

between the master builder and the worker.
 We are workers, not master builders,
 ministers, not messiahs.
 We are prophets of a future not our own.

Beatitudes 5

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

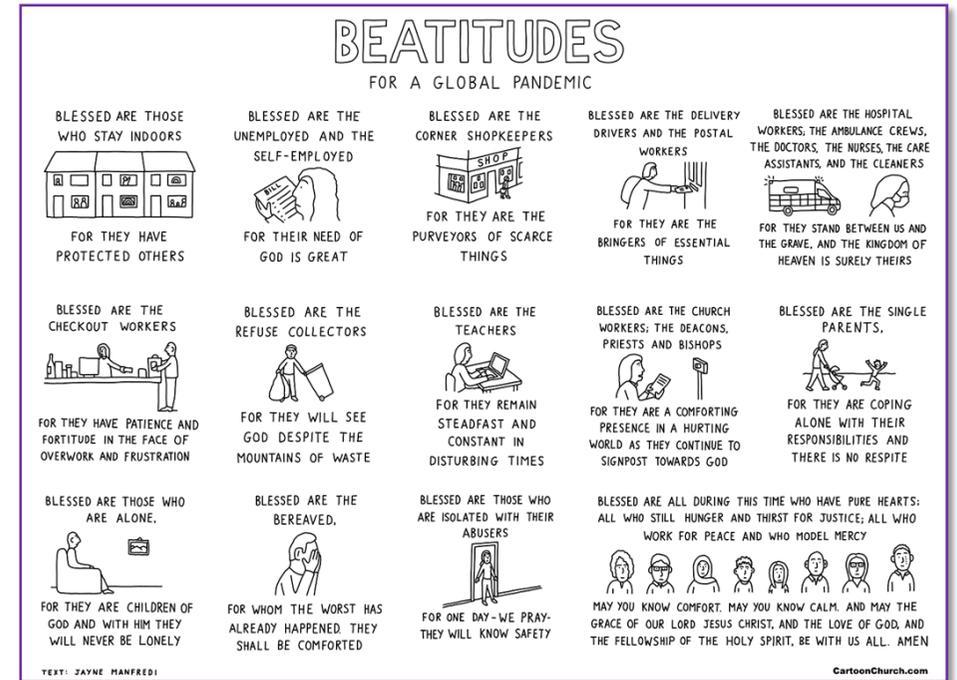
Passcode: 205705

Topic: Sunday afternoon Lent Group

Time: 2pm

Meeting ID: 884 7894 5665

Passcode: 045225



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!

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St Matthew's Dinnington

www.stmatthewsdinnington.org.uk

Church in the Park

www.churchinthepark.org.uk

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.
The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,

it is even beyond our vision.
We accomplish in our lifetime
only a tiny fraction
of the magnificent enterprise
that is God's work.

Nothing we do is complete,
which is another way of saying
that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.
No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.
No confession brings perfection.
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No programme
accomplishes the Church's mission.
No set of goals and objectives

includes everything.
That is what we are about.

We plant a seed that will one day grow.
We water seeds already planted,
knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations
that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces effects

far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything,
and there is a sense of liberation
in realising that.

This enables us to do something,

and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete,

but it is a beginning,

a step along the way,

an opportunity for the Lord's grace

to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results,

but that is the difference

- What does being a ‘citizen of the kingdom’ mean for you?
- Look at the image on the cover: Beatitudes for a global pandemic. What are the biggest challenges for us in living by these values now?
- Can the Beatitudes help us in planning for and working towards recovery after the Pandemic? What might be priorities for our community?

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

I am not sure exactly what heaven will be like, but I know that when we die and it comes time for God to judge us, he will not ask, ‘How many good things have you done in your life?’ Rather he will ask ‘How much love did you put into what you did?’

MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA (1910-97)

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

How much should the Christian faith influence our lives?
Are there certain things that should be kept separate?

Jesus said: “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practises and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

- 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
- Share together what this word or phrase might mean and what questions it raises.

In his ministry Jesus announced that the kingdom of God was near and called his followers to live as citizens of this kingdom. This means that God's rule of justice and mercy is breaking into the world and we should live as though this is a reality

For discussion

- Share examples of when you have seen God's kingdom breaking into the world.
- How can you demonstrate and live by kingdom values in your home, your relationships, your work, your locality, your church

The kingdom is, in some respects, a subversive movement, and Christians will feel the jarring contrast between living in human society, and their citizenship of the kingdom of heaven. That's why Jesus calls us to be 'salt' and 'light' to those around. There are many 'kingdoms' in the world – political, financial, economic, social and others. Citizens of the kingdom of heaven, Christians, will daily seek to live out the reality of God's reign increasingly in their lives and in the world around them. This does not always need to be in dramatic ways (although it might be); Jesus described the kingdom using images of small things: mustard seeds, yeast in dough, a lost coin. But it does need to be an intentional choice to live according to the ways of God's kingdom. The Beatitudes summarise the values we should live by.