

Plurality of Brookfield and Stainton with Hilton

27TH December 2020

Feast day of St John the Evangelist

Thought for the day

An old proverb says: Don't curse the darkness –light a candle. St John describes Jesus as the light of the world - a light that shines in the darkest of times and places and is not overcome.

COLLECT

Merciful Lord, cast your bright beams of light upon the Church: that, being enlightened by the teaching of your blessed apostle and evangelist Saint John, we may so walk in the light of your truth that we may at last attain to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ your incarnate Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for Amen

A reading from the book of Exodus. 33.7–11a

Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp; he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise and stand, each of them, at the entrance of their tents and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent. When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the LORD would speak with Moses. When all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise and bow down, all of them, at the entrance of their tents. Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend.

PSALM 117

The Lord spoke to him face to face as one speaks to a friend.

1 Praise the Lord, all you nations;
laud him, all you peoples.
2 For his loving-kindness towards us is great,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for ever.
Alleluia!

A reading from the first letter of John. ch1

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life – this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us – we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.

If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. 21.19b–25

After this Jesus said to Peter, 'Follow me.' Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; he was the one who had reclined next to Jesus at the supper and had said, 'Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?' When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, Lord, what about him?' Jesus said to him, 'If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!' So the rumour spread in the community that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, 'If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?' This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

The Gospel of John contains the "I am" sayings which teach us a great deal about Jesus.

I am the bread of life (6.35)

I am the light of the world (8.12)

I am the gate for the sheep (10.7)

I am the good shepherd (10.11)

I am the way, and the truth, and the life (14.6)

I am the vine, you are the branches (15.5)

CHURCH WARDENS AT STAINTON

Vernon Clare 01642 592186

Colin Mason Tel: 01642 591667

CHURCH WARDENS AT HILTON

Barbara Sowerby 01642 591532

Sally Hamlin 01642 590385

CHURCH WARDEN AT BROOKFIELD

Graham Wilson