

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: 13th March 2022, Second Sunday of Lent

Old Testament: Genesis 15: 1-12,17-18

Psalm: Psalm 27

New Testament: Philippians 3: 17 - 4.1

Gospel: Luke 13: 31-35

Reflection on the Gospel reading, written by Revd. Alistair Wheeler

Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem and the climax of his life and ministry – very busy, preoccupied, thoughtful. He quotes one of the Bible phrases linked to hopes of Messiah “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord”. But those expectations of the Christ were very varied – from a warrior leader slaughtering the Romans, through to a pious holy man for a small select few.

Jesus had fulfilled many hopes – and transformed others, moving the concept of Messiah away from politics and war and anger and hatred. Embodying a meeting of God and humanity, showing forgiveness, hope, peace, compassion, understanding, an openness to one and to all. But sadly this did not meet with universal welcome. Pharisees were professional religious men committed to live by religious law and rules.

In today's Gospel Jesus expresses his sadness and longing that they and others were missing out on all that he was offering. He was open and welcoming to those who hadn't lived lives according to the rules. He came working with those who were not members of the people of Israel. He came with women as well as men listening to his teaching, being part of his community, his kingdom. He healed those who were physically injured or not physically perfect, he forgave those who were not morally perfect.

In the end it would mean the ultimate rejection of death. Like hundreds of other prophets before him he was heading to Jerusalem, following the leading of God, living day by day the love of God even as he did so.

Collect for the Second Sunday of Lent

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, 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 Morning Worship, Songs of Praise BBC1 1.15pm