

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: 3rd October 2021, Harvest Sunday.

Old Testament: Joel 2; 21-27

Psalm: Psalm 126

New Testament: 1 Timothy 2: 1-7

Gospel: Matthew 6: 25-33

Reflection on the Gospel reading, by Revd. Fiona Beale

Many years ago, I once saw in a weekend magazine supplement adverts for the latest designer garments, which were worn by elegant women, interwoven with a feature article on extreme poverty and hunger in Africa. The contrast was so glaring it was hard even to look at.

Jesus had a warning, not just for people who loved fashion and those working in the fashion industry, but for those of us who also devour the food and cookery features of our magazines as well. Imagine those pages alongside pictures of the latest famine. How must God see our priorities and passions? Yet in today's passage we don't see a God who condemns us but one who simply redirects us to a higher truth.

Jesus goes deeper to align us first toward the kingdom of God and his righteousness. To help us align to his kingdom we need to ask ourselves, "What are our priorities and passions?" because that's where our heart is too. This question highlights to us the identification of our Gods. Pondering that question with absolute honesty can be a sobering experience. Is it our comfort, success, health, place in society? Is it buying things? Or is it what people think of us? So what are our priorities and passions today, next week, next month or next year?

Jesus today invites us to strive first for the kingdom, to not lose sight of him, and so as we celebrate our Harvest this year, we give thanks for all crops that are safely gathered in from the field, whether it be the corn, potatoes, tomatoes, beans or strawberries. We're also reminded of how seeking the kingdom of God and the thanksgiving that flows from the Harvest are bound together.

Praying to God, and giving thanks to him for all that we have, not just for the food we enjoy, but for everything, which does help lessen the hold that worry has on us.

Collect for Harvest

Let us pray: Eternal God, you crown the year with your Goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being; 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. **Amen.**

Worship to enjoy at home

BBC Radio 4, 8.10am, Sunday 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.

0800 804 8044

DailyHOPE

A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers