



Sunday 17th August 2025 – Trinity 9

**10:30 Morning Worship
Reconciliation and Koinonia
Philemon (page 1200)**

Leading: Bill Miller (Lay Leader of Worship)
Speaking: Richard Waddington (Lay Leader of Worship)

PAUL'S LETTER TO PHILEMON

THE MISSION: GET PHILEMON TO FORGIVE ONESIMUS AND EMBRACE HIM AS A BROTHER

THE ONLY LETTER WHERE PAUL DOESN'T TALK ABOUT JESUS' DEATH & RESURRECTION... BECAUSE HE'S ACTING IT OUT.

THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE GOOD NEWS ARE PERSONAL, BUT NEVER PRIVATE. JESUS' FAMILY IS A NEW MANTILITY OF EQUAL PARTNERS WHO SHARE TOGETHER IN GOD'S HEALING MERCY.

vv21-25 FINAL GREETING

THE BACKSTORY: PHILEMON BECOMES A CHRISTIAN (see vs 7). ETAPARKAS & PHILEMON START A CHURCH IN CALLOSIAE (see vs 1-2; COLOSSIANS 1:7). ONESIMUS FINDS PAUL & BECOMES A CHRISTIAN.

vv1-7 OPENING PRAYER: PHILEMON, I THANK GOD FOR YOUR LOVE & FAITHFULNESS. (vs 4-5). "I PRAISE THAT THE PARTNERSHIP THAT SPRINGS FROM YOUR FAITH MAY EFFECTIVELY LEAD YOU TO RECOGNIZE ALL THE GOOD THINGS AT WORK IN US, LEADING US INTO THE MESSIAH" (vs 6). **GREEK: KOINONIA = SHARING, MUTUAL PARTICIPATION**. ALL OF JESUS' FOLLOWERS ARE EQUAL PARTNERS WHO SHARE IN THE GIFT OF GOD'S GRACE & LOVE. FOR PAUL, KOINONIA IS NOT JUST AN IDEA. IT'S SOMETHING YOU DO!

vv8-20 PAUL'S REQUEST: ONESIMUS HAS BECOME PAUL'S CHIEF. THIS CONFLICT MUST BE RESOLVED. **THE BOLD REQUEST:** "RECEIVE ONESIMUS BACK, NO LONGER AS A SLAVE, BUT AS A BELOVED BROTHER IN THE LORD." (vs 10-16). **WHY SHOULD PHILEMON DO THIS?** IF YOU ARE TRULY A PARTNER (see KOINONIA) WITH ME, THEN WELCOME ONESIMUS AS IF HE SERVED ME. IF HE'S GRIEVED YOU OR OWES YOU ANYTHING, CHARGE IT TO ME—I WILL PAY IT. (vs 17-19). **1 RECONCILIATION:** GOD WAS RECONCILING THE WORLD TO HIMSELF. NOT COUNTING PEOPLE'S SINS AGAINST THEM. (2 CORINTHIANS 5:19). **2 KOINONIA:** THEY ARE EQUAL BEFORE GOD, SHARING IN THE SAME NEED FOR FARGIVENESS. "IN GOD'S NEW FAMILY, PEOPLE ARE NOT GREEK OR JEWISH, CIRCUMCISED OR UNCIRCUMCISED, SLAVE OR FREE, BUT THE MESSIAH IS ALL & IS IN ALL." (COLOSSIANS 3:11). **BROTHERS IN THE MESSIAH**

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If you are new to St Luke's Church (online too!) – welcome. Please email your details to office@stlukeswatford.org and we will email back a welcome form for you to complete.

Weekly updates by email – contact church office if you would like to receive them

St Luke's Church Office ☎ 01923 246161 <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/19467/>
Office closed on Tuesdays

Tuesday 19th

10:00 **Holy Communion**
 12:00 **Marion Edwards Funeral**
 20:00 **Focus - Zoom**

Sunday 24th

10:30 **Family Communion – 2 and 3 John**

Summer Series:

August 17 th	Philemon
August 24 th	2 and 3 John
August 31 st	Jude
September 7 th	Acts resumes...

Celebrations: Happy Birthday to Revd Michael Norman and Nikita L on the 17th August and Cynthia D on the 22nd August. Please let us know of any anniversaries and birthdays you would like to share with your church family in Christ.

Helen Donnelly is pleased to announce the safe arrival of her first granddaughter **Isabelle Naomi May Hockin**, born on 5 August, weighing 7lb7oz. Her daughter Sophie and her husband Edward are doing well.

St Luke's Magazine Please note that our **deadline for copy is Monday 8th September.**

Hospitality Team We are still looking for church members willing and able to help serve drinks and food at one-off events like funerals and weddings. Please see Michael or contact the office if you are interested.

Drama: Thank you to the helpers and actors with the drama for our series in Acts. We need more actors for the September 28th drama. Please see Pam N if you fancy a go. Children particularly welcome. Start inviting friends and neighbours to the service.

Please pray for St Luke's people at the following events over the summer:

Bethany House party 9th – 17th August
 Green Belt 21st – 24th August

Alpha Introductory Supper, Wednesday 24th September, 7.30pm. The ideal way of encouraging people to come to Alpha is through invitation. Please invite friends, family and work colleagues to come along with you to this supper. Please pray for one or two people and then ask them over the next few weeks. Remember it is our responsibility to both ask and pray; the person's response is their responsibility. Please pray for this event and the course.

Some life groups are continuing throughout the summer. If you are new to church and would like to find out more please contact the office.

Music at St Luke's The next recital will be on Sunday September 14th at 3pm with Amy Naddermier playing the flute and piccolo. Entry is free but donations are welcome. There will be refreshments served afterwards.

Marion Edwards's Funeral on Tuesday 19th August at St. Luke's at 12 noon.

Sermon Notes:

Collect for the Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty Lord
who sent your Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of your Church:
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love and joy and peace;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Let us pray for the world and the leaders of the world; for conflicts and all those suffering in the Holy Land; Gaza; Iran; Ukraine; Sudan and Sub-Saharan Africa. At home, please pray for the church, and let us thank God for his goodness. Let us encourage one another to go deeper into God's word, to pray and to persevere.

Partners in Mission: Watford Town Council Chaplaincy

Volunteer Chaplains serve the community of Watford day and night – offering comfort, support and a listening ear. Chaplains volunteer in retail, business, GP surgeries, and as Street Angels. They are resourced through funding, volunteers and prayer support from a diverse range of churches across Watford and surrounding areas. There are several St Luke's people who are involved as volunteer chaplains or Street Angels.

World Watch List: Central African Republic (*world's 27th highest area of religious persecution*)

Please pray for the marriage of Matthew and Wei Fong for all to go well in the preparations and on the joyous day itself on the 23rd August at 1pm.

Our church family in need: Di and Jeff G; Cynthia D; Janet A; Jenny R; Barbara T; Dave W; Maeve K; Valerie T; Helen J; Veronica C; Mark H; Antoinette M and Carl M; Alured D; Pat W.

Our wider family and friends in need: Heather S; Angela S's mother, Rosemary R; John M and Valerie, friends of David W; Penny A's niece, Jo; Andrew C's brother Tony; Pam N's mother, Eileen R and brother Stephen R; Janine (Gill E's sister) and others we know and love.

Those in mourning. Friends and family of **John Crowder; John Warner; Marion Edwards; Chris Bruty; Walter Paterson** and all those we know mourning loved ones at this time.

Giving Thanks: We give thanks for the many answers to prayer this week. The next prayer list is **yellow**. Please do take one home to pray over.