

**Parishes of Stainton, Hilton & Brookfield**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent.

15<sup>th</sup> November

**WELCOME to our time of**

**'Worship at Home'**

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

God expects us to make the most of the gifts we have been given rather than hiding them away. They can be used both for the encouragement and building up of God's people and in the service we are called to give in our homes and families and in the world.

**COLLECT**

Heavenly Father,  
whose blessed Son was revealed  
to destroy the works of the devil  
and to make us the children of God and  
heirs of eternal life: grant that we,  
having this hope, may purify ourselves  
even as he is pure; that when he shall  
appear in power and great glory we may  
be made like him in his eternal and  
glorious kingdom; where he is alive and  
reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy  
Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
AMEN

**PSALM 90. Vs 1-8 & 12**

**Satisfy us by your loving-kindness;  
so shall we rejoice and be glad.**

1 Lord, you have been our refuge  
from one generation to another.

2 Before the mountains were brought  
forth, or the land and the earth were  
born, from age to age you are God.

3 You turn us back to the dust and say,  
'Go back, O child of earth.'

4 For a thousand years in your sight  
are like yesterday when it is past  
and like a watch in the night.

5 You sweep us away like a dream;  
we fade away suddenly like the grass.

6 In the morning it is green and  
flourishes; in the evening it is dried up  
and withered.

7 For we consume away in your  
displeasure; we are afraid because of  
your wrathful indignation.

8 Our iniquities you have set before you,  
and our secret sins in the light of your  
countenance.

12 So teach us to number our days  
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

**Satisfy us by your loving-kindness;  
so shall we rejoice and be glad.**

**The first letter of Paul to the  
Thessalonians. 5.1-11**

Concerning the times and the seasons,  
brothers and sisters, you do not need to  
have anything written to you. For you  
yourselves know very well that the day  
of the Lord will come like a thief in the  
night. When they say, 'There is peace  
and security,' then sudden destruction  
will come upon them, as labour pains  
come upon a pregnant woman, and there  
will be no escape! But you, beloved, are  
not in darkness, for that day to surprise  
you like a thief; for you are all children of  
light and children of the day; we are not  
of the night or of darkness. So then let us  
not fall asleep as others do, but let us  
keep awake and be sober; for those who

sleep, sleep at night, and those who are  
drunk get drunk at night. But since we  
belong to the day, let us be sober, and  
put on the breastplate of faith and love,  
and for a helmet the hope of salvation.  
For God has destined us not for wrath  
but for obtaining salvation through our  
Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so  
that whether we are awake or asleep we  
may live with him.

Therefore encourage one another  
and build up each other, as indeed you  
are doing.

**The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Matthew. 25.14-30**

Jesus said to his disciples, 'The kingdom  
of heaven is as if a man, going on a  
journey, summoned his slaves and  
entrusted his property to them; to one he  
gave five talents, to another two, to  
another one, to each according to his  
ability. Then he went away.

The one who had received the five talents  
went off at once and traded with them,  
and made five more talents.

In the same way, the one who had the  
two talents made two more talents.

But the one who had received the one  
talent went off and dug a hole in the  
ground and hid his master's money.

After a long time the master of those  
slaves came and settled accounts with  
them. Then the one who had received the  
five talents came forward, bringing five  
more talents, saying,

"Master, you handed over to me five  
talents; see, I have made five more  
talents."

His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."

And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents."

His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."

Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours."

But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.

For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

### **As God's people let us pray**

Loving God, we offer our prayers now for all people and their situations; for lives that are going through upheaval or distress; for circumstances which only you can change.

We pray for the Church throughout the world, remembering those Christians in countries where their beliefs make them vulnerable and in danger. Uphold and strengthen all who are persecuted for their faith. We give thanks for our church and for Claire our Priest. Give us a renewed vision of what it is for us to be your church, in this place, at this time.

Creator God, we pray for peace in the world, for understanding between nations, religions and factions and for an end to old scores which remain unsettled. We pray for all people of faith, asking that we may live alongside one another in this world, in mutual respect and harmony.

We pray too for fair shares and fair trade and that the talents of the workers of the world are fairly rewarded.

Father God, we thank you for the gifts, talents and abilities you have given each of us praying that a deeper understanding of those talents can be used and shared within our church, and the community. .

Forgiving God, send your healing to all who are suffering in any way. Help to mend broken relationships. Be with all who feel that through ill health they cannot enjoy life as it used to be. We

especially pray for the sick and suffering in our plurality and give you thanks for those who are on the road to recovery. May they and we feel that you are always walking beside us.

Merciful God, we remember those who have died and those who are bereaved. May the light of Christ which eternally shines bring hope to their dark places. We especially pray for those whose anniversary falls at this time and for those who still feel their loss.

Gracious God, forgive us when we only turn to you when things trouble us and when we forget to thank you for your blessings. Help us to recognise all the wonderful things in your world for which we should be grateful and send us out into the coming week ready to show our gratitude in all that we do and say.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

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