

**Parishes of Stainton, Hilton and Brookfield**  
**7<sup>th</sup> February, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent**

*Welcome to worship at home*

**Thought for the day**

Jesus took human form and the invisible God became visible so that we might see and know our Creator.

**Collect**

Almighty God,  
you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. Amen

**The book of Proverbs ch ch 8 ; 1,22-31**

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice?  
The LORD created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth – when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil. When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I

was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

**Psalm 104.25–37**

**R Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.**

O Lord, how manifold are your works!  
in wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures  
Yonder is the great and wide sea with its living things too many to number,  
creatures both small and great.  
There move the ships, and there is that Leviathan, which you have made for the sport of it. All of them look to you to give them their food in due season. You give it to them, they gather it; you open your hand and they are filled with good things. You hide your face and they are terrified; you take away their breath and they die and return to their dust. You send forth your Spirit and they are created; and so you renew the face of the earth. May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; may the Lord rejoice in all his works. He looks at the earth and it trembles; he touches the mountains and they smoke. I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will praise my God while I have my being. May these words of mine please him; I will rejoice in the Lord. Let sinners be consumed out of the earth, and the wicked be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul. Alleluia! **Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.**

**The letter of Paul to the Colossians.**  
**ch1.15–20**

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers –all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

**Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.ch 1;1-14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God.  
All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life,  
and the life was the light of all people.  
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.  
There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.  
He came as a witness to testify to the light ,so that all might believe through him.

He himself was not the light,

but he came to testify to the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.

He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,

who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

**This is the Gospel of the Lord**

### Prayers

Everliving God, our creator and redeemer, you love us and know us better than we know ourselves. With a word you created all things and so we pray that you will hear us as we pray; giving thanks to you for your church, the world and its peoples. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Mighty God, we pray for the worldwide Christian Church in all its wonderful diversity. We pray especially for those churches who meet together in difficult and dangerous circumstances and at this time of the Pandemic for all those churches who cannot meet in person but only online. Help us all to feel your presence with us strengthening our faith. We bring before you all who lead and inspire worship on line and in person,

those who visit and pray for the sick and bereaved and those who carry out the maintenance and administration of our various churches.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Creator God we pray for your world and its peoples with all their needs, questions and longings. So often we struggle to understand the reasons behind things like Coronavirus; and yet we know that in the midst of such events your love is shown in the acts of bravery, selflessness and compassion which follow. We pray for all who suffer in such dreadful circumstances and for those who are tasked with providing medical and community support and, eventually, the long task of recovery that will surely follow this devastating Pandemic.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Loving God we pray for those in need in our own community, the sick and the dying, the elderly, the housebound and those in care homes, hospitals and hospices and for the work and devotion of those who care for them. We thank you for Carers whose love and compassion bring both material and spiritual comfort at times of need. We raise before you now those we know and those for whom prayer has been requested

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God be close to those who feel the pain of grief at the loss of a loved one whether recent or as each anniversary passes. Help us to support all those who mourn with our prayers, with words of comfort and with practical help as they struggle to come to terms with their loss.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.** Help us during the coming week to live the Good News. Give us the will each day to live in life eternal, praising, worshipping and adoring you our Creator, Lord and Saviour. **Amen**

**Let us say the Lord's prayer knowing that Christians worldwide are able to join us in our words and thoughts**

"You are the only 'Bible' some unbelievers will ever read." - John MacArthur

"The Christian life is not a constant high. I have my moments of deep discouragement. I have to go to God in prayer with tears in my eyes, and say, 'O God, forgive me,' or 'Help me.'" - Billy Graham

"The blessedness of waiting is lost on those who cannot wait, and the fulfilment of promise is never theirs. They want quick answers to the deepest questions of life and miss the value of those times of anxious waiting, seeking with patient uncertainties until the answers come. They lose the moment when the answers are revealed in dazzling clarity." Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the one who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference." - Max Lucad

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