

**Parishes of Stainton with Hemlington,  
Hilton and Brookfield  
22nd August –  
12th Sunday after Trinity**

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT HOME**

**Thought for the day**

Most of the choices we make in life are fairly unimportant. It will probably make very little difference whether we choose vanilla or raspberry ripple, ten o'clock or 10.15, Chrysanthemum or Asters . But the big important decision , which drives everything else we decide, is the direction we choose to take as we walk through life. *Susan Sayers*

**COLLECT**

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you are always more ready to hear than we  
to pray and to give more than either  
we desire or deserve: pour down upon us  
the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us  
those things of which our conscience is  
afraid and giving us those good things  
which we are not worthy to ask but through  
the merits and mediation of 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. Amen

**A reading from the book of Joshua.**

*The people are free to choose but they must make a choice. Who will they serve; the gods of Egypt where they had been enslaved; the god of the people where they are now living; or would they be faithful to the Lord. Joshua lays out the costs and the benefits.*

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves

before God. And Joshua said to all the people, 'Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.' Then the people answered, 'Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.'

**Psalm 34.15–22**

**I sought the Lord, and he answered me**

15 The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open to their cry.  
16 The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.

17 The righteous cry and the Lord hears them and delivers them from all their troubles.

18 The Lord is near to the broken hearted and will save those whose spirits are crushed

19 Many are the troubles of the righteous, but the Lord will deliver him out of them all.  
20 He will keep safe all his bones; not one of them shall be broken.  
21 Evil shall slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be punished.  
22 The Lord ransoms the life of his servants, and none will be punished who trust in him.

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.**

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an

ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

**Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.**

Jesus said to the crowd: 'Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.'

He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. When many of his disciples heard it, they said, 'This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?' But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, 'Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, 'For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.'

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, 'Do you also wish to go away?'

Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.'

*In our own age, in a desire to allow freedom and engender mutual respect people tend to distrust any absolutes , preferring to think of all truth as relative and a matter of individual choice . It takes courage to profess our faith in Jesus and we may find ourselves in the minority. Susan Sayers*

**PRAYERS**

Everlasting God we come before you in this time of prayer to give you thanks for all you have done for us. Help us to be aware of your presence and hear your voice and make us always ready to obey and do your will. We pray for Christians throughout the world especially for those in areas of unrest and opposition . Lord let their faith and ours remain strong.

**Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer**

We thank you for all those who serve you so diligently; for Stephen, Archbishop of York; Paul , Bishop of Whitby; Amanda, Archdeacon of Cleveland; Tessa, Stokesley Area Dean; Claire our Vicar and for all who minister and for all who join with us in worship.

**Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer**

We pray for peace in all the parts of the world torn apart by war and terrorism. Give to world leaders and governments the wisdom and desire to make the right decisions and to work together for the good of all.

**Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer**

Gracious God we thank you for our family, friends and neighbours and for those around us with whom we work and share our daily lives. Give us a true awareness that we all

share your world with others and help us to make our homes welcoming places that reflect our Christian beliefs.

**Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer**

We pray for all who are ill in body, mind or spirit or in any need, may they find healing and support. May the lonely find friendship, the depressed find their darkness lightened, the sorrowing be comforted.

**Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer**

We remember and give thanks for the lives and example of those who have died in the faith of Christ and for the privilege of sharing our lives with them. Be with those who mourn and open their minds that they may find hope and the will to carry on despite the heaviness of heart they are now experiencing.

**Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer**

Holy God thank you for helping us to pray; deepen our loving so that as daily we pray through this coming week we may do it with love and sincerity in sure and certain knowledge of your abiding presence.

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

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