

Trinity Eight

The Story of the Prodigal son

Hymns

708- To God be the glory

649 The King of love my shepherd is

396- Just as I Am, Without One Plea

Collect

Loving Father,
you welcome us home
when we turn back to you.
Help us to know your forgiveness,
to forgive one another; and to rejoice
whenever the lost are found.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.. Amen.

Psalm 32

- 1 Happy the one whose transgression is forgiven, • **and whose sin is covered.**
- 2 Happy the one to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, • **and in whose spirit there is no guile.**
- 3 For I held my tongue; • **my bones wasted away through my groaning all the day long.**
- 4 Your hand was heavy upon me day and night; • **my moisture was dried up like the drought in summer.**
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you • **and my iniquity I did not hide.**

6 I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,' • **and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

7 Therefore let all the faithful make their prayers to you in time of trouble; • **in the great water flood, it shall not reach them.**

8 You are a place for me to hide in; you preserve me from trouble; • **you surround me with songs of deliverance.**

9 'I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; • **I will guide you with my eye.**

10 'Be not like horse and mule which have no understanding; • **whose mouths must be held with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.'**

11 Great tribulations remain for the wicked, • **but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; • **shout for joy, all who are true of heart.**

Epistle Reading 2 Corinthians 5 : 16-21

16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way.

17 So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. 20 So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Gospel Luke 15: 1 to 3 & 11b to 32

The Gospel of Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

15.1 Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.'

3 So he told them this parable!

11 There was a man who had two sons.

12 The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. 13 A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. 14 When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. 16 He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. 17 But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! 18 I will get up and go to my father; and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" 20 So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. 21 Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." 22 But the

father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe - the best on - and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.

23 And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; 24 for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate.

25 'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. 27 He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." 28 Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. 29 But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" 31 Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Sunday 26th July 2026

Trinity Eight

THE CROSS AND STABLE

The Prodigal

The coins are spent, the foreign sky turns gray,
The husks of swine have taught the heart to bleed;
He sheds the garb of all he threw away,
And turns from every master-slave of greed.
No servant's plea, no groveling in the dust,
Can heal the fracture of the broken soul.
He brings no bargain, but a desperate trust,
As radical forgiveness makes him whole.
The righteous brother scowls behind the gate,
While Father runs to meet the tattered youth.
Love burns the ledger, shattering the slate,
And dances in the scandalous, raw truth.
The past is dead, the fatted calf is slain,
There is no debt, nor any righteous chain.

Notices

Chatterbox

Every Wednesday 10:30 am to 12:30pm.
All Welcome - tea - coffee - cakes - meet & chat.

Zoom Prayers & Bible Study

Friday 2pm Zoom Prayers.

Community Larder

Every Tuesday from 11 - 12:30

Stantonbury Churches Newsletter

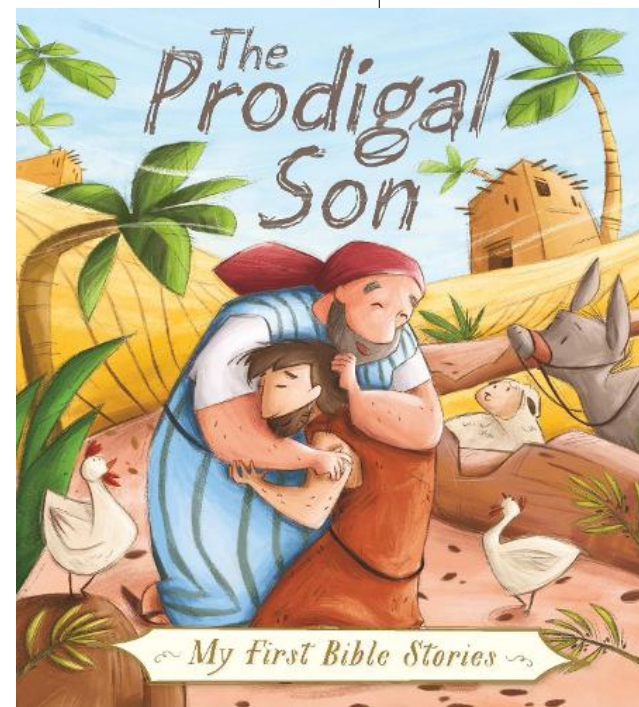
Available on line. Or hard copy by request

MK Methodist Circuit Eco Church

Service and Picnic. on Sunday 26 July,
10.30am – 2.00pm at Newton Longville
Free Church. See poster for detail

Bridgebuilder

"Gill has the latest newsheet from
Bridgebuilder. They are a Christian
organisation that send its team members
to lead Assemblies and RE lessons in
Milton Keynes Schools." Their news-sheet
can be copied to you on request.



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TODAY

Trinity Eight
Family Breakfast Cub
From 10 am.
Service at 11 am I

THIS SUNDAY

Psalm 32.
2 Cor 5: 16 to 21
Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-3232

NEXT SUNDAY:

1 Kings 3.5-12
Psalm 119.129-136
Romans 8.26-39
Mat 13.31-33,44-52

NEXT SUNDAY

Trinity Nine
Signed Communion 11
Led by Peter

Cross and Stable is part of Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership
Church of England • Baptist Union • Methodist Church • United Reformed Church