

Outlook

*Jesus said,
"If you love me, keep my commands."*

John 15:15

Good morning and welcome to another Sunday of worship. It's wonderful to welcome you here today.

Jesus said that if we loved him, we would follow his commands. In all of our lives there come many moments when we have to choose to follow Jesus or go our own way. He never said that his way would be easy, in fact in our Bible reading last Sunday we reminded ourselves that Jesus said that his way was a "narrow way."

This morning we're going to pick up this idea and develop it a little further as we consider another recurring theme that runs through the whole of the Bible: Crossing Over. That is, leaving old ways of life behind and living as Christ would want us to - i.e. "keeping his commands." Our old nature will often try to draw us into ways of life that don't honour Christ, but like Paul said in Philippians 3, *"Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."* (Phil 3:13-14). This is our theme today: leaving old things behind and crossing over to a new way of life that pleases our Lord!

Bible Readings

Exodus 14:15-29

¹⁵ Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. ¹⁶ Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. ¹⁷ I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. ¹⁸ The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen.'

¹⁹ Then the angel of God, who had been travelling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, ²⁰ coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other; so neither went near the other all night long.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, ²² and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with

a wall of water on their right and on their left.

²³ The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. ²⁴ During the last watch of the night the Lord looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. ²⁵ He jammed the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, 'Let's get away from the Israelites! The Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.'

²⁶ Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen.' ²⁷ Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing towards it, and the Lord swept them into the sea. ²⁸ The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen – the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.

²⁹ But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

John 14:15-27

¹⁵ 'If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you for ever – ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see me any more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will realise that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹ Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.' ²² Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, 'But, Lord, why do you intend to


show yourself to us and not to the world?'

²³ Jesus replied, 'Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴ Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. ²⁵ 'All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.


APCM - Might You Serve as a Deanery Synod Rep or PCC Member?

 Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (like an AGM) has been **MOVED** and will take place at **10am on Sat 31st May in All Saints**'.

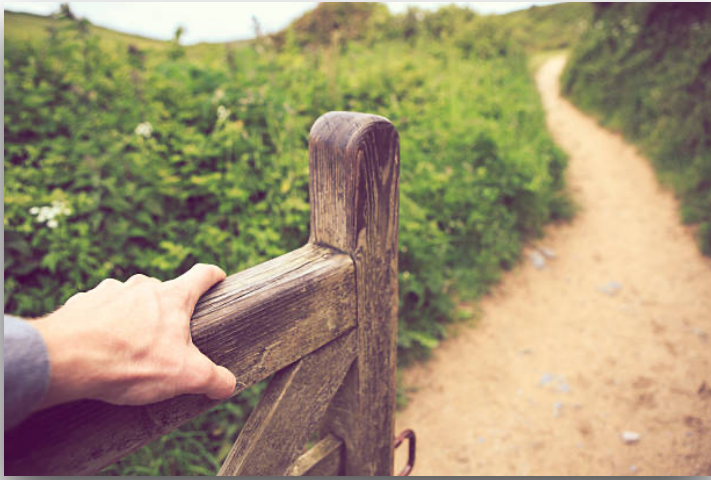
Gardening Help Needed

 One of our church members has recently become very unwell and now needs help to look after their garden. Let Ian know if this could be you.

Keep in Touch

 **Vicar:** ian@eastleighparish.com 07809 668 118
Sue: sue@eastleighparish.com 07502 427 693
Wardens: Keith 07905 249 860 & Dot 07446 072 097

Collect for Sunday May 18th



Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*****Change of Date for APCM*****



The date for our Annual Parochial Church Meeting has been moved to:

**10:00am Saturday 31st
May 2025**

The meeting will be held in All Saints' as previously advertised. Everyone is welcome to attend as we review the life of this parish church and appoint new PCC members. Please pray for God to raise up the right people to serve in the parish. Coffee & pastries will be served from 9:30am.

"The Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left."

Exodus 14:22

