

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: 15 November 2nd Sunday before Advent

Old Testament: Zephaniah 1:7,12-end

Psalm: 90:1-8

New Testament: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

Reflection on the Gospel reading, written by Alastair Wheeler

Jesus used Middle Eastern story telling for his parables, and each parable has one key point.

Here a rich ruler entrusts three of his courtiers with all his worldly wealth in the shape of five, three and one "talents". Think huge slabs of solid silver! Two courtiers use their talents, double their value, but one buries his talent –and when the king returns he rewards the first two and things don't go well for the third. It's a standard "once upon a time ... and they all lived happily ever after" story.

The Key point - God has given us the vast riches of knowing his love for us and for all people, and he wants us to make good use of that, not bury it. In our world and nation there are dangerous moves towards division, anger, hatred and fear. For me, this week, I think our challenge is to follow Jesus, and use our 'talents'. We're called to open ourselves to God's empowering and enabling, to use what chances, insights and skills we have, our 'talents', to build the kingdom of God within the turmoil of this present world. To tell others by our lives and our words what we have discovered of God's love and grace that overcome division and reach out to all.

Collect for the 2nd Sunday before Advent

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed
to destroy the works of the devil
and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and great glory
we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

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.

