

Notices for Sunday 20th September 2020
Ponteland Methodist Church
Minister – Rev Jona Sewell (Tel. 822057)
LET THE LOVE OF JESUS BE KNOWN

25th in Ordinary Time // In the Beginning

MESSAGE FROM JONA

This week has seen a lot of change in official guidance; first we saw the introduction of the 'rule of six' then our region was put into 'local lockdown.' Such frequent changes can be unsettling and disheartening as we tend to prefer routine and predictability. It's vitally important that we recognise the effect our current context might be having on some of us and walk gently with each other in understanding and grace.

This week's set reading is **Matthew 20:1-16**, the "Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard." On the surface this parable may seem strange, and even unfair, to our cultural sensitivities but this is not a parable about God being unfair, but about God's generosity! In the midst of all of the change in guidance and feelings that come with that, I encourage each of us to take time out to look beyond what's immediately in front of us and towards the wider world and God. Where have you seen God's generosity this week? Stop and say thank-you.

With these notices you will find our latest questionnaire which was promised for this weekend. Please prayerfully read it, consider the questions, and answer them honestly. We (the church council) appreciate your responses and comments.

LECTIONARY

Exodus 16 : 2-15, Psalm 105 : 1-6, 37-45, Philipians 1 : 21-30, Matthew 20 : 1-16

The following questions are from today's Lectionary using the NIV version:-

- 1) The Lord said to Moses "I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them 'at twilight, you will eat and in the morning you will be filled with' What did they eat and what were they filled with?
- 2) Add the missing names to this verse " O descendants of his servant, O sons of, his chosen ones."

You will find the answers on the back page.

FOOD BANK UPDATE

Since 1st April, Peter Michell has been able to forward **£809** from Church members to the Newcastle Food Bank, others have made monthly direct debit donations. This is very encouraging and a big THANK YOU.

However, as Harvest Celebration time approaches, the Food Bank reports that food and monetary giving have decreased, whilst need has increased.

We usually make a special effort at this time of year to give a bumper amount of food to the food bank (at Harvest Time). How about making a special money donation, instead of the usual food? This could be our collective 'Thank you' to God for His bounty to us.

Donations can be delivered or sent to Peter Michell (Church Treasurer). If it would be more convenient, you can make a pledge by phone or email to Peter who will add your amount to the total and agree the best way to collect your gift.

Peters contact details are **01661 871885, 18 Pinegarth, Ponteland NE20 9LF** or

peter_michell@hotmail.com

Andrew Pay

CHURCH VIDEO SERVICE

The online circuit service that goes out via 'youTube' each week was being offered for viewing in the Church on Monday afternoons for those without access to youTube.

Currently, this is 'on hold.' This option is a question on the questionnaire that accompanies this notice sheet. I will make this option available again if there is demand for it . DVD copies of the service are available by contacting Jona or the Church laptop can be loaned out with instructions on how to view the service by contacting Andy Anderson (871844)

Geoff

PRAYERS

O most gracious Redeemer, and dwell within us and reign where you have the right to reign. By your Holy Spirit take possession of our souls and lead us in the ways of righteousness and peace.

Amen

In the darkness of the night,
may we catch a glimpse of the distant light. In the cacophony and clamour of life,
may we hear the whisper of God's voice.

In the anguish and pain of death and disaster,
may we feel the breath of hope.

In the convolutions and disagreements that weigh upon us,
may the Word of God lighten our load.

In the loneliness and aloneness of a busy world,
may we know the presence of our creator God.

For the earth is the Lord's and so are we.

Amen

God of all hope we call on you today.
We pray for those who are living in fear:
Fear of illness, fear for loved ones, fear of other's reactions to them.
May your Spirit give us a sense of calmness and peace.
We pray for your church in this time of uncertainty.
For those people who are worried about attending worship.
For those needing to make decisions in order to care for other
For those who will feel more isolated by not being able to attend.
Grant us your wisdom.
Holy God, we remember that you have promised that
Nothing will separate us from your love – demonstrated to us in Jesus Christ.
Help us turn our eyes, hearts and minds to you. *Amen*

Loving God,
If we are ill, strengthen us.
If we are tired, fortify our spirits.
If we are anxious, help us to consider the lillies of the field and the birds of the air.
Help us not to stockpile treasures from supermarkets in the barns of our larders.
Don't let fear cause us to overlook the needs of others more vulnerable than ourselves.
Fix our eyes on your story and our hearts on your grace.
Help us always to hold fast to the good,
See the good in others,
And remember there is just one world, one hope,
One everlasting love, with baskets of bread for everyone.
In Jesus we make our prayer,
The one who suffered, died and was raised to new life,
In whom we trust these days and all days, *Amen*

Loving God continue to surprise us as we seek to follow you.
The Good News of the Gospel motivates our curiosity.
You make all things new.
You offer us new life through the resurrection.
Help us to be curious and creative in all that we do.
Give us an open heart and mind.

Through our curiosity help us to see you in new ways,
and help us to see what you see.
Today encourage our creativity
Make us curious,
And surprise us once more. *Amen*

Come to us, O Christ, as the wind that blows the autumn leaves, as the song that soothes the troubled child, as the melody that lifts the anxious spirit. Fill us with affection for you that is unbounded, desire for you that is unrestrained and a yearning for you that throws caution to the winds, and this for your own love's sake. *Amen*

Architect of all we know, we stand in amazed silence, for we were not there when you spoke all that is into being, and the heavens rejoiced.

Was it in a burst of wonder and glory that everything came forth from nothing?

With your compasses and levels you drew the edges between life and death and set in motion the ticking hearts of atoms.

O maker of me, you thought and plants unfurled, creatures teemed into the corners of all the world, more than we can ever name or know.

And all of this a house for us!

Amen

Please send your notices to Geoff Lisle by next Friday, 1pm.

Either by phone:- 01661 822532, by post:- 42, Ridgely Drive. NE20 9BL

or by E-mail :- Geoffandangela@btinternet.com

Bible Quiz Answers:- 1) meat and bread (Exodus 16:12)

2) Abraham, Jacob (Psalm 105:6)