



Live your faith 18-24 October 2020

Read, pray, reflect and live your faith this week



 This week's Bible readings Isaiah 45.1-7 • Psalm 96.1-9 • 1 Thessalonians 1.1-10 • Matthew 22.15-22

Imitators and influencers

Notes on the Bible readings

• 1 Thessalonians is the oldest book in the New Testament, written less than 20 years after the crucifixion. The church of Thessalonica would have been a new Christian community and the letter addresses their concerns that Paul has not been back to see them. The Thessalonians have a positive reputation and perhaps were seen as the influencers of their day, being early adopters of the Christian faith and imitators of Paul.

• We read that they were persecuted, but still they 'received the word with joy'. At this stage there would have been no written Gospels; instead, these early Christians would have been 'living' gospels, living out a life of hope and love, proclaiming the gospel through their lives.

In our society we can read both negative and positive stories about the actions of Christians. This shines a light, perhaps uncomfortably, on our own lives when thinking about our choices, actions and responses. How can we be a positive influence for our friends, family, communities and society as a whole?

What makes you, you?

The mathematician and code-breaker Alan Turing endeavoured to make a machine with artificial intelligence. That is, he wanted his machine to imitate human responses – hence the name of the film *The Imitation Game*, based on his life. How would it feel to have a machine programmed to imitate you. What do you think it would do? What would you be proud of it being able to do?

FREE [worship at home](#) resources, including up-to-the-minute reflection on this week's Bible reading, available at: www.rootsontheweb.com

Questions for reflection

- ▶ How aware are you of the influencers in your life?
- ▶ How would you feel if someone saw you as an influencer?
- ▶ How can your church community develop an ethos which is worth imitating in your own life?



A prayer for others

Lord God, in our corner of the world it isn't easy to really feel the pain of persecution for our faith, but we know that it happens. We pray for those who are persecuted and punished, violated and scarred because of their faith. We pray for those who despite these things speak out and speak up, and witness to you, the living God. We pray for the families of these people that they may be given strength and support in their own faith and discipleship. We pray for those who teach us of you, who unpack your truths, who explain what living a Christian life is and how to follow you. We pray for those who guide us in times of struggles with our faith, those who stand by us in times of denial and bewilderment. We pray for those who are dying in the faith, and those who are struggling to find their faith before they die. For these and all your witnesses, Lord, we pray. Amen.

A prayer for the world

Into a world of confusion and disbelief, into a world of welcome and rejection, we take the grace of God that is among us, and the peace of God that is on our hearts Amen.

A personal prayer

Lord Jesus, in my quiet moments, may I offer my innermost desires and yearnings to you, that I may more and more walk my path in life conscious of you being at my side. Amen.

Live your faith

Every time you post something on social media, ask yourself whether it will have a good, bad or neutral influence.



This Sunday we celebrate the feast of Saint Luke, the evangelist.

Luke was the writer of the third Gospel. He never met Christ in person, but in his Gospel, he says that he came to know about Jesus by talking to eyewitnesses to the events of Jesus' life, death, and Resurrection. Hearing those stories helped Luke to become a believer, and he wrote his Gospel so that others would come to know and love Jesus. Luke was believed to be a doctor and he travelled with Saint Paul on his second missionary journey. In fact, Paul calls Luke his "beloved physician" (Colossians 4:14). Because he cared for the bodily needs of others, Luke is the patron saint of doctors, and often healing services are held in churches at St Luke's. He is also the patron saint of artists because it is believed that he painted a famous portrait of Mary, our Blessed Mother. In his Gospel, Luke helps us to know how concerned Jesus was for the sick, the poor, and anyone in need of help, mercy, and forgiveness. Luke tells us that Jesus came to save all people. Through Luke's Gospel, we learn how compassionate and caring Jesus was. Some of the most famous stories Jesus told are found in Luke's Gospel: The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37) and the Lost Son (Luke 15:11-42).



The symbol for Luke's Gospel is an ox, an animal that was often sacrificed as an offering to God in ancient times. In his writings about Jesus, Luke reminds us of the great sacrifice Jesus made to save all people through his death on the cross and his Resurrection.

Luke is also the author of the Acts of the Apostles. In Acts, we learn about the coming of the Holy Spirit; the work of the Apostles, especially Saint Paul; and how the Church grew in the world. He was the one person who was said to have remained with Saint Paul during his imprisonment and until his death.

We remember that his Gospel continues to help us know and love Jesus. Luke's Gospel also reminds us to look for ways to imitate Jesus by reaching out to help our brothers and sisters in need.

Don't forget – the Community Centre Car Park is being resurfaced for the next two Sundays so you will not be able to park there.

Daily Readings for week commencing 19 th October 2020		
Monday	2 Kings 17: 24-end	Philippians 1: 1-11
Tuesday	2 Kings 18: 1-12	Philippians 1: 12-end
Wednesday	2 Kings 18: 13-end	Philippians 2: 1-13
Thursday	2 Kings 19: 1-19	Philippians 2: 14-end
Friday	2 Kings 19: 20-36	Philippians 3: 1-4:1
Saturday	2 Kings 20	Philippians 4: 2-end

Pray for those in need... Sally, Katie-Louise, Pam, Sue, Bryn, Evelyn, Shane, Pat, Heather, Dorothy Lily, Tim, and Joyce. ***Please remember those who mourn the loss of loved ones at this time...we remember Alison and Gina...***