**Sunday 14th September 2025 (Trinity 13 / Holy Cross Day)**

**Collect and Readings: for the 13th Sunday after Trinity**

**Collect**Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

**Readings**

**Jeremiah 4: 11–12, 22–28**11 At that time it will be said to this people and to Jerusalem: A hot wind comes from me out of the bare heights\* in the desert towards my poor people, not to winnow or cleanse— 12a wind too strong for that. Now it is I who speak in judgement against them.
22 ‘For my people are foolish,
   they do not know me;
they are stupid children,
   they have no understanding.
They are skilled in doing evil,
   but do not know how to do good.’
23 I looked on the earth, and lo, it was waste and void;
   and to the heavens, and they had no light.
24 I looked on the mountains, and lo, they were quaking,
   and all the hills moved to and fro.
25 I looked, and lo, there was no one at all,
   and all the birds of the air had fled.
26 I looked, and lo, the fruitful land was a desert,
 and all its cities were laid in ruins
   before the Lord, before his fierce anger.

27 For thus says the Lord: The whole land shall be a desolation; yet I will not make a full end.
28 Because of this the earth shall mourn,
   and the heavens above grow black;
for I have spoken, I have purposed;
   I have not relented nor will I turn back.

**1 Timothy 1:12-17**12 I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, 13even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, 14and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 15The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. 16But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. 17To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever.\* Amen.

**Luke 15:1-10**15Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. 2And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, ‘This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.’

3 So he told them this parable: 4‘Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? 5When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. 6And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, “Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.” 7Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.

8 ‘Or what woman having ten silver coins,\* if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? 9When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, “Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.” 10Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.’

**Alternative Collect & Readings: for Holy Cross Day**

**Collect**Almighty God, who in the passion of your blessed Son made an instrument of painful death to be for us the means of life and peace: grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer for his sake; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Readings**

**Numbers 21:4-9**4 From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea,\* to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. 5The people spoke against God and against Moses, ‘Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.’ 6Then the Lord sent poisonous\* serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. 7The people came to Moses and said, ‘We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.’ So Moses prayed for the people. 8And the Lord said to Moses, ‘Make a poisonous\* serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.’ 9So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

**Philippians 2:5–11**5Let the same mind be in you that was\* in Christ Jesus,
6 who, though he was in the form of God,
   did not regard equality with God
   as something to be exploited,
7 but emptied himself,
   taking the form of a slave,
   being born in human likeness.
 And being found in human form,
8   he humbled himself
   and became obedient to the point of death—
   even death on a cross.
9 Therefore God also highly exalted him
   and gave him the name
   that is above every name,
10 so that at the name of Jesus
   every knee should bend,
   in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11 and every tongue should confess
   that Jesus Christ is Lord,
   to the glory of God the Father.

**John 3:13–17**13No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.
16 ‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.
17 ‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

**Prayers for today:**

**We pray:**Everlasting God, we make our prayers now for all people, everywhere, both close to us and far:

* Everlasting God, we come before you with our baggage, our worries, our anxiety and our fears. Some of us are tired, some of us are in pain, some are sad and some are angry; and so, as we place our burdens before you, help us to learn from you and to trust in you, so that in serving you we may find the rest that you have promised.
* Creator God, we pray for peace, justice and reconciliation throughout the world. We pray for the honouring of human rights and for the relief of all those oppressed by conflict, war and hunger. We pray for the leaders of all nations that they would make decisions that help all people.

**Prayer of The Most Reverend Dr. Hosam E. Naoum, Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem:**

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: In your mercy, provide for all those in Gaza and beyond who suffer from hunger and starvation, that they may be given both physical bread to nourish their bodies and heavenly bread to sustain their souls. By the power of your Spirit, bring a speedy end to this cruel war, the release of all captives, care for the sick and wounded, comfort for those who have lost loved-ones, and the opening of a pathway for a just and lasting peace here in the very homeland where your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ministered during his earthly life; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

* Holy God, we pray for all Christian churches throughout the world as they meet to worship and praise you and enjoy fellowship with each other. We particularly pray for the safety of Christians who are persecuted because of their faith. We pray that our churches within the Woodfield Team may be centres of love and joy, and beacons of hope and places of refuge for those in need.
* Faithful God, be alongside us as we seek to follow you day by day/ Help us to be good tempered and considerate, to be hard-working and diligent in all we do; never to speak hastily and always to act kindly to those we love and especially to those we find it difficult to like. So, help us all to witness to the faith we have received by our words and in our deeds, and transform us, so that daily we may grow more and more into the likeness of Christ.
* Faithful God, we offer you these prayers for ourselves and for others. As we look forward to the week to come, we pray for an awareness of your love and support in all we do.

**Amen**