

The Smestow Vale Team Ministry



St Benedict's and the Venerable Bede

Keeping in Touch with our Church Family

Sunday 19th July 2020

Trinity 6

Creator God,

You made us all in your image:

May we discern you in all that we see,

And serve you in all that we do;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Paul Reflects on

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh – for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ – if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Romans 8:12-15

Jesus tells the parable of the Wheat and the Tares

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone

who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?" He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" Then Jesus left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.' He answered, 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!'

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.

A Reflection for Trinity 5 from Revd Sue Watson

I have so enjoyed my garden this year. The beauty of its colours- green and glorious pink, red and creamy white, bright gold and pale blue. Whenever I have sat out in the sun, I've had a real sense of God's goodness and the glory of his creation. But then I hear the sound of an ambulance siren, or of a police car and I am brought back to earth, to the awareness that all is far from well with this world – far from well. Pain and sorrow, death and heart-break, injustice and tragedy- we cannot escape them. We are living in the 'in-between' times – and this is the message of today's readings.

Why is this world so profoundly and horribly broken? The wheat and the weeds growing together...and why do we intuitively and deeply feel it should not be this way?

The profound brokenness of the world is not the way it should be - but it will not be this way forever. It will not always be broken. It will become, at the word of the Creator, another world, a renewed world. And so, "the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God" (Romans 8:19). And the children of God eagerly long for the creation's liberation.

Is this all just a fool's fantasy? Not at all...there is an empty tomb bearing witness that life has great meaning, that all sickness for God's children will find its cure, that all calamities will meet their end, that all injustice shall be put right, that our debts have been fully paid and our sinfulness will be eradicated. God has promised to 'make all things new'.

In the words of C.S. Lewis, "If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world" (Mere Christianity, 181).

Although we cannot see everything now, we hope for what we cannot see and wait for it with patience (Romans 8:24–25).

Revd. Sue -with thanks to Jon Bloom

Prayer During the Week.

Sunday

Pray that we may allow God his right to judge between good and bad, (Matthew 13: 30a)

Monday

Pray for those having to isolate because of local outbreaks of the virus.

Tuesday

Pray for local shops as they re-open following lockdown.

Wednesday - Mary Magdalene

Pray that we may respond to Jesus when he calls us by name. (John 20: 16)

Thursday

Continue to pray for wisdom for all who have to make important decisions.

Friday

Pray for all in discussions to establish a good trade relationship with the E. U.

Saturday - James

Pray that God will grow in us the gift of servanthood. (Matthew 20: 26)

Please remember those who have asked for our prayers

Sarah Stephenson, David Kingston, Lisa, Julia McCormick, Morgan, Michael Concannon, Heather Gent, Jean, Margaret Hatton, Margaret Ward, Joy Waistell

Those who have died

Thelma Cooper, Eric Mitchell, Angela Hickman, Brenda Ann Mason, Sheila Bates

Sunday Worship at St Benedict's

8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Parish Communion

Please remember to book each week by contacting Hilary on 01902 892856 or by email hilmoore@gmail.com
There will be a service led by Paul and Sue on Facebook and on You Tube this Sunday.

Standing Orders

Thank you to all those who are continuing to contribute to our Churches through Standing Orders. It is very much appreciated during this difficult time.

Envelopes

Thank you everyone who returned their Stewardship envelopes last Sunday.

Facebook and You Tube Service

The Rector will be on annual leave for part of August. A volunteer is needed to put together our Facebook and You Tube Service.

