

From the Chaplain...

A key narrative running throughout the Gospels is that of Jesus' disciples coming to terms with what following him requires. In our New Testament reading this Sunday (Mark 10. 35-45), James and John ask Jesus to place them on his right and left hand when he enters into heavenly glory. Rather than make promises about future rewards, though, Jesus instead encourages them to prepare for a life of service (v. 43-4). The ways in which the disciples will experience both suffering and fulfilment by following Jesus is the subject of a memorable poem by William Alexander Percy (1885–1942):

They cast their nets in Galilee
Just off the hills of brown;
Such happy, simple fisherfolk,
Before the Lord came down.

Contented, peaceful fishermen,
Before they ever knew
The peace of God that filled their hearts
Brimful and broke them too.

Young John who trimmed the flapping sail,
Homeless in Patmos died.
Peter, who hauled the teeming net,
Head-down was crucified.

The peace of God, it is no peace,
But strife closed in the sod.
Yet, brothers, pray for but one thing –
The marvellous peace of God.

This Sunday, we will mark Trafalgar Sunday with a service of Choral Matins at 11.00am. Our guest preacher will be the Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, the Very Revd Andrew Tremlett. I hope you can join us for this important occasion in the Chapel year.

Yours faithfully,
Robert

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