

**Parishes of Stainton with Hemlington,
Hilton and Brookfield**
11th July -- 6th Sunday after Trinity
Welcome to worship at home

Thought for the day

Walking God's way is not the comfortable option for wimps. Perhaps the Bible should have a safety warning pasted on the front cover '*Following the God you meet through these pages is usually dangerous*'

Susan Sayers

COLLECT

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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.

The book of the prophet Amos. Ch 7.7-15

We hear of Amos being told to clear off and go back to his farming because he proclaimed a message from God which his listeners did not want to hear....

This is what the Lord God showed me:

the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand.

And the LORD said to me, 'Amos, what do you see?' And I said, 'A plumb line.' Then the Lord said, 'See, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass them by; the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.'

Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, 'Amos has conspired against you in the very centre of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. For thus Amos has said, "Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land."' "

And Amaziah said to Amos, 'O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.' Then Amos answered Amaziah, 'I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, "Go, prophesy to my people Israel."' "

Psalm 85.8-13

**R Show us your mercy, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.**

8 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to him.

9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

10 Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

13 Righteousness shall go before him, and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

**Show us your mercy, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.**

The letter of Paul to the Ephesians. Ch 1.3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark. Ch 6.14-29

King Herod heard of the healings and other miracles, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, 'John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him.'

But others said, 'It is Elijah.' And others said,

‘It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.’
 But when Herod heard of it, he said, ‘John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.’ For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, ‘It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.’ And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, ‘Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it.’ And he solemnly swore to her, ‘Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.’ She went out and said to her mother, ‘What should I ask for?’ She replied, ‘The head of John the Baptist.’ Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, ‘I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptizer on a platter.’ The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John’s head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb

John was beheaded for faithfully speaking God’s word, still Jesus sends his disciples out into the countryside in pairs, preaching repentance and the Kingdom for all they are worth.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We lift our prayers to you, O Lord, for people everywhere, those close to us and those far away, for those who are hoping to take holidays as Covid restrictions are lifted. Keep them safe and let them return refreshed to their homes.

We pray for those who minister and preach asking that they may find the courage to speak God’s word even when to do so brings scorn and rejection for them . We pray for ourselves that we may grow in faith and be able to share our beliefs with others even when it is uncomfortable for us to do so. But help us also to respect the beliefs of others even if we do not share them, and to celebrate what we have in common.

Creator God help us to remember that we are but a small part of your greater creation ; help us to work towards the greater good of this world we live in, willing to change our ways to promote regeneration and the re-wilding of barren areas for the good of us all.

Lord, we pray for peacemakers, aid workers, and all who care in the most deprived areas of our world, may they bring hope out of despair, peace out of conflict and prosperity out of poverty.

Father God we pray for our families and friends and especially for our young people, that they may grow up knowing love and hope, valuing life and respecting others.

We pray for those who are about move on to the next stage in their lives. School leavers, those now seeking apprenticeships, or places in further education.

Merciful God we pray for all who suffer in body, mind or spirit that they may find strength in their infirmity and loving care. And we give thanks for all carers, doctors, nurses with their heavy work loads and loving patience.

Heavenly Father, we pray for those whose time in this life is coming to its end, and for those who will mourn their passing. We remember those who have died who we keep in our memories and who are now in your safe keeping .

Faithful God we pray for ourselves; as we go from our worship today to start the week ahead.

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

Let us end with the Lord’s Prayer .

As a species we do not take criticism positively , but beat it off at all costs, even though it can help us grow. It is a mark of great maturity to be able to welcome criticism in order to learn from it . We need to pray for courage to speak out as God’s people and get on with the work we have been chosen to do, however we are received. All too often the first hint of opposition or waning popularity shuts us up. But if the early church had followed a similar line how many of us would have heard the good news of God’s love ?.

Susan Sayers

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