

**Parishes of Stainton with Hemlington,
Hilton and Brookfield
23rd January 2022
3rd Sunday of Epiphany
WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT HOME**

Thought for the day

" I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen; not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.

~ C.S. Lewis

COLLECT

Almighty God,
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your mighty power;
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. **Amen**

**A reading from the book of Nehemiah.
ch 8.1-3, 5-6, 8-10**

1 All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel.
2 Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month.
3 He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.
5 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the

people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up.
6 Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen,' lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.
8 So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.
9 And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law.
10 Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.'

Psalm 19

R Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.

1 The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows his handiwork.
2 One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.
3 Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,
4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world.
5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it

again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.
7 The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.
8 The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.
9 The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; the judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb
11 By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.
12 Who can tell how often he offends? Cleanse me from my secret faults.
13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offence.
14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Ch 12.12-31a

12 Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.
13 For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.
14 Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.
15 If the foot would say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body.
16 And if the ear would say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body.

17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?
18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.
19 If all were a single member, where would the body be?
20 As it is, there are many members, yet one body.
21 The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.'
22 On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,
23 and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect;
24 whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member,
25 that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another
26 If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.
27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.
28 And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership various kinds of tongues.
29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?
30 Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?
31 But strive for the greater gifts.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. ch4.14-21

14 Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country.
15 He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.
16 When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read,
17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:
18 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free,
19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'
20 And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.
21 Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

PRAYERS

Lord, we pray to you for the unity of all Christians everywhere. Lord of the living word, give us the faith to receive your message, the wisdom to understand it, and the courage to practise it.

Lord, we pray for all who speak up for tomorrow's world: who work for action on climate change, those who continue to plant trees to renew the soil, who speak on behalf of endangered species and habitats. Lord of Creation you have made this world and we are privileged to dwell here.

Lord, help us to remember that the world does not revolve around ourselves: when we see nothing beyond ourselves, our world shrinks to be a poor existence. Help us to look outward, to share your love and tenderness with those with whom we live and share our lives, even those we find it hard to warm to.

Lord, we bring before you all those who are suffering in body, mind or spirit. Grant them relief from their distress, and courage to bear what they must bear. Above all, enfold them in your loving arms so that they may be comforted and encouraged by your presence. We pray for all who are ill: all who are disadvantaged in our society. We remember that others in our rich world are hungry; children starving and dying of cold. Awaken our generosity Lord.

We pray for those who have recently departed this life. We remember especially our dear friend Penny Ferguson. May she rest in your love and be renewed and restored by your almighty power. Comfort, we pray, those who mourn.

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

"I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble." ~ *Helen Keller*

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