

Outlook

Jonah 2:8

***"Those who cling to worthless idols
turn away from God's love for them."***

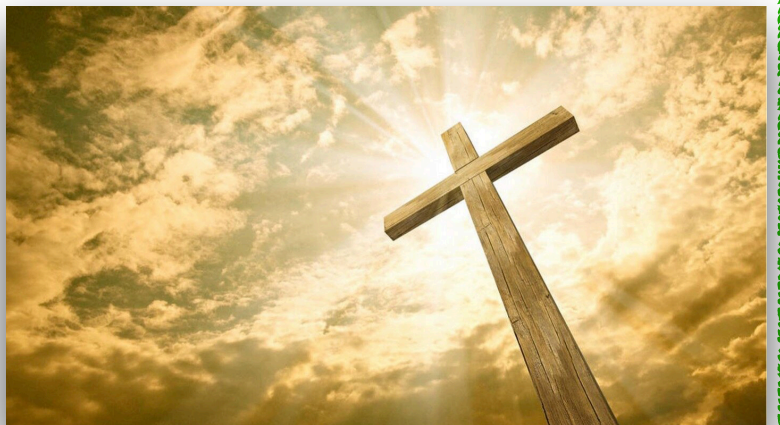
Imagine if you will a young child in a sweet shop. Their eyes might be full of longing for every last morsel on offer, but we know there's truth in the old saying that '*your eyes are bigger than your tummy*'. To really enjoy one thing, we often have to forgo another. And this was never more true than in our relationship with our Heavenly Father.

In the book of Jonah we're told that, "*those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God's love for them.*" (Jonah 2:8). It's not possible to have a 'tummy full' of things that lead us away from God **and** to experience the fullness of his love.

Imagine if you will another child about to take a bite of stale bread, and then realising that a table full of truly delicious and satisfying treats was also on offer. They'd not hesitate in trading the stale bread for the wonderful food! And so it is with the offer that God makes to all of us: to turn from idols that don't really satisfy, and to come to him, the source of all that is truly loving and good.

Collect for 13th July

Gracious Father, by the obedience of Jesus you brought salvation to our wayward world: draw us into harmony with your will, that we may find all things restored in him, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.



Bible Readings for 13th July

Jonah 4

1 But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. 2 He prayed to the Lord, 'Isn't this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. 3 Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.' 4 But the Lord replied, 'Is it right for you to be angry?' 5 Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. 6 Then the Lord God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. 7 But at dawn the next day

God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. 8 When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, 'It would be better for me to die than to live.' 9 But God said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?' 'It is,' he said. 'And I'm so angry I wish I were dead.' 10 But the Lord said, 'You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. 11 And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left – and also many animals?'

Luke 13:31-35

31 At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, 'Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you.' 32 He replied, 'Go and tell that fox, "I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal."' 33 In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day – for surely no prophet can die outside

Jerusalem! 34 'Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. 35 Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."'

We're Hiring!



We need to find a new cleaner for St Francis'. This is a paid role and will involve about 2 hours per week of work, which this might increase if/when new hirers make bookings, or if spring cleaning is needed.

Speak to Sue or Dot for more info.

Stay & Play: Meeting on 20th July to Plan Future Steps



Elizabeth S & Ian would like to invite **everyone** interested in the future of Stay-and-Play to join them for a meeting to discuss what plans we might make. **We will meet following the 11 o'clock service on Sunday 20th July.** Please pray that God would show us how to proceed.

Thank You for a Weekend of Food & Fellowship!



We want to say 'thank you' to everyone who helped make our most recent bring-and-share meal a great success. The food on offer was truly wonderful and included everything from satay chicken to delicious tacos, and from Persian rice to a range of home made salads. What a great way to spend an afternoon: lovely friends, warm fellowship, and absolutely stunning food!



Likewise, thank you to Dot & Geoff for hosting the FOAN coffee morning, and for all who attended and gave, raising more than £550 for this great cause.

Responding to the Message of Jonah

Having studied Jonah together for the past month, it's only right that we seek to respond to the message of repentance Jonah emphasised. Below are two Scriptures which we will use during today's services to do just that. We have added the symbol * to show when we will pause for silent reflection.

2Chronicles 7:14

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

Psalm 130

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord;

² Lord, hear my voice.

*Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy. **

³ If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?

⁴ But with you there is forgiveness,

*so that we can, with reverence, serve you. **

⁵ I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits,

*and in his word I put my hope. **

⁶ I wait for the Lord

more than watchmen wait for the morning,

more than watchmen wait for the morning.

⁷ Israel, put your hope in the Lord,

for with the Lord is unfailing love

*and with him is full redemption. **

⁸ He himself will redeem Israel

from all their sins.

*At the end we all say: **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen.***

Keep in Touch



Wardens: Keith 07905 249 860 & Dot 07446 072 097

Vicar: ian@eastleighparish.com 07809 668 118

Sue: sue@eastleighparish.com 07502 427 693