

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: 6th June 2021, First Sunday after Trinity

Old Testament: Genesis 3. 8-15

Psalm: Psalm 130

New Testament: 2 Corinthians 4. 13-15.1

Gospel: Mark 3. 20-35

Reflection on the Gospel reading, by Sarah Keen

In Chapter 3 of his Gospel, Mark has a key message to convey - that Jesus is a disruptor of the established order. He is not a conventional preacher and teacher who will conform to prevailing religious law and custom. On the contrary, he is happy to break the rules in order to demonstrate the true meaning of faith.

This does not make Jesus popular with the religious authorities and as our passage shows, they accuse him of being in league with Satan. Jesus turns their argument on its head and calls them out for spreading what amounts to a conspiracy theory. The dangers of such theories are only too evident to us today.

Jesus is also keen to break with traditional kinship ties. His treatment of his close family may seem a little harsh to us but it gives him the opportunity to open his arms and make all his followers part of the family of God. In doing so, he allows us all to become part of his family too. All we have to do is have faith in him and be prepared for the wonderfully disruptive influence our faith will have on our lives.

Collect for the First Sunday after Trinity.

O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; 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.

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.



Worship to enjoy at home

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