

**Parishes of Stainton with Hemlington,
Hilton and Brookfield
5th Sept –
14th Sunday after Trinity**

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT HOME

Thought for the day

God knows how easily we suppose that he can't see what we don't disclose.

St Augustine stood morality on its head
“ Love God and do as you want” he said

COLLECT

Almighty God,
whose only Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your presence:
give us pure hearts and steadfast wills
to worship you in spirit and in truth;
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 Isaiah.ch35.4-7a

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance, with terrible
recompense. He will come and save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then
the lame shall leap like a deer, and the
tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For
waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert; the burning
sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty
ground springs of water.

Psalm 146

**R You open wide your hand, O Lord,
and satisfy our needs.**

1 Alleluia! Praise the Lord, O my soul!
I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I
have my being.

2 Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any
child of earth, for there is no help in
them.

3 When they breathe their last, they
return to earth, and in that day their
thoughts perish.

4 Happy are they who have the God of
Jacob for their help! whose hope is in
the Lord their God;

5 Who made heaven and earth, the
seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps his promise for ever;

6 Who gives justice to those who are
oppressed, and food to those who
hunger

7 The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed
down;

8 The Lord loves the righteous;
the Lord cares for the stranger;
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.

9 The Lord shall reign for ever, your
God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Alleluia!

*James writes about the custom for
wealthy people, even when they became
converts, to expect deference and to
display their wealth by the wearing
many gold rings on every finger except
the middle ones on both hands, often
hiring more than they owned, as a sign
of status. The Christian Church was the
only place where social distinctions did*

*not (should not) exist. But James had a
fear that snobbery was invading the
Church. Clement of Alexandria (a Christian
philosopher) recommended that Christians
should wear only one ring on the little
finger and it should have a religious
emblem such as a dove or a fish embossed
on it so that it had a purpose. It could be
used as a seal.*

The letter of James. ch 2.1-10, 14-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your
acts of favouritism really believe in our
glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person
with gold rings and in fine clothes comes
into your assembly, and if a poor person in
dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take
notice of the one wearing the fine clothes
and say, 'Have a seat here, please,' while
to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand
there,' or, 'Sit at my feet,' have you not
made distinctions among yourselves, and
become judges with evil thoughts?
Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters.
Has not God chosen the poor in the world
to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the
kingdom that he has promised to those
who love him? But you have dishonoured
the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress
you? Is it not they who drag you into
court? Is it not they who blaspheme the
excellent name that was invoked over you?
You do well if you really fulfil the royal law
according to the scripture, 'You shall love
your neighbour as yourself.' But if you
show partiality, you commit sin and are
convicted by the law as transgressors.
For whoever keeps the whole law but fails
in one point has become accountable for all
of it. What good is it, my brothers and

sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,' and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark. ch 7.24-37

Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go – the demon has left your daughter.' So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be

opened.' And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'

Prayer for Afghanistan
(from the Church of Scotland)

All-loving God, Your hands have fashioned every lovely corner of this treasured planet, and the beautiful land of Afghanistan is as precious as every other place Your children call 'home'. By its rivers and mountains, its fields and gardens, its busy towns and ancient villages, it is the heart's desire of its people and the place where their lives and loves are nurtured. We grieve today with those who grieve over Afghanistan, the people who call it home, the people exiled or suddenly having to leave, and the men and women from other countries who have made sacrifices in recent years in the cause of that country's future.

We remember with renewed sadness the loss of lives of military personnel during the years of this country's involvement in Afghanistan, conscious of the questions that must today be troubling the minds of those in our community who were bereaved, those who were wounded on operations, and those who were forever changed by experiences suffered there. We pray for peace, dignity, freedom and confidence for the men, women and children of Afghanistan; for courage, vision and generosity within the

international community responding to such need; and for tranquillity of mind amongst our own Service community and its wider family. In the name of Jesus Christ, the peace-giver, we pray, AMEN

We turn to our own neighbourhood and pray for our families and friends; for those we will meet and walk alongside today, this week, in the coming months. We pray for our church communities as we feel our way back to normality as the pandemic ebbs and flows. We hold before God people daring to return to work, and those on holiday. We ask God's blessing on young people returning to schools and colleges.

We pray for those we know who are ill; who are lonely; depressed; who need our prayers and our care. Help us Lord to reach out as your followers to any who feel unloved. We pray that our churches will demonstrate Jesus' love for all people. We hold before God any who are making the last journey from this world into His safer keeping; we grieve with those who will face the loss of their presence and the challenges of bereavement.

We end with thanksgiving for all God's gifts to us. Merciful Father hear our prayers Amen

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