness and hunger.

Almighty God, Paul says in his epistle to the Philippians “Rejoice in the Lord always.” As you know, life is not always a bed of roses and we often face hardship and struggles. The Covid-19 crisis is a real challenge for many people and made us think about what is really important in life. It has brought us closer to family and friends and reminded us to be thankful, and look for blessings that are beyond the material world. Paul says that when we come before you with thanksgiving, we shall find your peace. There will be many people today around the world who do not have peace in their lives and we pray that, one day, they will find your peace that passes all understanding.

In a moment of silence, please pray for any country that is on your mind today.
Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Loving God, we pray for our local community. Please show us how we can best serve people who are struggling in any way.

We thank you for the provision of food for The Grantham Passage, and ask you to show us how best to reach out to families in need.

In a moment of silence, please pray for any part of our local community that is on your mind today.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Caring God, we pray for all those who are afflicted by physical, emotional or mental illness. We pray especially for Richard Hammer, Kathy Cheesmond, Bill Read and Jenny Wilkins Help them to keep their eyes fixed on you, and give them the courage to face their struggles. Bring healing and comfort for people around the world suffering from Covid-19. Speed their recovery and slow the spread of the virus. We thank you for the efforts of all those involved in treating, testing and caring for patients, and ask for your protection over them as they go about their work.

In a moment of silence, please pray for one person who is on your mind today.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**



Merciful God, your Son Jesus was moved to tears at the grave of Lazarus his friend. Look with compassion on those bereaved and grieving at the loss of a loved one; give to their troubled hearts the light of hope and strengthen in all of us the gift of faith. We pray especially for the families of Gerald Turpin, Dennis France and Liza Grenfell. Rest eternal grant to the departed, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon them
Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Faithful God, at the start of this new week, and recognising your trust in us to live and preach the Gospel, make us always more ready to please you rather than to seek the praise of the secular world.

Merciful father: accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

THE PEACE

Not an easy peace, not an insignificant peace, not a half-hearted peace, but the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with us now.

May this peace dwell in you richly.

THE FINAL PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, you have put your life into our hands;

Now we put our lives into yours. Take us, renew and remake us.

What we have been is past; what we shall be, through you, still awaits us.

Lead us on, take us with you. Amen

THE BLESSING

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always.

Amen.

MUSIC TO TAKE US OUT INTO THE WORLD –

Autumn from the four seasons by Vivaldi

