



March 2021

Minister: Rev. Joe Adams
Tel: 07985 417000.

Micah 6:8 {NKJV}

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?

God told us such a very long time ago what is required; not to be members of a particular Church or Political party, but to be a people who do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.

Do is such an active word isn't it, it demands more from us always, and so it is with our commitment to justice. God demands that as followers / disciples of Jesus we are people who do and do and keep on doing justice.

God demands that we be a people who love mercy that we act as if mercy and the grace of God are the driving forces for all we do in our private and public lives.

And of course that we walk humbly with God. No place for strutting and pride and feeling like we are the chosen few. No titles or honoured seats here in Jesus Kingdom. No we walk humbly with God.

Justice, mercy and walking humbly with God are so evident in the Lent journey of Jesus. He followed paths of justice and mercy even when it meant standing up to ineffectual or crooked and dishonest leaders. For Jesus the commitment to justice mercy and humility led him to eat and talk with people the religious rulers said were unworthy, unclean or lost. Jesus commitment to justice and mercy led him to turn over some tables, and to refuse to sit at others; it led him to be such an offensive annoying person that most of the crowd and some of his friends had deserted him before eventually it led the political leaders of his day execute him.

I wonder if we are on the same track as Jesus, pursuing justice mercy and humility?

I wonder what tables might we have to turn over if we are to be faithful to the Jesus we

proclaim in our Lenten faith?

I wonder what people we would have to share fellowship outside of our comfort zones?
I wonder who we wouldn't be able to share fellowship with unless we are prepared first
stand up for justice and mercy and challenge the policies of our day as Jesus did in his?

I pray that you and I would be challenged again this Lent as we reflect on Jesus and his
journey from security and adulation to accusation lies and solitude, to the terrors of the
Garden of Gethsemane, and the horror of being executed by a rotten Government who
cared only for the powerful and wealthy.

I pray we like our Lord would have the passion of God in our minds and hearts; that we
would pursue justice and mercy for all and especially for those whose voices are not
heard in the corridors of power; and that the blessing God would be ours as we humbly
walk with our God.

God bless you *Rev. Joe*

LENT THOUGHT and PRAYER
by Christine Duthie

As Advent prepares us for Christmas so the season of Lent draws us towards Easter.
The 40 days of Lent remind us of the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness being
tempted by the Devil.

Lent is a time when we can reflect on the life of Jesus and travel with him on his
journey to the Cross remembering the happy times he spent with his disciples, the many
people he met, those he healed and those he changed.

As we come into Holy Week the days are filled with mixed emotions, from the
triumphal entry into Jerusalem through to the pain of Good Friday.
We meet with an assortment of people who played their part in the events of the week.
We may reflect and wonder why some acted the way they did but we remember they
were people like us who, when confronted with difficult situations were unsure of
themselves and acted accordingly.

So we may ask ourselves how might we have reacted?
And where would we have stood in the Jesus story?

Dear Heavenly Father

*As we come through these weeks of Lent we remember how lost and alone Jesus must
have felt during these days.*

*There are many people who through this difficult year have also felt lost and lonely,
unable to be with friends and family for comfort and reassurance.*

We pray Lord for all who feel lonely, sad or afraid at this time.

May they know that you stand beside them.

*We bring these our prayers in the name of Jesus our Saviour who will rise in glory on
Easter Day.*

Amen

REVELATIONS AND BEYOND

by Joan Gomer

On Thursday evenings we have been studying the Book of Revelation – not an easy subject!

In preparation we were asked to find out how the book and its imagery have been portrayed outside of the Bible. I astounded the members with this piece of trivia!

Revelation Ch. 3 v 20 – *‘Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him and he with me.’*

This verse inspired Holman Hunt’s painting ‘The Light of the World’.

Hunt was one of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood of artists. Another was Dante Gabriel Rossetti, whose sister, Christina, wrote many poems including ‘In the Bleak Midwinter’ and ‘Love Came Down at Christmas’.

Christina would act as a model for the artists, provided she approved of the subject matter and Holman Hunt used her for Christ in ‘The Light of the World’. So when you look at that picture of Christ, you are actually seeing Christina Rossetti!

Debbie, who admires the Pre-Raphaelites was inspired to do further research and tells me that whilst Christ’s face is Christina’s, the hair is not. Hunt has used the hair of yet another of his models.

CONSIDER THE LILIES OF THE FIELD

by Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

FLOWERS preach to us if we will hear:-

The rose saith in the dewy morn:

I am most fair;

Yet all my loveliness is born

Upon a thorn.

The poppy saith amid the corn:

Let but my scarlet head appear

And I am held in scorn;

Yet juice of subtle virtue lies

Within my cup of curious dyes.

The lilies say: Behold how we

Preach without words of purity.

The violets whisper from the shade

Which their own leaves have made:

Men scent our fragrance on the air,

Yet take no heed

Of humble lessons we would read.

But not alone the fairest flowers:

The merest grass

Along the roadside where we pass,

Lichen and moss and sturdy weed,

Tell of His love who sends the dew,

The rain and sunshine too,

To nourish one small seed.

{Taken from the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew chapter 6.

‘Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: and yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not attired like one of these’.}

THOUGHTS by *Graham Duthie*

During this time a passage that I was drawn to was from the beginning of Genesis, Chapter 1 verses 1-10.

Throughout the first lockdown and the months which followed we often went for a walk in the village. The wildflowers grew and we heard the cuckoo for the first time in many years.

A walk to the Parish Church took us past the farm where the sheep and goats grazed in the fields and looking out over the reservoir the scene was peaceful. If you closed your eyes the world seemed just as it had always been but of course it wasn't.

The coronavirus had changed our lives and life would never be quite the same again.

But amidst all the confusion and fear the natural world continued as it had always done. God's creation was firm and true.

There is a Stuart Townend worship song which sums up this perfectly:

*Creation sings the Father's song,
He calls the sun to wake the dawn.
And run the course of day
Till evening comes in crimson rays
His fingertips in flakes of snow
His breath upon this spinning globe
He charts the eagle's flight
Commands the new born baby's cry
Hall-el-ujah
Let all creation stand and sing,
Hall-el-ujah
Fill the earth with songs of worship
Tell the wonders of creations king.*

SPREAD THE WORD

Spread the love – spread the word, let what Jesus said be heard.
Spread some joy – spread some hope, spread some calmness – we can cope.
Spread some jam and marmalade, spread good news, some progress made.
Spread the truth – don't spread lies, stay home, stay safe, help us save lives.
Don't spread disease, don't spread unease, don't spread mis-information please.

Spread the rules – spread yourselves, don't panic buy and leave empty shelves!
Stay alert – don't spread your wings too far – wait, see what tomorrow brings.
Spread some butter on your toast, cherish those you love the most.
Spread your views, spread ideas around the world - allay our fears.
Spread the love, spread the word, let what Jesus said be heard!

Pat Farrow (written 28 May 2020) {Ed: ... but still valid today!}

LENT, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Following our Ash Wednesday service we continue to meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm throughout Lent for our Lent Course. It would be wonderful if you were able to join us for this and full details can be found on our website and / or Facebook pages or ask a Steward.

We also have an exciting and full programme planned for Holy Week, starting with a special online service for Palm Sunday from 11:00 am, followed by a mix of meetings, worship and other online material throughout the week.

On Good Friday our online service via Zoom is at 3 pm (further details will follow), to conclude with an Easter morning celebration at 11:00 am.

All of these will be online via Zoom and / or Facebook, working jointly with St. Stephen's.

The phased lifting of Covid 19 restrictions announced by the Government on the 23rd February are not completely clear regarding churches.

The Stewards and Church Council will meet after Easter to begin to think about how and when it would be right and as safe as we can make it to reopen services within our buildings.

What is clear is that some form of social distancing restrictions will remain as the nation makes a cautious move out of lockdown and we learn to live in a world where Covid 19 remains.

Please continue to pray for the Government and the leaders of our church and others as we plot a way forward.

Rev. Joe Adams & the Stewards

KEEP UP TO DATE ON OUR WEBSITE:

www.wimpoleroadchurch.org.uk

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

Margaret and Keith Clubb – their son, Stephen, bravely fighting cancer.
Derek Pitcher, who died peacefully on Sunday at his care home in Nayland.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome Peter Studd, Sally Crafer, Stephen Tuthill and Joanne Eckersley, who have all transferred their church memberships to Wimpole Road.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Special greetings to **Edith Plane**, who will celebrate her **90th** birthday on 12 March.

Please don't forget, if you have stories or items that you would like to contribute to future monthly Newsrounds please contact me by phone, e-mail or post.

Tel: (01206) 869505 or e-mail: **alison.ablewhite@btinternet.com**



WORKING TOGETHER



PRAYER MEETING **Tuesday 10.00 - 10.30 a.m.**

Meeting number: **195 594 506** password **011904**

Using the Northumbria Community Morning Prayer

BIBLE STUDY **Thursday 7.30 - 8.30 p.m.**

Meeting number: **780 700 295** password **011904**

Join on line via Zoom or

Dial in from your phone on:

0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240 or 0131 460 1196

FACEBOOK LIVE SUNDAY SERVICE

EVERY SUNDAY at 11.00 A.M.

Expertly led by either Rev. Joe Adams; Jonathan Sparkes or Joanne Eckersley.

SUNDAY SERVICE REPLAY

This is available for anyone unable to access the weekly Live Facebook service via the internet or web-site.

This is hosted via Zoom and allows people to simply dial into the call from their telephones.

We run this at **2.30 p.m.** every Sunday afternoon, normally hosted by Debbie.

Dial in details are set out below:

Phone numbers to use to dial in:

0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240

or 0131 460 1196

Meeting ID: 458 171 4255 {Password if needed is **011904**}

*{During Lent our weekly Bible study meetings will be suspended
and will re-start after Easter at their normal day and time.*

Weekly Prayer meetings on Tuesday morning at 10:00 will continue as normal.}