

Plurality of Stainton with Hilton and Brookfield

Epiphany 2 : 17th January 2021

WELCOME :- glad you could join us for worship at home.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The first service that one owes to others consists of listening to them. Just as love of God begins with listening to his word, so the beginning of love for our brothers and sisters is learning to listen to them.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

COLLECT

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; 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

A reading from the first book of Samuel. Ch3

The boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. The LORD called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here

I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

PSALM 139.1-5, 12-17

R I will thank you

because I am marvellously made.

1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me; you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places and are acquainted with all my ways.

3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

4 You press upon me behind and before and lay your hand upon me.

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

12 For you yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

13 I will thank you because I am marvellously made; your works are wonderful and I know it well.

14 My body was not hidden from you, while I was being made in secret

and woven in the depths of the earth.

15 Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book; they were fashioned day by day, when as yet there was none of them.

16 How deep I find your thoughts, O God! how great is the sum of them!

17 If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

The Book called the Revelation of St John tells the story of Jesus in poetic language, using many Old Testament images which are difficult for us to understand. Here he tells of the terrible anguish in heaven when God's word seems to be blocked for ever. The scroll on which that 'word' is written is sealed up, and no-one can be found worthy to open it. So how shall people ever know what God wants them to know? Then one who is described as both a Lion and a Lamb of the Root of David, triumphs over all and the word of God is made known on earth. The whole company of heaven joins in a song of rejoicing.

A reading from Revelation 5.1-10

I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?' And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David,

has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.' Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song: 'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth.'

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. ch 1.43-51

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?'

Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man .

This is the Gospel of the Lord

LET US PRAY

Everlasting God, You spoke to awaken Samuel with Your call, Hear us now as we pray for the church and the world.

This week when our churches pray for Christian Unity let us remember Jesus' words 'May they all be one'. Guide our individual worshipping communities towards unity of purpose as we try to make your ways known to those around us.

Lord in Your mercy: Hear our prayer.

In our busy lives help us to find time and patience to listen to you and to one another, in our homes, among our friends and neighbours, and in our church groups.

Lord in Your mercy: Hear our prayer

We continue to pray for peace in your world, For the leaders of the nations and especially this week for Joe Biden and his team. We ask guidance and support for those involved in the process of reconciliation and bridge-building between peoples, cultures or nations. Help us wherever and whenever we can in our everyday lives to be instruments

of your peace. Lord in Your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Loving God you called the Apostles to be ambassadors for Christ and gave them the power to heal; by our care for others and our prayers help us to bring healing especially at this time when the pandemic is still so virulent and so many are affected both in body and in spirit. We give thanks for all front line workers.

Lord in Your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Be with us in our mourning as we pray for all who are coming to the end of their journey here on earth. As we remember those who have died we thank you that they may now know fullness of eternal life with you.

Lord in Your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, we rejoice in the call to belong to the Church, and to believe in the Gospel. Send us out into the coming week ready to demonstrate our calling in all that we do and say. Merciful Father: **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

When Christians around the world gather they say the prayer our Saviour gave us. Let us join them now.

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