

Common Worship - **Morning Prayer Readings** -Church of England
12th. Sunday after Trinity (Proper 16) Year C

FIRST READING **Jonah 2 (Alt.1)**

A reading from the book of the prophet Jonah.

Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish,
saying, "I called to the LORD out of my distress, and he answered me;
out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice.

You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas,
and the flood surrounded me;

all your waves and your billows passed over me.

Then I said, 'I am driven away from your sight;
how shall I look again upon your holy temple?'

The waters closed in over me;

the deep surrounded me;

weeds were wrapped around my head

at the roots of the mountains.

I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever;

yet you brought up my life from the Pit, O LORD my God.

As my life was ebbing away, I remembered the LORD;

and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple.

Those who worship vain idols forsake their true loyalty.

But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you;

what I have vowed I will pay.

Deliverance belongs to the LORD!"

Then the LORD spoke to the fish,

and it spewed Jonah out upon the dry land.

For the Word of the LORD.

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FIRST READING **Ecclesiasticus 3.17–29 (Alt.2)**

A reading from the book Ecclesiasticus.

My child, perform your tasks with humility;
 then you will be loved by those whom God accepts.
The greater you are, the more you must humble yourself;
 so you will find favour in the sight of the Lord.
For great is the might of the Lord;
 but by the humble he is glorified.
Neither seek what is too difficult for you,
 nor investigate what is beyond your power.
Reflect upon what you have been commanded,
 for what is hidden is not your concern.
Do not meddle in matters that are beyond you,
 for more than you can understand has been shown to you.
For their conceit has led many astray,
 and wrong opinion has impaired their judgement.

Without eyes there is no light;
 without knowledge there is no wisdom.
A stubborn mind will fare badly at the end,
 and whoever loves danger will perish in it.
A stubborn mind will be burdened by troubles,
 and the sinner adds sin to sins.
When calamity befalls the proud, there is no healing,
 for an evil plant has taken root in him.
The mind of the intelligent appreciates proverbs,
 and an attentive ear is the desire of the wise.

For the Word of the LORD.

SECOND READING Revelation 1

A reading from the book of the Revelation

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him
to show his servants what must soon take place;
he made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,
who testified to the word of God
and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.
Blessèd is the one who reads aloud the words of the prophecy,
and blessèd are those who hear and who keep what is written in it;
for the time is near.

John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is, and who was, and who is to come,
and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,
and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness,
the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood,
and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father,
to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him, even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God,
who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

I, John, your brother who share with you, in Jesus,
the persecution and the kingdom and the patient endurance,
was on the island called Patmos
because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

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I was in the spirit on the Lord's day,
and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet
saying, "Write in a book what you see
and send it to the seven churches,
to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamum, to Thyatira,
to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."
Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me,
and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands,
and in the midst of the lampstands I saw one like the Son of Man,
clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash across his chest.
His head and his hair were white as white wool, white as snow;
his eyes were like a flame of fire,
his feet were like burnished bronze, refined as in a furnace,
and his voice was like the sound of many waters.
In his right hand he held seven stars,
and from his mouth came a sharp, two-edged sword,
and his face was like the sun shining with full force.
When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead.
But he placed his right hand on me,
saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living one.
I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever;
and I have the keys of Death and of Hades.
Now write what you have seen,
what is, and what is to take place after this.
As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand,
and the seven golden lampstands:
the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches,
and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

For the Word of the LORD.