

**Parishes of Stainton with Hemlington,  
Hilton and Brookfield**  
**Lent 3 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**Welcome** let us worship together

**Thought for the Day**

God's wisdom may shock us. Jesus, obedient to God's Law and fulfilling it, dies a death which, according to the Law, makes him cursed. *Susan Sayer*

**Collect** Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

*Israel had been liberated from slavery in Egypt and had set out into the wilderness. The people had encountered thirst and hunger, and God had provided sweet water and bread from heaven. They had been attacked and had been victorious, and they had finally reached Sinai. Now God made a Covenant with them. They must follow his commands if they are to remain his people*

**The book of Exodus.** Ch 20.1-17

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt,

out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work – you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.  
You shall not steal.  
You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.  
You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

**Psalm 19**

**R You, Lord, have the words of eternal life.**

1 The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows his handiwork.

2 One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.

3 Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,

4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world.

5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

7 The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the

Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.

8 The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.

9 The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; the judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb. O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

### **The first letter of Paul to the Corinthians. ch1.18-25**

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.' Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe.

For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to

those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

*In Jesus' time it had become normal for the marketing side of worship to flourish and the petty corruption involved was something that everyone had come to expect and live with. But Jesus found it offensive*

### **Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. Ch 2.13-22**

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' They then said, 'This temple has

been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

### **Prayers**

**Pray** for the church, the body of Christ, with all her many gifts and problems.

**Pray** for the world in all its beauty and richness and with sadness remember the worldwide sin of inequality and violence

**Pray** for those we love who we may not have seen for some time. For those we know who need our love and prayers.

**Pray** for those who have died and those who mourn their passing. Have mercy on them Lord, may they and we in our turn rest in the peace of your enfolding love.

**Give thanks** for the loving example of Jesus who was obedient even to death, who offers us strength as we try to follow his teaching. Lord in your mercy hear our prayers

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