

Matthew 5:1-12

4:23-25 say "Jesus went throughout Galilee ... proclaiming the good news of the kingdom ... great crowds [including Gentiles] followed him ..." He speaks to his disciples, but the crowd is not far away: per 7:28, they too hear. "Blessed are" (v. 3) can be translated as Happy are those who. The "poor" (v. 3) are the many who were literally impecunious and therefore suffered subservience to the will of the wealthy. Those of them who place themselves in God's hands will enter the kingdom of heaven. Those who have no worldly joy because life is hard on them ("mourn", v. 4) yet turn to God for help will be comforted, renewed, strengthened. Those whose lives are God-centred ("meek", v. 5) will enter the kingdom ("the earth", figuratively, the Promised Land). Those who seek ardently to live in unison with God ("righteousness", v. 6) will know the privilege and joy of loyal response to God's will. The compassionate ("merciful", v. 7) will receive compassion. Those who are single-minded, in their very beings, in complete loyalty to God will live in God's presence (v. 8). Reconciliators ("peacemakers", v. 9) will, because they share in what God does, be his "children". Those who are "persecuted" (v. 10), ridiculed, denounced, ill-treated, in maintaining a right relationship with God (through Christ) will receive a "reward" (v. 12), God's blessing: they will share in the kingdom. Disciples in Jesus' day are like the prophets: they suffered persecution from their own people (v. 11). (Some of the beatitudes overlap.) The Beatitudes present a paradox; they overturn the conventional values of society; they constitute a moral revolution, which continues today. © 1996-2016 Chris Haslam

~ Notices ~

Concerts – Three further concerts are scheduled for this Autumn

Sat 27th November 7.30pm – **Regina Nathan** – ticket details to be confirmed.

Fri 10th December – **Pat Ryan and Eoin O'Neill** – A Gala of traditional Irish Music- ticket details to be confirmed.

11th December – **Helen Hancock** – A Christmas concert - ticket details to be confirmed.

Prayers - If you have any particular issue that you would like to be prayed for, do please email me on frkevinobrien@me.com or call me on 065 672 4721.

Christmas – Whilst the Christmas Tree Festival cannot proceed this year (although we need to start planning for Christmas 2022 – it is too important to lose) we need to start planning and preparing for Christmas celebrations for 2021. A Carol service of some kind will be possible, whether it features a small ensemble singing, or full congregation with masks, or musicians playing instrumental versions. I am asking either for volunteers to play or for recommendations of friends/family who might play as part of a team of musicians for a 'Carols around the Christmas Tree' event.

Talks at Killaloe Cathedral – A series of talks for Advent Wednesday at 8.00pm – Cathedral Church of St Flannan

- 1) 24th November – Apostolic and catholic, Protestant and reformed? Rev Professor Canon Patrick Comerford
- 2) 1st December – A Liturgical church, Rev Kevin O'Brien
- 3) 8th December – an Episcopal church, Ven Terry Mitchell
- 4) 15th December – An ecumenical church, Joc Sanders

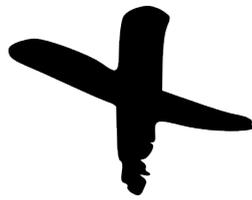
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Remembrance Sunday

(Year B) 2021

Readings and Hymns

Collect: God, our refuge and strength, bring near the day when wars shall cease and poverty and pain shall end, that earth may know the peace of heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Suggested Hymns: *In conjunction with the online service you might like to view these hymns on YouTube - with internet links and lyrics so that you can sing along:*

- 1) Dear Lord and Father of Mankind
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YAXiN0egN-I>
- 2) Abide with me
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTT5HGSaO-Y>
- 3) Be still, my soul
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q18GAt3_tkc
- 4) O God, our help in ages past
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yKP_XxCBZDY

Micah 4: 1-4

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised up above the hills. Peoples shall stream to it, and many nations shall come and say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples, and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more; but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
Come, behold the works of the Lord;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
'Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth.'
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Romans 8.31-39

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own

Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long;

we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 5: 1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Bidding Prayer

Almighty God, you call us into a common fellowship of solidarity and love; draw near to us as we commemorate those who died in two world wars and so many conflicts since. We remember those who have participated in conflict from our town and village communities, and we pray for all those who continue to serve in our Defence Forces risking their lives so that others may know peace. As we reflect on their sacrifice and the horrors of war, may you move us to always work for peace and justice in our broken world; this we ask through the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Act of Commemoration

The list of the departed is read out. A wreath is placed.

The Exhortation

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
we will remember them. **We will remember them.**

The Last Post – The Silence – The Rouse

The Kohima Epitaph

When you go home tell them of us and say,
for your tomorrow we gave our today.

A Prayer of Commemoration

Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life: hear our prayers and thanksgivings for all whom we remember this day.

Fulfill in them the purpose of your love; and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

An Act of Commitment

Let us commit ourselves to responsible living and faithful service. Will you strive for all that makes for peace?

We will.

Will you seek to heal the wounds of war?

We will

Will you work for a just future for all humanity?

We will

Merciful God, we offer to you the fears in us that have not yet been cast out by love: may we accept the hope you have placed in the hearts of all people, and live lives of justice, courage and mercy; through Jesus Christ our risen redeemer. **Amen**

The Post-Communion Prayer

God of peace, whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom and restored the broken to wholeness of life: Look with compassion on the anguish of the world, and by your healing power make whole both people and nations; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Commentary

Micah

Micah was the last of the eighth-century prophets. He was from south-western Judah, west of Hebron. He is preoccupied with social justice and is totally independent of political and religious leaders. Times are bad: Assyria has captured Damascus and Samaria. Jerusalem was besieged in 701 BC. But danger was internal too: leaders accepted bribes; merchants cheated their customers; pagan gods were worshipped along with the Lord. Micah preaches about sin and punishment; people have rejected God. The coming punishment is due to their sin. Even so, there is hope for the future: a remnant will form the nucleus of a new Israel, and its leader will be a true shepherd, one who brings peace.

Psalms 46

This psalm tells of God's protection and defence of his people. Perhaps the psalmist thinks of Isaiah 8:6-7; there "streams" (v. 4) are what God provides to the godly. The "city of God" is Jerusalem, God's dwelling place on earth. Even if natural disasters (earthquakes, vv. 2-3) or political turmoil (v. 6) occur, or earth returns to its primordial chaotic state ("waters", v. 3), God will remain ("not be moved", v. 5), answering night-long prayer in the "morning". Israel has suffered "desolations" (v. 8) for not doing God's will. In a liturgy, a priest or prophet invites participants to consider God's deeds: he ends political turmoil, bringing peace (v. 9). Recognize that God is supreme over all the earth! (v. 10) He is with his people and keeps them safe (v. 11).

Romans 8.31-39

in detail how certain can we be that God will complete the execution of his plan of salvation. What, he asks, "are we to say about these things" (v. 31), especially "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (8:1). He puts his questions in the language of the law court. God is so "for us" (v. 31) that he gave us his very Son, so he will surely follow through with the rest of his plan. God has passed a favourable sentence on us ("justifies", v. 33) so who is there to accuse us of anything? We have Christ, in his place of power and authority ("at the right hand of God", v. 34) pleading for us. (He is also the judge: see 2:16.) No hardship can separate the true Christian from Christ's love for us (v. 35). Psalm 44:22 foretold the sufferings of Christians (v. 36); in them we are winning a resounding victory ("more than conquerors", v. 37). Whether dead or alive at the Last Day, nothing – whether spiritual powers ("angels ... rulers ... powers", v. 38) or astrological powers (commonly believed to control human destiny, "height, nor depth", v. 39) or anything else – can separate us from God's love – and defeat God's purpose for us.