**Morning Praise @ Home 12th June 2022**

**Trinity Sunday**



**Opening prayer**

Blessed are you, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have blessed us with every spiritual blessing; enable us by your power to be true to our calling and live holy and blameless lives before you all our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen**

**Confession** Let us admit to God the sin which always confronts us.

**Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and**

**repent.** **Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us**

**from our sin.** **Renew a right spirit within us** **and restore us to the joy of your salvation,** **through**

**Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen** cf Psalm 51

**Absolution** May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins, and restore us in his image

to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### Bible Readings Psalm 8 Romans 5: 1 – 5

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**Reflection from Philip**

Psalm 8 is a really short psalm of David.

I like to think of it as the reflections of a relatively young man. A man who, when he was a boy, used to tend the sheep & goats in the fields – protecting them from wolves with his trusty slingshot.

Sometimes he would have been out on the hills at night, and with no light pollution, he would have looked up at the sky and marvelled at the stars, the moon, the Milky Way.

*How majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens!*

There is so much light pollution these days we tend to literally lose sight of the night sky in all its splendour. It’s only when we get away to a really secluded place, away from streetlights and the glow of city, that we see the night sky in all its majesty.

I love astronomy – I have done ever since I first looked at The Pleiades cluster of stars in the night sky from a small telescope out of my dorm window. I couldn’t believe how many more stars were visible! Or when I first looked at the wispy Orion nebula – or when I first saw the moons of Jupiter, or Saturn’s rings. Wow! I still have a fascination with astronomy & telescopes, but sometimes, you have to just sit back in a chair and look up at the sky through your own eyes to really take it all in.

Of course unlike David, today we can see so much more – those amazing images with the Hubble space telescope and soon with the James Webb Telescope which is 100 times more powerful than Hubble. But the night sky seen by the young shepherd David in those unpolluted skies would have been a thing to behold. God’s glory in the heavens.

*Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies.*

God often uses the weak to defeat the mighty. As a child, I had an illustrated children’s bible. I always loved the story of David and Goliath and the picture of that scrawny boy as he defeated Goliath by stunning him with a pebble from his slingshot and then having just enough time while he was still dazed, to kill him with Goliath’s own sword.

We all like to support the underdog. The mighty powers of this world that seem to hold sway can still be humbled – I can’t help but reflect on the situation in Ukraine & the bloody nose that Putin’s army received when they initially tried to attack the capital Kiev.

I’m sure David will have been reflecting on that fight with Goliath as he wrote the words of this psalm.

David goes on to reflect on God’s creation:

*The moon and the stars which you have set in place.*

More astronomy – marvellous! But this time David compares the majesty of the heavens to us:

*What is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?*

David is asking – what is it about us that God even takes notice of us? We are so insignificant compared to the majesty of the heavens. Yet we are also told that we were created in God’s image, with dominion over the earth.

When we look at ourselves today, it’s clear we don’t have dominion over the earth any more. Yes we have power, but look at the mess we are making of it! We have been disobedient & rebellious.

We have abused the power we had and neglected the environment and our fellow creatures. Yes, we were originally made in God’s image, but we have fallen far short. We live in what is clearly an imperfect world.

When we pray in the name of Jesus for things, we are asking, through him, to use the power that God had originally intended for us all. The dominion that we lost. We are asking to use His power again.

The psalm ends –

*Lord, our Lord, How majestic is your name in all the earth.*

As we get older, it’s so easy to become cynical. We have seen it all, heard it all. But we do need to rekindle that sense of wow! That sense of awe in the majesty of the heavens – just as I felt as aged 13, I looked at The Pleiades for the first time.

We need to pause and look, as the young David did, at the majesty of the night sky, at the wonder of creation. Then we can recognise our place as a part of this majestic universe, that God cares for each of us, tiny as we may seem compared to the glory of the night sky.

**Affirmation of faith**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ

known in the world?

 **We believe and trust in him. This is the faith of the Church.**

**This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

**Prayers of intercession led by Tony**

Let us pray to our God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Father God, all-powerful, whose Spirit helps us in our weakness and guides us to Your Son in our prayers, we pray for the Church and for the world.

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

One God, three Persons, be near to the people of the world formed in your image, close to the world your love brings to life. We remember all who bear the responsibility of leadership, for heads of state, ambassadors and political advisers; let your will for our world be accomplished through the decisions they make and give them a vision of peace and reconciliation for you, Lord, can find a way when men and women are lost. We continue to pray for the people of Ukraine and ask for your blessing on them.

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

One God, three Persons, help us to be gentle, with others and with ourselves. Give us, we pray, the calm that makes for consideration and the respect for others that makes us courteous. Take from us hard words and the cynical look. Let us be to others as we would wish them to be to us, when we fail, forgive us and when they fail, heal us.

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

One God, three Persons, comfort through your Holy Spirit all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Be close to those who draw near to death; bring consolation to those in sorrow or mourning, and grant to us all a real sense of your love as you draw all who suffer into your tender care.

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

One God, three Persons, your love reaches beyond the grave. At the end of our days on earth, be with us and with those we love and with those whom we love and have gone before us. We pray now for the family and friends of those who have recently died.

Hilda Bartley, Barry Barnacle

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

One God, three Persons, we ask you to lead us into the coming week, help us to believe that you are close by us, keep us from making mistakes, and help us never to disappoint you. We pray for our church here in Burton and all who attend our services. We pray for your guidance and blessing during this vacancy.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

**The Lord’s Prayer** As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

***Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come,******Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen***

**Closing prayer**

God give you grace to become the people He has called you to be,

that you may live and work to his praise and glory,

and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

be with us and remain with us always. **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen**