

# Lukewarm

△ Rev 3:14-22

## Intro

### Last special Lent Service

Next week the Dunamis team will lead the service

And quite a few are also members of St Andrews!

This is a service about commitment

We will celebrate Holy Communion together

But this is also a commitment

But first we looking at one of the seven letters of Christ to the Seven Churches in Asia

These form the introduction to the rest of Revelations, which contains visions of the battle between God and Evil

And these letters prepare the churches for the upcoming ordeal but that through the cross of Jesus Christ, God and these churches will be victorious

As long as they are prepared for it

So each church is listed with a warning and something good about them

except Laodicea

With the challenge to change and focus more on Jesus

## Laodicea

### Laodicea as a city was a rich city

It was a banking centre

They manufactured renowned cloths and carpets f

from a special glossy-black wool produced in the vicinity

Also known for its medical school, noted for its ear-ointment and eye salve

latter made of "Phyrgian powder"

A very prosperous town and therefore a very prosperous church

### Water was a problem

But they did not have a good water source

In between two cities

In the North Collosea had clean refreshing cold springs

In the South Hierapolis had healthy hot springs

Both are useful

But Laodiceas water was brought by an 6 miles aquaduct

and because of the water was hot nor cold

But tepid, lukewarm

Not pleasant to drink or to wash in

because of its temperature it carried diseases so was not safe to drink

Hot is good, Cold is good

But lukewarm - undrinkable

## The Church of Laodicea

So Christ uses these attributes of the city to also describe its church

They regarded them as the best of the best

Rich, prosperous in the need of nothing

They had gold and clothing

They had medication, and doctors

But Jesus looks at their spiritual health

In that regard they are poor and wretched

He challenges them to store treasures up in Heaven

**"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal"**

△ Matt 6:19

To buy his gold and his white robes instead of relying on their own

And then Jesus says these famous words:

<sup>20</sup> Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

They can still change, they can still accept Jesus in the life of their church

In order to prepare themselves for the

in order to prepare themselves for the upcoming ordeal, which is coming:

The next section reads: After this I looked - and John's visions change to the heaven and world stage

This is their warning

Listen, Jesus said, take heed of the warning

## St Andrews

What does this passage mean for us?

1. This passage is written to a whole church

Not individuals

although we have to respond individually as well

But the whole Laodicean Church was lukewarm

2. Are we rich?

We may not be rich in secular terms

We have members that are quite well off, and we have members that are not so well off

Our bank balance is healthy, but not abundant

But we are rich, because of the beautiful building

Nice, modern and new

Not a lot of maintenance and care issues

A lot of churches that I worked with are struggling with their buildings

**It takes a lot of energy of the members and elders to look after and maintain the building**

The larger ones in Canterbury even meet in Schools!

**We are rich as we are able to employ an administrator**

And thanks to Alice what work does need to be done is handled by her

And she does a brilliant job as well!

**We are rich because we have the Oasis café**

Yes, it takes a lot of work to do

But it is a brilliant place of outreach

**So, yes we are rich**

### 3. Complacent

**So has this made us complacent?**

**Are we relying (as a congregation) more on our resources than on our relationship with God?**

**Is Jesus standing at the door knocking?**

**The door of St Andrews?**

### 4. Not as bad as Laodicea

**Granted, we are probably not as bad as Laodicea**

**We are a very prayerful church, and many people in our congregation pray**

**Or say that they have a relationship with Jesus**

But there is always room for improvements

## How does Jesus see St Andrews?

So maybe we can spend some time together in prayer:

1. Thank Jesus for all the provisions we have been given
2. Ask Jesus how he sees St Andrews?

Is there something that he would be pleased with?

Is there something we as congregation have to repent of?

Is there something we as a congregation should do to increase our relationship with Jesus?

Perhaps we can imagine Jesus writing a letter to the Church of St Andrews

What would it say?

Amen.

# In Prayer

- 1) Thank Jesus for all the provisions we have been given
- 2) Ask Jesus how he sees St Andrews?
  - Is there something that he would be pleased with?
  - Is there something we as congregation have to repent of?
  - Is there something we as a congregation should do to increase our relationship with Jesus?
- 3) Perhaps we can image Jesus writing a letter to the Church of St Andrews What would it say?