

Stainton, Hilton and Brookfield
25th October- BIBLE SUNDAY

WELCOME. Today we are happy to be joined by our new Priest in charge Revd Claire Todd. Together we are Church.

Prayer for the day

Dear Lord, Let us walk in your company, Hearing your words, seeing your deeds, Feeling your love; and having walked with you along the road of life, may we walk with others in your name.

COLLECT

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

The book of Nehemiah ch 8.1-4a, 8-12

Nehemiah had spent most of his life in exile in Babylon yet he never wavered in his faith and trust in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He was determined to see Jerusalem rebuilt. Under Nehemiah's guidance the city walls were rebuilt and the city repopulated. Now came a time of spiritual renewal. Ezra, who was skilled in the law of Moses, began to teach the people. For six hours daily the people stood in the square and listened. They were moved to tears but were told instead to celebrate. These two men illustrate beautifully the principle of team ministry.

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. 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. 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. The scribe Ezra stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the purpose; So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. 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. 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.' So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, 'Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.' And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

PSALM 119.9-16

Happy are they who walk in the law of the Lord.

9 How shall the young cleanse their way? By keeping to your words.

10 With my whole heart I seek you; let me not stray from your commandments.

11 I treasure your promise in my heart, that I may not sin against you.

12 Blessèd are you, O Lord; instruct me in your statutes.

13 With my lips will I recite all the judgements of your mouth.

14 I have taken greater delight in the way of your decrees than in all manner of riches.

15 I will meditate on your commandments and give attention to your ways.

16 My delight is in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

Happy are they who walk in the law of the Lord.

The letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Ch 3.12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

ch24.30-35

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘The sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see “the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven” with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.’

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

PRAYERS

Our Heavenly Father promises eternal life to all who believe in the words of his Son our Lord Jesus Christ.

Trusting in that promise and in the power of the Holy Spirit let us pray for our church, that accepting the gifts of your grace we can live in love and peace with one another.

Let us pray for church leaders, preachers and teachers of the gospel, that through them we may hear and understand Bible messages. Lord help us to listen and to hear you speaking through Holy Scripture.

Lord we pray particularly for Revd. Claire as she takes up her role as our teacher and pastor. With her guidance may we come to know you more clearly.

We pray for the world so beautiful and yet so broken. Lord you have given us this very special planet as our home to respect and to care for. Help us to do all that we can to preserve the diversity and wonder for future generations.

Let us pray for the healing of broken lives. Lord God, it is your wish for us all that we should have fullness of life. So with confidence we bring to you all who are going through difficult times, through illness, financial circumstances, unemployment, broken relationships, or bereavement. Let them know your power to heal and comfort.

We pray for those who are approaching the end of their earthly life that they may not fear the transition from the

physical to the spiritual life. Help them to know that they will be accompanied with love on their journey by one who has gone before them to prepare the way.

We remember those we’ve known and loved who are now in God’s nearer presence and now know the full joy of heaven. We thank you Lord for all they still mean to us.

A prayer of St Anselm

O Lord, grant us the grace to desire thee with our whole heart, so that desiring we may seek and find thee,

A prayer of St Columba

Lord be thou a bright flame before us,
Be thou a guiding star above us,
Be thou a smooth path below us
Be thou a kindly shepherd behind us,
Today, tonight and forever. Amen

PRIEST IN CHARGE

Revd Claire Todd

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