

**Parishes of Stainton with Hemlington,
Hilton and Brookfield
30th January 2022
4th Sunday of Epiphany
WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT HOME**

Thought for the day

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. Martin Luther king Jnr.

COLLECT

God our creator, who in the beginning commanded the light to shine out of darkness: we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief, shine into the hearts of all your people, and reveal the knowledge of your glory in the face 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 the prophet Ezekiel. ch43.27 – 44.4

The LORD said to Ezekiel:

27 'When these days are over, then from the eighth day onward the priests shall offer upon the altar your burnt offerings and your offerings of well-being; and I will accept you, says the Lord GOD.'

1 Then he brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary, which faces east: and it was shut.

2 The LORD said to me: This gate shall remain shut: it shall not be opened, and no one shall enter by it; for the LORD, the God of Israel, has entered by it; therefore it shall remain shut.

3 Only the prince, because he is a prince, may sit in it to eat food before the LORD: he shall enter by way of the vestibule of the gate and shall go out by the same way.

4 Then he brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple; and I looked, and lo! the glory of the LORD filled the temple of the LORD: and I fell upon my face.

Psalm 48

R We have waited on your loving-kindness, O God, in the midst of your temple.

1 Great is the Lord and highly to be praised; in the city of our God is his holy hill.

2 Beautiful and lofty, the joy of all the earth, is the hill of Zion, the very centre of the world and the city of the great king.

3 God is in her citadels; he is known to be her sure refuge.

4 Behold, the kings of the earth assembled and marched forward together.

5 They looked and were astounded; they retreated and fled in terror.

6 Trembling seized them there; they writhed like a woman in childbirth, like ships of the sea when the east wind shatters them.

7 As we have heard, so have we seen, in the city of the Lord of hosts, in the city of our God; God has established her for ever.

8 We have waited in silence on your loving-kindness, O God, in the midst of your temple.

9 Your praise, like your name, O God, reaches to the world's end; your right hand is full of justice.

10 Let Mount Zion be glad and the cities of Judah rejoice, because of your judgements.

11 Make the circuit of Zion; walk round about her; count the number of her towers.

12 Consider well her bulwarks; examine her strongholds; that you may tell those who come after.

13 This God is our God for ever and ever; he shall be our guide for evermore.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Ch 13.1–13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Love is a tricky word. It is most often understood as an intense feeling of deep affection. Biblically, love has a much deeper and richer meaning; it transcends a feeling or emotion. Love is the common denominator in how we relate—to God, to others, or to ourselves. As followers of Christ, love is our trademark . Author unknown

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. ch2.22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she

came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

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

PRAYERS

Faithful God, we thank you for the example of Simeon and Anna, and their faithful service and witness, for their patient waiting for Christ to be revealed. Help us to serve you faithfully and patiently, watching for you to be revealed in our own lives.

Lord, we pray for all who work for peace and unity, and for all world leaders that they will continue to seek for an end to the suffering caused by war and violence, injustice and inequality, disease and prejudice, poverty and hopelessness and bring healing to the world. Help us to do our part to spread the warmth of Your love to everyone we meet.

Gracious God, we pray for the dedication and service of all carers in their various places of work, especially those who feel under pressure at this time

We pray for all who are finding life painful, lonely or uncertain. Be with any who are waiting in fear for test results, or who have received a life changing diagnosis. Comfort those who are ill, protect the vulnerable. Help them to sense your presence in their times of need .

Merciful Lord, your love reaches beyond the grave. At the end of our days on earth be with us and with those we love. May those who have

gone before us rest in your eternal peace. We remember before you those who have died and we pray for all whose life is saddened by the death of a loved one, be with them in their loneliness

Everlasting God, we pray for ourselves; as we start the week ahead, we ask that in all we do, we may walk more closely with you at our side safe in the knowledge that your fatherly love and care knows no bounds.

CANDLEMAS 2nd February is the day when we remember that the Virgin Mary, in obedience to Jewish law, went to the Temple in Jerusalem both to be purified 40 days after the birth of Jesus, and to present him to God as her firstborn. The ancient world had many festivals in February but the first mention of a Christian festival comes in the late 4th century celebrated on the 14th February 40 days after Epiphany. In 542 the date was changed to 2nd Feb; 40 days after Christmas. By the middle of the 5th century it became the custom to bless and light candles – as a reminder of Christ as ' the light of the world'. Sufficient candles would be blessed to last through the year. **CANDLEMAS** ends the Christmas and Epiphany Season and in some Christian traditions marks the day to take down the decorations and to remove the Crib from Church.

CHURCH WARDENS AT STAINTON

Vernon Clare 01642 592186

Colin Mason Tel: 01642 591667

CHURCH WARDENS AT HILTON

Barbara Sowerby 01642 591532

Angela Sayer 01642 594792

CHURCH WARDEN AT BROOKFIELD

Graham Wilson 01642 595597