

Beaminster Area Team

God our Father, renew our hope. By the Holy Spirit's power, strengthen us to pray readily serve joyfully and grow abundantly rejoicing in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Week: 8th November, 3rd Sunday before Advent, Remembrance Sunday

Old Testament: Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16

Psalm: 70

New Testament: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-end

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

Reflection on the Gospel reading:

I have been a bridesmaid four times. But I never had to prepare the lamps and wait for the bridegroom. It was more a case of organising a hen do and wearing a dress, although not always the dress I would have chosen.

The bridesmaids are wise and foolish. Wisdom in this story seems to equate to being prepared. Any of us who have been in the Scout or Guide movement would know those words, be prepared. This year it has been hard to be prepared because no one could have predicted a global pandemic. It has been hard to prepare because so much is unknown. We feel like we are making it up as we go along.

But this story is about waiting for Jesus to return. It is about recognising what God has given us now, the joy of knowing Jesus in our hearts, in the gospels and through the sacraments. It is about knowing that Jesus requires us to change and to serve him. Wisdom means follow Jesus now and joining in with God's loving action in the world. It means that when he comes again, we will already be doing his will and will be ready to follow him. "Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour" Matthew 25:13

Collect for the 3rd Sunday before Advent

Almighty Father,
whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, the king of all:
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority,
and bring the families of the nations,
divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,
to be subject to his just and gentle rule;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

Worship to enjoy at home

BBC Radio 4 8.10am Sunday Morning Worship
Songs of Praise BBC1 1.15pm

A Useful Telephone Link from The Church of England. This is a free number where you can listen to prayers, reflections and hymns and join in worship with others.

