

**Parishes of Stainton with Hemlington,  
Hilton and Brookfield**  
**18th July -- 7th Sunday after Trinity**

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT HOME**

**Thought for the day**

The Bible is a collection of documents written by over 40 people in 3 languages over 1400 years which are studied and still relevant after a further 2000 years.

**COLLECT**- *the special prayer for Trinity 7*  
Lord of all power and might,  
the author and giver of all good things:  
graft in our hearts the love of your name,  
increase in us true religion, nourish us  
with all goodness, and of your great  
mercy keep us in the same;  
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 Jeremiah.**  
ch23.1-6

*We hear of God lamenting over the bad leadership of his chosen people. He sees them scattering in all directions, confused and undisciplined. A promise is made to draw them back under God's charge.*

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I

will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD. The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

**Psalm 23**

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul and guides me along right pathways for his name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

**The letter of Paul to the Ephesians**

ch2.11-22.

*Paul sets out the important aspects of Jesus' leadership. The breaking down of barriers between people, and the drawing together of those from different traditions*

*and backgrounds into unity through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

Remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called 'the uncircumcision' by those who are called 'the circumcision' – a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands – remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought nearby the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

## **The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.** ch6.30–34, 53–56

*The people's demands were ceaseless. Jesus knows that part of his leadership responsibility is to provide periods of rest and refreshment for his disciples and for himself. On this occasion it wasn't to be. The people kept coming and Jesus is never recorded in the gospels as turning anyone away.*

The apostles returned from their mission. They gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while'. For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the market-places, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

This is the Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, O Christ**

## **Prayers of intercession**

To God the Father who created the world, to God the Son who redeemed the world, to God the Holy Spirit who sustains the world; be all praise and glory now and forever.

Everlasting God, we pray that as Covid restrictions are lifted and our society and our churches feel their way forward, we may be able to renew our relationship with one another and with you. May we find refreshment and peace and, most of all, your enduring presence.

### **Lord hear my Prayer**

Creator God, we pray for our government as it debates the cutting of foreign aid. We think of the people of our world who are less fortunate than we are, especially those who live in the third world, in countries where there is very little governmental stability and in countries where there is drought or famine and where the Covid virus is out of control and vaccine in short supply. Help us to remember those who are weary with the relentless struggle to keep alive; those who can never look forward to a good meal and a comfortable bed, and those who barely have the necessities of life, much less so many material luxuries which we so often take for granted. **Lord hear my Prayer**

Father God may the needs of our families, friends and neighbours be made clear to us this week, and may we find that in our giving to them we grow closer to you. We thank you for those whose work keeps us in safety and comfort; for all who work in retail, for those who grow and provide our food, for those who, day and night, maintain public services; for the police, and emergency services, and for all whose work is in the local health service.

**Lord hear my Prayer**

Healing God, we raise before you those who are sick. We ask that you will ease their pain and heal the damage done to them in body, mind or spirit. Be present with them through the support of friends and in the care of doctors and nurses, fill them with the warmth of your love now and always. **Lord hear my Prayer**

Merciful God we commend into your hands those whom we have loved and now have lost. You gave them breath, and loved and cared for them throughout their lives. Receive them now in your eternal kingdom and may they rest in peace and rise in glory. **Lord hear my Prayer**  
Faithful God, give us the strength and courage to walk alongside those in need, to fight for justice for the oppressed and to allow others to see you in us and in all that we do in the coming week.

**Lord hear my Prayer. Amen**

Let us join in the prayer that Christians the world over know and love .... **Our Father, who art in heaven, ..**

**B**asic  
**I**nspiration  
**B**y  
**L**iving  
**E**xamples

**Stories of real people, encountering a real God, in real places and trying to make sense of it.**

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