

St. Andrew's Church, Kolkata, CNI
Roster for October 2020

04.10.20 18th Sunday after Pentecost: Though we have to face temptation, it is God's will that all should be saved.

Conductor and Preacher : Rev. Dr. Swarup Bar
Deut. 13:1-5 : Mr. Palash Dey
Matthew 18:7-14 : Mr. Ashok Pasricha

11.10.20 19th Sunday after Pentecost: Those who refuse to forgive cannot be forgiven.

Conductor and Preacher : Rev. Dr. Swarup Bar
Gen. 45:1-15 : Mr. Charles Nyss
Matthew 18:21-35 : Mrs. Devjani Samaradivakera

18.10.20 20th Sunday after Pentecost: thanksgiving for Luke, a faithful companion of Paul and the writer of Gospel.

Conductor and Preacher : Rev. Dr. Swarup Bar
2 Timothy 4:6-18 : Mr. David John
Luke 10:1-9 : Mrs. Zeena Mondal

25.10.20 21th Sunday after Pentecost: Reformation Sunday.

Conductor and Preacher : Rev. Dr. Sunil M. Caleb
Romans 11:1-6 : Dr. Mrs. Gillian Hart
Luke 11:33-end : Ms. Louisa Jackson



St. Andrew's Church
Newsletter

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The Corona Virus Pandemic

The disease that is threatening the world now is the novel coronavirus or the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2. The virus probably originated in bats and was transmitted to humans through yet unknown intermediary animals in Wuhan, Hubei province, China in December 2019. The disease is transmitted by inhalation or contact with infected droplets and the incubation period ranges from 2 to 14 d. The symptoms are usually fever, cough, sore throat, breathlessness, fatigue, malaise among others. The disease is mild in most people; in some (usually the elderly and those with comorbidities), it may progress to pneumonia, acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) and multi organ dysfunction. Many people are asymptomatic. The case fatality rate is estimated to range from 2 to 3%. Diagnosis is by demonstration of the virus in respiratory secretions by special molecular tests. Common laboratory findings include normal/ low white cell counts with elevated C-reactive protein (CRP). The computerized topographic chest scan is usually abnormal even in those with no symptoms or mild disease. Treatment is essentially supportive; role of antiviral agents is yet to be established. Prevention entails home isolation of suspected cases and those with mild illnesses and strict infection control measures at hospitals that include contact and droplet precautions. The virus spreads faster than its two ancestors the SARS-CoV and Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV), but has lower fatality. (Source: Tanu Singhal, "A Review of Coronavirus Disease -2019 (COVID-19)," <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7090728/> (25 September 2020))

The Reformation

One of the most significant events in Christian history was the Reformation which has crossed 500 years. We will highlight the contribution of John Calvin in this short article. Calvin was born in Noyon, France in 1509, the son of a lawyer who served as lay administrator of the local Catholic Cathedral. Understandably, Calvin's father encouraged him to study to become a Catholic priest. Those studies began in Paris when Calvin was only 14. He started at the College de Marche, then later studied at the College Montaigu. As Calvin made friends who supported the fledgling reform of the church, he began to drift from Catholicism. Calvin spent years studying religion, philosophy, and law. As he thought about religion more, Calvin started disagreeing with Roman Catholic



JOHN CALVIN 1509-1564

He also changed his major. Instead of studying for the priesthood, he switched to civil law, starting formal study in the city of Orleans, France. He finished his legal training in 1533 but had to flee Catholic Paris because of his association with church reformers. The Catholic Church had begun hunting heretics and in 1534 burned 24 heretics at the stake.

Calvin believed that the Bible was the only real source of truth about religion. He thought that people might not always understand God's teachings but we still had to follow them. Calvin also believed in predestination, the idea that God has foreordained human life. Many of Calvin's ideas were influenced by another important figure in the Protestant Reformation, Martin Luther. For example, Calvin adopted Luther's belief that people could not do anything to 'deserve' going to heaven. Calvin agreed with Luther that only God could choose who would go to Heaven. After publishing the *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Calvin traveled around Europe promoting his religious ideas, which came to be known as Calvinism. He ended up in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1541. The town council changed the government of Geneva to conform to Calvin's ideas, and Geneva became a Calvinist city.

(Compiled by Mr. Palash Dey)

