**Topic: Monday afternoon Lent Group** 

Time: 2pm

Meeting ID: 880 3265 9720

**Passcode: 627678** 

**Topic: Friday evening Lent Group** 

Time: 7pm

Meeting ID: 840 6254 9454

**Passcode: 205705** 

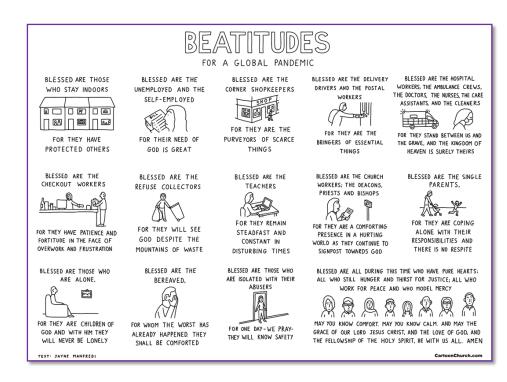
**Topic: Sunday afternoon Lent Group** 

Time: 2pm

Meeting ID: 884 7894 5665

Passcode: 045225

# Beatitudes



Lent groups this year will take place on Zoom and will focus on The Beatitudes as a tool for thinking about all that we have been travelling through, and the Christian vision for the world going forward.

For Zoom links see our website / emailed details

Monday afternoon 2pm from 22 Feb Friday evening 7pm from 26th Feb Sunday afternoon 2pm from 28th Feb

All Welcome!

# The Team Parish of Christ The King

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St Matthew's Dinnington www.stmatthewsdinnington.org.uk

Church in the Park www.churchinthepark.org.uk

the sight of God; to those who are merciful, mercy for themselves.

#### For discussion

Look at all of the Beatitudes and go through the text and identify the three-fold pattern of blessing, vocation and promise in each beatitude.

Put in your own words what you think 'poor in spirit' might mean and share examples of when you have seen this in others or even known it in yourself.

What difference would being poor in spirit make to one or more of the following:

Your relationship with those you love most?
Your relationship with colleagues and friends?
The way you pray and the things you might ask for?
Your priorities now, especially as we emerge from the pandemic?

## **Closing prayer**

Jesus Lord of time

Hold us in your eternity
Jesus, image of God

Travel with us in the life of faith
Jesus, friend of sinners

Heal the brokenness of our world
Jesus Lord of tomorrow

Draw us into your future. Amen

#### Week One:

We are living through extraordinary times — times when we have had a lot of time for reflection.. times when we have been walking through difficult terrain, and when many have felt cut off from each other and from our church family.. But now, as there are signs of hope on the horizon, it seems appropriate to look at this core text for the Christian journey and use it as a tool for thinking about all that we have been travelling through, and the Christian vision for the world going forward.

### **Opening Prayers**

Generous God, help me to live as a child of your kingdom

Give me the mind of Christ.

Let us hear our Lord's blessing on those who follow him.

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.' MATTHEW 5.3-10

God of our days and years
We set this time apart for you.
Form us in the likeness of Christ
So that we may learn of your love
And that our lives may give you glory.
Amen.

#### Conversation

Be honest. When you think of the Beatitudes, or read them for the first time, what do you think? What makes sense about them, and what doesn't?

# Reflecting on Scripture

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.' So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. MARK 7.24–30

- Read the passage through once
- Keep a few moments' silence
- Read the passage a second time with different voices
- Invite everyone to say aloud a word or phrase that strikes them
- Read the passage a third time
- Share together what this word or phrase might mean and what questions it raises.

In his book on the Beatitudes, Living Well, Robert Warren identifies a crafted three-fold pattern to each of the eight sayings. Each beatitude begins with an announcement of God's blessing. This is one of the main points of Christ's teaching: God wishes to bless us. He pours his love and affirmation upon us. And we are particularly blessed when we live Christ-like lives. Having announced the blessing, Jesus then describes a characteristic that could be referred to as a vocation, something that listeners are being asked to emulate or nurture in themselves, such as poverty of spirit or meekness of heart. Then there is a promise: this is what the person who lives by this vocation will receive. For the first and last beatitude it is nothing less than the kingdom of God itself. Those who are poor in Spirit and those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake are told that 'theirs is the kingdom of heaven'. For the other beatitudes some aspect of the kingdom is given: to those who mourn, the strength to persevere; to those who are pure in heart,