

CLAPHAM :: KEASDEN :: AUSTWICK :: ELDROTH CHURCHES WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

"I urge that prayers be made for kings and all in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity"

No.127. The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity, 18 September 2022

Opening Prayer

'Spirit of change', by Jan Berry from Ruth Burgess (ed), Autumn: Liturgical resources. ionabooks.com.

In moving from summer sun to autumn glow,
Spirit of change, give us hope and courage.

In letting go of what we have known,
Spirit of change, give us hope and courage.

In the shifting patterns of our lives,
Spirit of change, give us hope and courage.

In embarking on new ventures,
Spirit of change, give us hope and courage.

In the anxious confusion that swirls around us,
Spirit of change, give us hope and courage.

In the hope of renewal and a better tomorrow,
Spirit of change, give us hope and courage. Amen



I Timothy 2.1-7

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings should be made for everyone, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. 3 This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, 4 who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, 6 who gave himself a ransom for all - this was attested at the right time. 7 For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

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Psalm 146

Alleluia. Praise the Lord, O my soul: while I live will I praise the Lord;
as long as I have any being, I will sing praises to my God.

**2 Put not your trust in princes,
nor in any human power,
for there is no help in them.**

3 When their breath goes forth, they return to the earth;
on that day all their thoughts perish.

**4 Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the Lord their God;**

5 Who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them;
who keeps his promise for ever;

**6 Who gives justice to those that suffer wrong
and bread to those who hunger.**

7 The Lord looses those that are bound;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;

**8 The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous;**

9 The Lord watches over the stranger in the land;
he upholds the orphan and widow;
but the way of the wicked he turns upside down.

**10 The Lord shall reign for ever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Alleluia. Amen**

Luke 16.19-31

‘There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. 20 And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, 21 who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. 22 The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. 24 He called out, “Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.” 25 But Abraham said, “Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. 26 Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.” 27 He said, “Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house— 28 for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.” 29 Abraham replied, “They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.” 30 He said, “No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.” 31 He said to him, “If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.”’

Prayers

We share a minute's silence at the start of our prayers for our late Queen Elizabeth, King Charles and The Royal Family

Eternal God, our heavenly Father, we bless your holy name for all that you have given us in and through the life of your servant Queen Elizabeth.

We give you thanks:

for her love of family and her gift of friendship; for her devotion to this nation and the nations of the Commonwealth;
for her grace, dignity and courtesy;
and for her generosity and love of life.

We praise you for:

the courage that she showed in testing times;
the depth and of her Christian faith;
and the witness she bore to it in word and deed.

We pray for our Sovereign Lord the King and all the Royal Family,

that you might reassure them of your continuing love and lift them from the depths of grief into the peace and light of your presence. **Amen**



With the Anglican Communion: Anglican Church of Brasil, Rt Revd Naudal Alves Gomes.

In our deanery: Settle Holy Ascension, Revd Julie Clarkson.

Our charity: Cancer Research UK, of which Queen Elizabeth was Patron, in Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

Our community: Our King Charles and Prime Minister Liz Truss and her newly-formed government, as each adapts to their new roles in these testing times.

Those in ill health: Robert Hird, Joan Robson, George Greenbank, Peter Read.

Those who have died: remembering all our lost loved ones; Ralph Parker.

Collect

Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Blessing

God grant to the living, grace;
to the departed, rest;
to the Church, the King,
the Commonwealth,
and all humankind,
peace and concord;
and to us and all his servants,
life everlasting;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

MUSIC IN TODAY'S SERVICES SUNDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER

At 9:30 Austwick Holy Communion
and 6:30 Eldroth Evening Prayer:

Opening Hymn: 271 Alleluya, sing to Jesus

Gradual Hymn: 413 Now thank we all our God

Hymn Before Communion: Take my life and let it be (words opposite)

Closing Hymn: Lord, for the years (words opposite)

At 11:00 Clapham Harvest Festival:

The Congregation will sing:

Opening Hymn: 259 Come, ye thankful people come

Hymn After Talk: 397 Let us, with a gladsome mind

Hymn Before Communion: 262 We plough the fields and scatter

Closing Hymn: 285 For the beauty of the earth

The Parish Choir will sing:

Oh the life of the world (At the start of the Responses from the Psalms, booklet p.4)

All creatures of our God and King (Gradual hymn, booklet p.4)

The Choir and Congregation will sing:

God bless to us our bread (x2, after 'Jesus, Lamb of God...', booklet p.10):

**God bless to us our bread
and give bread to all those who hunger
and hunger for justice to those who are fed
God bless to us our bread**

Each service will close with The National Anthem:

"I speak to you today with feelings of profound sorrow. Throughout her life, Her Majesty The Queen – my beloved Mother – was an inspiration and example to me and to all my family, and we owe her the most heartfelt debt any family can owe to their mother; for her love, affection, guidance, understanding and example... I too now solemnly pledge myself, throughout the remaining time God grants me, to uphold the Constitutional principles at the heart of our nation. I shall endeavour to serve you with loyalty, respect and love, as I have throughout my life."

King Charles III

God save our gracious King!

Long live our noble King!

God save the King!

Send him victorious,

Happy and glorious,

Long to reign over us,

God save the King.

Thy choicest gifts in store

On him be pleased to pour,

Long may he reign.

May he defend our laws,

And ever give us cause,

To sing with heart and voice,

God save the King.

**1 Take my life and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in endless praise,
let them flow in endless praise.**

**2 Take my hands and let them
move
at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.**

**3 Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King.
Take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.**

**4 Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use
every power as thou shalt choose,
every power as thou shalt choose.**

**5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.**

**6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.**

Frances Ridley Havergal (1874)

**1 Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.**

**2 Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive Your people's praise.**

**3 Lord, for our land in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.**

**4 Lord, for our world when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.**

**5 Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us -
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.**

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)

The Famished Man and The Bloated Man: learning to serve at harvest time
I Timothy 2.1-7, Luke 16.19-31
The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity, 18 September 2022
Austwick, Clapham, Eldroth

It was the night of the Harvest Supper and The Famished Man loitered in the shadows outside the village hall as the guests made their way indoors. Among them was The Bloated Man, who loved Harvest Suppers, partly because he loved *any* supper, any opportunity to gorge himself on a hot cooked meal prepared by someone else, but mostly because Harvest Suppers gave him the chance to make a show of his great wealth and a pitch for his generosity by dominating the bidding in the charity auction at the end.

After the Harvest Supper The Bloated Man emerged, as he did every year, alone, but with a carrier bag full of wine bottles and a great big box full of fruit and veg, spilling out onto the pavement. The Famished Man, as *he* did every year, followed The Bloated Man as he made his way along the street to his big mansion house just the other side of the Parish Church. Along the way an apple fell from The Bloated Man's box and The Famished Man picked it up and bit into it ravenously. Noticing this, The Bloated Man turned to The Famished Man and said, "Here, Lazarus, carry this box to my gate."

The Famished Man Lazarus, being emaciated, almost buckled under the weight of the food, struggled along the road with it, and when The Bloated Man had unlocked his big metal gate and Lazarus handed the box back to him, a punnet of grapes fell out onto the ground. Lazarus hungrily reached for it but The Bloated Man said "Put that back", and this having been done, locked the gate behind him leaving Lazarus to scabble for the few grapes which had rolled away on the path.

Then, gripping the railings which surrounded the mansion Lazarus watched horrified as The Bloated Man made his way, not to his front door but to a row of wheelie bins at the side of the house. Lazarus groaned as The Bloated Man opened the lid on a bin and poured all the contents of his food box into it, followed by the box itself, then turned, picked up the carrier bag of wine bottles, and went inside.

The Bloated Man loved the idea of *service*: as long as that meant others serving him.

The Bloated Man loved the idea of *sacrifice*: as long as that meant others making sacrifices which benefitted him.

The Bloated Man loved the idea of *charity*: as long as that meant public gestures which cost him effectively nothing and made him look good in other people's eyes.

And in Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames." But Abraham said, "Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony."

The story of the Rich Man and Lazarus is a fitting one for harvest. For at root it is a parable about hunger and how we respond to it. It is a parable about food and what we do with it. It is a parable about God's good earth and how we live on it. It is a parable about serving and being served.

It is also a parable of *extremes* - contrasting a very wealthy man with a very impoverished one. It's like our own world, where the richest few have eye-watering wealth whilst the poorest half of the world's population barely subsist. [1] We *here* are undoubtedly closer to the Rich Man than to Lazarus in global wealth terms but that doesn't necessarily mean we're like The Bloated Man in the way that we deal with hunger, food, and the earth.

For there will have been some at that Harvest Supper who handed The Famished Man some fruit as they saw him begging outside; others who gave him cash. Maybe even a generous couple who bought The Famished Man a ticket for the Supper and invited him to sit and eat with them.

There will have been some at that Harvest Supper who each day for weeks and months beforehand had caringly tended their vegetable patches to grow the food to display and eat that evening. Others who made their living on the land, raising animals, growing crops, with all the intimate understanding of nature and its ways that such a life brings.

The Supper happened because some took the time and skill to prepare hot food for those who came; and there were those who served it to the guests. And others again who took home parcels of fruit and veg and people's tinned gifts, and the following day gave them away to the sick and housebound and lonely ones of the village.

“There is real goodness in serving others, which brings joy to both the servant and the served. This has been forefront in our minds this past week as we've recalled the life of our late Queen Elizabeth. We have many times heard that speech she made as a young princess, declaring before all the peoples in her care that her whole life 'whether it be long or short' would be devoted to our service.[2] And much has been rightly said about how very thoroughly she fulfilled that solemn vow. She took her inspiration from the life and teachings of Jesus, who himself said, “I am among you as one who serves.” [3]

Somewhere inbetween the Rich Man and Lazarus we are called to the joy of serving others and serving God's good earth. Which we may consider to be very much the same thing.

Because our scriptures insist that God as Creator has absolute sovereignty over the environment. We must use it only in accordance with His will; and we shall answer, collectively as well as individually, for all our decisions in this area. Our traditions and our instincts teach us that there is an intimate link between humankind and the soil. We are intimately bound to the land. We are taken from the ground; our food is derived from it; we are commanded to till and to keep it; and we return to it. We are to 'keep' it, not *dominate* it. We are to guard and protect the ground. And when Genesis says we are to 'till' the earth, it uses a Hebrew word which means that we are the *servant* of the ground.” [4]

We may deal with hunger, food, and the earth as *servants* of the earth and its creatures.

There is joy in service of this kind because when we serve the earth then the earth from its richness returns goodness to us. In the same way there is joy in serving others because in doing so we find health and strength in the mutual blessing this brings.

It's what we may take from the life of a Queen committed to the common good. It's what we can learn from the scriptures and from the good earth itself. [5]

Notes

[1] Esme Campbell, Widening of the wealth gap: the rise of billionaires. University of Manchester, Global Social Challenges, 12 July 2022.

[2] A speech by the Queen on her 21st Birthday, 1947. Royal Family website.

[3] Luke 22.27.

[4] Alastair McIntosh, Introduction to the Isle of Harris Proposed Superquarry Public Inquiry Theological Testimony: Statement of Supplementary Witness - Rev. Prof. Donald Macleod, Free Church College, Edinburgh. Adapted.

[5] John Bell, 'The Earth is the Lord's' section of the talk Inheritance Tracks – For Our Children's Children. Greenbelt Festival, 2022.

COME TO OUR HARVEST SOCIALS...

Saturday 24 September Keasden, 7.00pm at Hammon Head. Hot food, bring your own drink. Dominoes, quiz. Donations welcome (suggested amount £10, children £5).

Monday 3 October Eldroth Church, 7.00pm. Domino Drive and Jacobs Join Supper.

Sunday 9 October Austwick Parish Hall, 6.45 for 7.00pm. A Pie and Pea Supper with sweet, vegetarian and Gluten-free options; including a Harvest Auction. £12.50 per adult and £7.50 per child. Tickets available from Cross Leigh Stores and PCC members.

Saturday 8 October Clapham "Harvest at Home" 7.00pm at Wyvern, Newby. *(Please note the new date, rearranged in respect of the period of mourning for our late Queen.)*

CHURCH SERVICES THIS AUTUMN...

Sunday 25th September

9:30 **Austwick** Holy Communion; 7:00 **Keasden Harvest Festival**;

Sunday 2nd October

9.30 **Eldroth Harvest Festival**; 11:00 **Clapham** Holy Communion

Sunday 9th October

9.30 **Austwick Harvest Festival**; 11.00 **Keasden** Holy Communion

Sunday 16th October

9:30 **Austwick** Holy Communion; 11:00 **Clapham** Holy Communion;

6:30 **Eldroth** Evening Prayer

Sunday 23rd October

9:30 **Austwick** Holy Communion; 7:00 **Keasden** 'Saints, Sausages and Sparklers'

Sunday 30th October

10:30 **Austwick** Messy Church; 7:00 **Clapham New Inn** Church in the Pub

Sunday 6th November

9:30 **Eldroth** Holy Communion; 11:00 **Clapham** Holy Communion;

6.30 **Austwick** All Souls Service

Sunday 13th November

9:30 **Austwick** Remembrance Service; 10:45 **Clapham** Remembrance Service;

2:00 **Keasden** Remembrance Service

Also each Wednesday: 10.30 **Austwick** Holy Communion

AFTERNOON FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday 28th September, Austwick Parish Hall, 1.30 - 3.00

A presentation by Giles Bowring on the work of the Farming Community Network (FCN), which supports farmers and families within the farming community. Giles is an FCN Trustee. Refreshments included. All welcome.

Austwick WI warmly invite you to COFFEE CAKES AND CRAFTS

Saturday 15th October, Austwick Parish Hall, 10.30 – 12.30

Stunning display of craft and artwork. Entry free - donations welcome in aid of our local food bank based at St. Mary's Church, Ingleton 10.00-12 noon on Saturdays.

YOUR DONATIONS TO OUR LOCAL FOOD BANKS

In these austere times food bank donations have dropped significantly just as more people are applying to use them as the cost of living rises. Please help if you can. Donations are welcome at Clapham Village Store (for the Skipton Food Bank which serves people throughout the whole of Craven including in our area) and Cross Leigh Stores, Austwick (supporting the Ingleton Food Bank, see WI notice above).