

**Plurality of Stainton with Hilton and Brookfield**

**Epiphany 3 : 24<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**WELCOME :-** glad you could join us

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

Signs of glory lead us to believe in  
Jesus as Lord and Saviour

**COLLECT**

**Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence : renew your people with your heavenly grace , and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power ; through Jesus Christ our Lord , who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever Amen**

*Melchizedek is a strange shadowy figure who emerges briefly in the Book of Genesis as an ancient priest-king bearing gifts and the reassurance of God's blessing which Abram badly needed at this time . In an era of paganism and idolatry, Melchizedek clung to God Most High and served him faithfully.*

**The book of Genesis.** ch14.17-20

After Abram's return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).  
And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. He blessed him and said, 'Blessed be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into our hand!' And Abram gave him one-tenth of everything.

**Psalm 128**

**R Whoever fears the Lord shall indeed be blessed.**

1 Happy are they all who fear the Lord, and who follow in his ways!

2 You shall eat the fruit of your labour; happiness and prosperity shall be yours.

3 Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine within your house, your children like olive shoots round about your table.

4 Whoever fears the Lord shall thus indeed be blessed.

5 The Lord bless you from Zion, and may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of our life.

6 May you live to see your children's children; may peace be upon Israel.

**The book of Revelation.** ch 19.6-10

I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out, 'Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready; to her it has been granted to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure' – for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to

the marriage supper of the Lamb.' And he said to me, 'These are true words of God.' Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, 'You must not do that! I am a fellow-servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'

**The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.** ch2.1-11

There was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.

When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.'

5 His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it.

When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the

servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

### **Prayers**

As we come to the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian unity let us not forget that in our different ways we all worship one God and Saviour .

So we pray for church leaders everywhere that they may work together to promote unity among Christians.

Pray also that we might establish friendly relationships with all people of faith and so help to bring healing to the world

Let us pray for all who work for justice and peace, for leaders of the nations that they will continue to seek for an end to the suffering caused by war and violence, injustice and inequality, disease and prejudice, poverty and hopelessness, so that people may live with hope and contentment.

Let us raise before God those who are sick, sad or lonely and those who are brave and patient when things are going wrong. We pray that they may be aware of your comforting presence and know that in your hands they are safe and loved.

We especially pray today for all who are involved in administering the Vaccine injections, giving thanks for the scientists whose work will benefit us all. We pray for the hard pressed doctors and nurses in our hospitals and all front line workers who risk their safety for us.

Father, we pray for those who have died and ask you, through your loving kindness, to have mercy on their souls. Be with the bereaved in their loneliness and give them the faith to look beyond their present troubles to your Son Jesus Christ who died and rose again and who lives for ever.

As we prepare for the weeks ahead Father we praise you that we are members of your church, sisters and brothers together in Christ. Help us to be united to one another by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

### ***Of the Marriage at Cana***

By Rainer Maria Rilke

*Could she do otherwise than be proud of him  
who made the simplest beautiful to her?  
Was not even the lofty, large-accustomed night  
as if beside itself when he appeared?  
Ah, surely she had hundreds of times restrained  
herself from radiating her delight in him.  
She followed him amazed.  
But there at that wedding feast, when  
unexpectedly there was no wine, –  
she looked across and begged him for a gesture  
and did not understand that he protested  
And then he did it. She realized later how she  
had pressed him into his way:  
for now he really was performing miracles, and  
the whole sacrifice was decreed, irresistibly.  
Yes, it was written. But was it already then  
prepared?  
She had brought it on in the blindness of her  
vanity.  
At the table full of fruits and vegetables she  
rejoiced with the rest and did not understand  
that the water of her tear-glands had turned to  
blood with this wine.*

**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 01642 595597**