

**Parishes of Stainton with Hemlington,
Hilton and Brookfield**

19th June

1st Sunday after TRINITY

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT HOME

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The astrologer Galileo was asked how he could reconcile the vastness of the universe with the idea of the care of God for every one of his creatures. He replied "the Sun which has all those planets revolving around it, is able to ripen the smallest bunch of grapes as though it had nothing else to do in the Universe"

Collect

God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; 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 the prophet

Isaiah. ch 65.1-9

The word of the Lord through the prophet:

1 I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask, to be found by those who did not seek me. I said, 'Here I am, here I am,' to a nation that did not call on my name.

2 I held out my hands all day long to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, following their own devices;

3 a people who provoke me to my face continually, sacrificing in gardens and offering incense on bricks;

4 who sit inside tombs, and spend the night in secret places; who eat swine's flesh, with broth of abominable things in their vessels; 5 who say, 'Keep to yourself, do not come near me, for I am too holy for you.' These are a smoke in my nostrils, a fire that burns all day long.

6 See, it is written before me:

I will not keep silent, but I will repay;

I will indeed repay into their laps

7 their iniquities and their ancestors'

iniquities together, says the LORD;

because they offered incense on the

mountains and reviled me on the hills,

I will measure into their laps full payment

for their actions.

8 Thus says the LORD: As the wine is found in the cluster, and they say, 'Do not destroy it, for there is a blessing in it,' so I will do for my servants' sake, and not destroy them all.

9 I will bring forth descendants from Jacob, and from Judah inheritors of my mountains; my chosen shall inherit it, and my servants shall settle there.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Life was not easy for the small groups of exiles who returned to Judah after Persia's defeat of Babylon in 539bc. They needed someone to blame, as people do. Some of them blamed God and turned from Him to embrace the practice of pagan rituals. "Sacrificing in gardens" (verse 3) seems to refer to fertility rituals, and those who "sit inside tombs and spend the night in secret places" (verse 4) seems to be those who engage in rituals for consulting the dead. They eat the flesh of swine, which was forbidden, and they consider themselves set apart by their worship of other gods. Their disobedience and lack of faith have made them repugnant to God.

Some of the people have remained faithful and so

a remnant, a chosen few, will be redeemed, who will receive all that had been promised to Israel. (Verse8) "As the winemaker does not destroy a whole cluster (bunch of grapes) because of one sour grape, so God will not destroy all of Israel.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians. Ch 3.23-29

23 Before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed.

24 Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith.

25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian,

26 for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.

27 As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ;

28 There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free,

there is no longer male and female;

for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

29 And if you belong to Christ,

then you are Abraham's offspring,

heirs according to the promise.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. ch8.26-39

Glory to you, O Lord

26 Jesus and his disciples arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee.

27 As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs.

28 When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, 'What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me' -

29 for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.)

30 Jesus then asked him, 'What is your name?' He said, 'Legion'; for many demons had entered him.

31 They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

32 Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these.

So he gave them permission.

33 Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

34 When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country.

35 Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid.

36 Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed.

37 Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned.

38 The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying,

39 'Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.'

So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you , O Christ

Prayers

As we at last glimpse the promise of sun and summer, let us feel Our Father's love through the Holy Spirit and let us pray in the knowledge of that love shown to us through the everlasting gift of his Son, Our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

We pray for the Christian church throughout the world, especially where people risk their lives for the sake of their beliefs. We pray for the Church in our diocese of York and for Archbishop Stephen, Bishop Paul, Archdeacon Amanda, Vicar Claire and for Christians of all denominations in our neighbourhood. Lord God we ask you to bless all who minister in your name especially we ask a blessing on all who were ordained in the past week. We pray for those who have lapsed in their faith, those who are troubled with doubt. Let them feel your nearness.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Creator God, we pray for all who have influence and authority among the nations, through their political standing, fame or wealth; place in their hearts the desire for righteousness and justice, integrity and compassion . We pray for Elizabeth our Queen and her family, her Government and Parliament in these uncertain and confusing times. We pray for all who work for greater action to combat climate change, Lord give us all the will to play our part in protecting the planet for future generations.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Loving God, we raise before you those in need of comfort and reassurance; all who are in pain and mental anguish. Those who have received bad news, we name those we know, who may take comfort from the knowledge that they have been prayed for. We also pray for those who devote their lives to caring for others, by choice or by circumstance, often with no time or space

for themselves. Lord let them feel your strength and your love. **Lord in your Mercy Hear our prayer**

We pray for all who have died recently; though illness; by accident; victims of war and terror, remembering especially all whose lives have been lost or changed by the war in Ukraine and the many troubled areas of our world. **Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer**

Everlasting God, we thank you for the Good News we have been given; help us to remember that is not just for us, but to pass on to others **Merciful father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**

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

A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows. ~ *St Francis of Assisi*

"Faith cannot be inherited or gained by being baptised into a Church. Faith is a matter between the individual and God." (*Martin Luther*)

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