Two Biblical Uses Of Fire

Paul Murray reflects on Matthew 3:11-12

We find ourselves in the midst of Bonfire season. Have you ever wondered what the Scriptures have to say about fire? Verses 11 and 12 in Matthew demonstrate two contrasting uses.

In Matthew 3:11 John the Baptist prophesies about Jesus, that ***"He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."*** What is meant by this?

'Baptize in Holy Spirit' indicates the immersion, soaking or drenching of someone in God's Spirit. They then begin to take on the character of Christ by the Holy Spirit's workings. It overlaps with the work of God's fire in the born-again believer. A refining by consuming all impurities.

Purification by fire was the prophetic hope (see Isaiah 1:25, 4:4; Zechariah 13:9 and Malachi 3:2) for those who needed God's restoration. Being refined by God's fire is tough but necessary.

Moving on to Matthew 3:12 ***"He … will gather His wheat into the barn. But the chaff He will burn up with unquenchable fire."***

The wheat represents true believers. The chaff is those who are not. Psalm 1:4 says "***The wicked are not like this*** [under God's blessing]***; instead, they are like chaff that the wind blows away.***

Fire will come one way or another. The contrast is clear. Purification or punishment.

November bonfires help us remember what happened in 1605; but let us be aware as we watch this tradition, that they are a reminder too of alternative future destinies.

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Most of our services can be attended in person or on Zoom.

Zoom meeting ID: 508 367 391

If you have missed a Sunday or Wednesday service, the sermons (and some services) can be accessed on the website under 'Media Library'.
Sermons are deleted after 4 months, while services are only available for 2 months.

Advent Concert

Water Orton Parish Church
Sunday 29th November at 3pm
The Coleshill Youth Band & The Church Choir
Mulled Wine & Mince Pies Available
Tickets £9
Available from Sheila Record
or Judith Fisher



The Parish Church of Water Orton

Sunday

8th November

Welcome to

Saint Peter & Saint Paul's

Our Vision:

To prepare a community to meet the Christ

Our Mission:

To worship God, grow believers and make believers

Our Values:

Word, Worship, Welcome and Wisdom



8th November – Remembrance

Today's Readings:

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

This Week's Collect Prayer

**God, our refuge and strength,
bring near the day when wars shall cease
and poverty and pain shall end,
that earth may know the peace of heaven
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen**

Welcoming Prayer

**God of mission,
who alone brings growth to your
church, send your Holy Spirit to give
vision to our planning, wisdom to our
actions and power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
in spiritual commitment to you and in
service to our local community.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen**

Today

9am	Holy Communion
10.30 am	Procession from the Digby Car Park to the Memorial, where we will hold a short service of Remembrance
3.30 pm	Quest Family at the Link

Next Sunday 15th of November

9.00 am	Holy Communion
11.00 am	Contemporary Worship (with children's groups)

Please Pray…

For the residents of Digby Close



Prayer for Remembrance Sunday

O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those whose memory we cherish, and those whose names we will never know. Help us to
lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world, and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm. As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of hope, now and for ever.
Amen.

"This I call to mind and therefore I have hope: the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning." Lamentations 3:21-23





Volunteer required to look after the small church back garden (between the Robert Lloyd Room and the Vestry). Please see Mark or Kim if you would like to help.

This week…

Tuesday

9.30-11.30 am **Café** in the Robert Lloyd room - the church is also open for the Food Bank

10.00 am Morning Prayer- Common Worship on Zoom & in church

Wednesday

10.00 am Holy Communion in church and on Zoom

7.30 pm Music Group

Thursday

7.30 pm Choir

Friday

12 for 12.30 Meet & Eat at The Link

Saturday

10.00 am The church is open for the Food Bank & for private prayer

Future Dates

Tuesday the 3rd - Tuesday the 24th of November – The Poppies will be on display in church and can be seen when the church is open.

Week beginning 9th November – Church will be open at various times for receiving shoe boxes for Samaritan's Purse. This is a wonderful opportunity for outreach, whilst supporting children in other countries who would otherwise have no Christmas presents. **A sign-up sheet is available at the back of church.**

Up to 22nd November for Ukraine Food appeal produce wanted:- toiletries, cold and flu medications, canned food (meat, fish, custard, fruit), chocolate, peanut butter, dry biscuits instant coffee, tea bags, dates, figs, raisins, instant noodles or mashed potatoes 9requiring only boiling water) as well as monetary donations for purchasing fresh meat for cooking. (there is also a constant urgent need for special fabric to make camouflage nets)

Sunday 29th November 3pm - Advent Concert. Ticket only - £9. Church lights switched on.

Thursday 3rd - Friday 4th December - Christmas through the Keyhole. This is a chance for children from the Primary School to visit church and have an interactive experience of the Christmas Story. In order for this to work, we need plenty of volunteers: to help set up on the Wednesday; to help with tours on the day; provide refreshments and run simple craft activities for the children.
Please speak to Kim if you can help in any way.

Sunday 6th December Toy Services. Toys to go to BCM for families across Birmingham.