

ARCH Group's aim: "To show our love for God and You"

Weekly Notices

16th June 2024

Third Sunday after Trinity

Today's Collect

God our saviour, look on this wounded world in pity and in power; hold us fast to your promises of peace won for us by your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Today's Post Communion Prayer

O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining and whose power we cannot comprehend: show us your glory as far as we can grasp it, and shield us from knowing more than we can bear until we may look upon you without fear; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Next Week's Services: Sunday 23rd June 2024

10.00 am	Abbots Morton	Benefice Communion+
3.30 pm	Church Lench VH	Messy Church

*Please remember **Caring Hands** while you're shopping and add an extra item or two to your basket. They need toiletries and toilet rolls, cleaning materials, tins and dried goods, and items that can be cooked via a kettle, single-ring hob or microwave.*

For Prayer

Lord, as we come to you today, we think of different changes that have happened in our lives – those that have had positive effects on us and those that were hard. We know that you were with us through all the changes, even when we couldn't immediately see you at work. As we focus on the coming few days and weeks, give us the confidence to know that you are still with us, always with us, through change and when everything stays the same.

Changeless God, we come to you. **Help us to know you are near.**

We pray for those facing difficult changes in their lives: perhaps through ill health, bereavement, unemployment or separation from loved ones. Lord, we name anyone known to us who is struggling in this way... We ask that your peace and comfort be upon them. Reassure them that, although their circumstances may change, you do not. Give them the courage to face their future knowing that you are holding their hand. Changeless God, we come to you. **Help us to know you are near.**

We pray for all countries where elections are taking place, where there may be massive changes that will have a huge impact on their citizens. We pray for those newly elected to office, that they will be people of integrity who work towards changing their nations for the good of all those who live there. We pray for those who will be voted out and the changes that will make in their personal lives. Help them to be peacemakers. Changeless God, we come to you. **Help us to know you are near.**

Lord, as we go forward into a new week, show us where you want us to change. Help us to listen to you. Perhaps there is something important that we need to change that will bring reconciliation, or help someone, or just make the lives of those around us easier. Speak to us and nudge us towards those changes. Lord, maybe you have some big changes that you want us to make. Give us the courage to go forward with you into the future, knowing that you have gone ahead of us to prepare the way. Show us the guiding light of your presence as we step out into new ways of being who you want us to be.

Changeless God, we come to you. **Help us to know you are near.**

Help us to listen to you. And help us to follow where you lead. Amen.

This Week's First Reading: *Ezekiel 17:22-24*

²²Thus says the Lord God: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. ²⁴All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the LORD have spoken; I will accomplish it.

This Week's Psalm: *Psalms 92:1-8*

- 1 It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord and to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
- 2 To tell of your love early in the morning and of your faithfulness in the night-time,
- 3 Upon the ten-stringed instrument, upon the harp, and to the melody of the lyre.
- 4 For you, Lord, have made me glad by your acts, and I sing aloud at the works of your hands.
- 5 O Lord, how glorious are your works! Your thoughts are very deep.
- 6 The senseless do not know, nor do fools understand,
- 7 That though the wicked sprout like grass and all the workers of iniquity flourish,
- 8 It is only to be destroyed for ever; but you, O Lord, shall be exalted for evermore.

This Week's Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:6-17

Brothers and sisters, ⁶we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord – ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. ¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴The love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

This Week's Gospel Reading: Mark 4:26-34

Such a large crowd gathered around Jesus that he got into a boat and began to teach them using many parables. ²⁶Jesus said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself,

Mark 4:26-34 continued

first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head.²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

³⁰Jesus also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.' ³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Next Week's First Reading: *Genesis 1:1-2:3*

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' ⁷So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

Genesis 1:1-2:3 continued

¹⁴And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights – the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night – and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' ²¹So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so.

²⁵God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' ²⁷So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' ²⁹God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. ³¹God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

¹Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. ²And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the

Genesis 1:1-2:3 continued

seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

Next Week's Psalm: *Psalm 104:1-15, 31-34*

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!
- 2 You are clothed with majesty and honour, wrapped in light as in a garment.
- 3 You spread out the heavens like a curtain and lay the beams of your dwelling place in the waters above.
- 4 You make the clouds your chariot and ride on the wings of the wind.
- 5 You make the winds your messengers and flames of fire your servants.
- 6 You laid the foundations of the earth, that it never should move at any time.
- 7 You covered it with the deep like a garment; the waters stood high above the hills.
- 8 At your rebuke they fled; at the voice of your thunder they hastened away.
- 9 They rose up to the hills and flowed down to the valleys beneath, to the place which you had appointed for them.
- 10 You have set them their bounds that they should not pass, nor turn again to cover the earth.
- 11 You send the springs into the brooks, which run among the hills.
- 12 They give drink to every beast of the field, and the wild asses quench their thirst.
- 13 Beside them the birds of the air make their nests and sing among the branches.
- 14 You water the hills from your dwelling on high; the earth is filled with the fruit of your works.
- 15 You make grass to grow for the cattle and plants to meet our needs,
- 31 When you hide your face they are troubled; when you take away their breath, they die and return again to the dust.
- 32 When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.
- 33 May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; may the Lord rejoice in his works;

Psalm 104:1-15, 31-34 continued

34 He looks on the earth and it trembles; he touches the mountains and they smoke.

Next Week's Second Reading: *Philippians 4:4-9*

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Next Week's Gospel Reading: *Matthew 6:25-34*

Jesus taught his disciples, saying: ²⁵Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you— you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.'