

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: 15th August 2021, The Blessed Virgin Mary

Old Testament: Isaiah 61. 10, 11

Psalm: Psalm 45: 10-17

New Testament: Galatians 4. 4-7

Gospel: Luke 1. 46-55

Reflection on the Gospel reading, by The Ven Patrick Evans

The Gospel, the Magnificat, Mary's song brought to us by St Luke from the earliest days of the church is a song of praise, thanksgiving, trust and hope but upheaval too. The world turned upside down, the scattering of the proud, bringing down the mighty, lifting up the lowly, the rich sent empty away, the hungry filled....the fierceness of the language so often escapes us, or we ignore it, as the Magnificat is beautifully sung in Cathedrals and churches.

This remembrance of Mary today is a moment to let her whole life touch us. Mary called to be the mother of Jesus reminds us that God is a God of surprises! For Mary a simple girl to be the light bearer of a new dawn, to accept that trust, to nurture Jesus through childhood and in her love to set him free to be the person God called him to be. The painful love that has to let go of children into adulthood. Mary moves from thanksgiving and joy and Jesus birth to a painful onlooking as the life that she has carried and set free is finally torn from her on the brutality of the cross.

There is humility, the emptying of hands, the making room for the God who comes, allowing another pride of place and another's voice to be heard. Inner resilience, rocklike strength, and love from the beginning to the end.

Magnificat. Here is this pregnant woman, not preoccupied with herself but utterly engaged with God's justice. God's bias for the poor, God's judgement on the exploiters. She is the herald and bearer of a new order.

Collect for the Blessed Virgin Mary

Almighty God, who looked upon the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary and chose her to be the mother of your only Son: grant that we who are redeemed by his blood may share with her in the glory of your eternal kingdom; 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