

Stainton with Hemlington, Hilton, and Brookfield
Easter 5, 2nd May 2021

Welcome to worship at home

Thought for the day

Those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen .

1John 4;20

Collect

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

The Acts of the Apostles. Ch 8.26–40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.)

So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.'

So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked,

'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.' The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Psalm 22.24–30

R All the ends of the earth shall turn to you, O Lord.

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly, I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: 'May your heart live for ever!'

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

27 For kingship belongs to the Lord; he rules over the nations.

28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust fall before him.

29 My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn the saving deeds that he has done.

The first letter of John. ch4.7–21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God,' and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.ch 15.1-8

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches.

Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples

This is the gospel of the Lord

Prayers of Intercession

Almighty God, Teach us your ways, help us to share your love and peace, if there is discord in any area of our lives let us work to achieve reconciliation. Guide your followers that we may lead others to know your love and glory. May we as your church never forget to hold in our prayers Christians in many places of the world who are persecuted for their faith or denied their right to worship you in freedom and safety. Help us not to forget or to undervalue the freedom to worship that we enjoy . **Lord God teach us to love as you love**

Loving Father we remember before you all who live in poverty in our world. Where crops have failed, or fresh water is difficult to find, where war has destroyed food supplies let us all reach out to aid them. In this country we pray for those who cannot earn enough to meet their bills; those who rely on Food Banks to be able to feed their families. We pray for the homeless in our own land; and in many places where children

are growing up never having known a comfortable safe home. Guide, strengthen and bless all who work to comfort and provide for people in need however that need has arisen . **Lord God teach us to love as you love**

Lord you are our strength and hope in life's dark times. So we pray for all who are ill in body ,mind or spirit, *Pray for those known to you who are in need of prayer Give thanks for any who are on the way to recovery*

We give thanks for the skills and dedication of doctors, nurses and carers, and we thank you for all who patiently, lovingly, care at home.

Lord we ask your comfort and support for those recently bereaved and for those who can only watch, wait and pray as life draws to its end. **Lord God teach us to love as you love**

We remember and give you thanks for all the friends and family we have known and loved who are now at rest in you in the hope that your son our Lord Jesus promised to all believers **Amen**



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