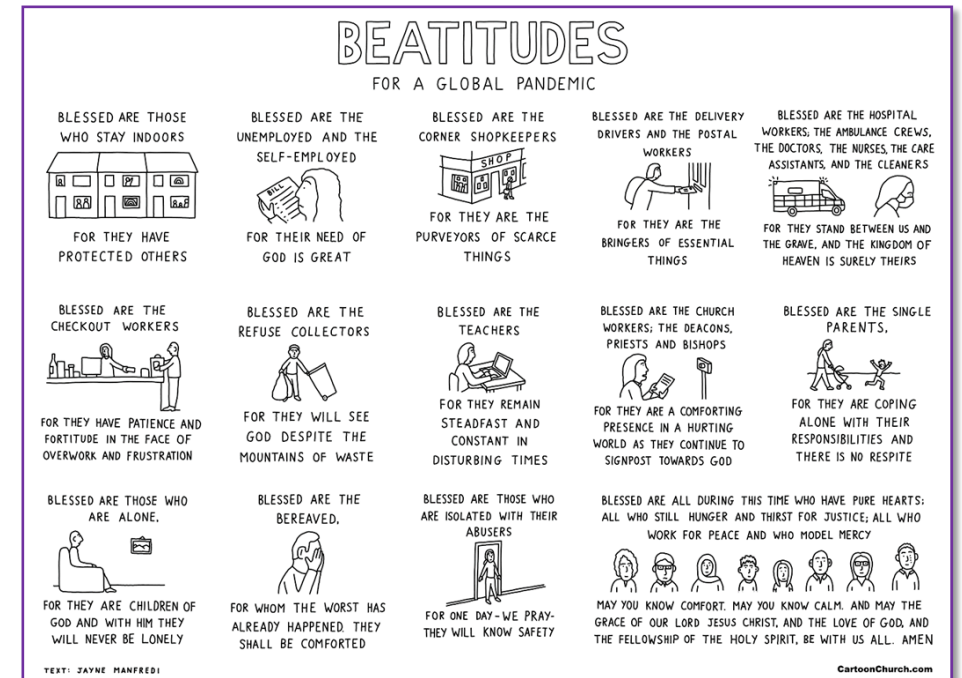


Beatitudes 2



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!

The Team Parish of Christ The King

Acting Team Rector: Revd Dr Pauline Pearson 07753744349

vicarofstcolumbawideopen@gmail.com

Team Vicar: Revd Mark Edwards MBE 01661 872320

haydenfox9411@gmail.com

Assistant Curate (Great Park): Revd Ruth Hewett 217 0367

_ruthhewett@icloud.com

St Aidan's Church Brunton Park Newcastle

www.staidanschurchbruntonpark.co.uk

Honorary Assistant Priest: Revd Ben Pullan

0797720895 brpullan@gmail.com

St Columba's Church Wideopen

www.stcolumbaswideopen.co.uk

Honorary Assistant Priest: Fr. Bill Miller Tel 236 5024

St Cuthberts Brunswick Village

www.stcuthbertsbrunswick.co.uk

St Matthew's Dinnington

www.stmatthewsdinnington.org.uk

Church in the Park

www.churchinthepark.org.uk

have stood in the way of fairness, truth and security?

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

We know we have found our vocation when we stop thinking about how to live and begin to live.

THOMAS MERTON (1915–68)

control – not for our own welfare, but for the welfare of others. This is a good example of seeing the Beatitudes as a whole, and not picking between them. When we read these two together it becomes clear that they belong together. Jesus is saying that blessedness lies not in fighting for yourself and your own needs, but for others and what they most need. St Paul had the same idea when he said, ‘Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.’

For discussion

- ◇ Who do you think are good examples of people who hunger and thirst for what is right?
- ◇ What do you think justice and righteousness are?
- ◇ Can you think of an example of something you might do differently if you were to take these beatitudes to heart
- ◇ Do you think the word ‘meek’ is a good one here? What other words or phrases might we use instead/ to capture the ideas of these two beatitudes. Play with ideas (e.g. ‘Blessed are those who gently insist on the rights of others ...’)
- ◇ In today’s world, what might ‘turning the other cheek’ mean in practice
- ◇ As we emerge from the pandemic can we find the strength to face and name some of the things that

Week Two

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. .What do you hunger and thirst for more than anything else?

Amos 5.21-24

²¹I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

²²Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and
grain-offerings,

I will not accept them;
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.

²³Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

²⁴But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

- 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.

Reflection PAULA GOODER: Desiring the needs of others

The problem with some of the beatitudes is that they can appear to be a manifesto for doormats: blessed are the meek for they will never cease to be stepped on. Indeed, Christians sometimes have the reputation of being a bit wet – so soft that it is amazing they can stand up at all. This is not, I think, what Jesus meant here. Part of the problem is with the word 'meek' which is now, in the English language,

a much less complimentary word than it was when it was used in the King James Version. The word 'meek' evokes in my mind the image of a little mouse terrified at the big world around, that stands just outside its hole looking at the world with big eyes and quivering with fear.

Actually the Greek word could be better translated as 'gentle', 'kind' or 'humble', which might give us a better initial understanding of what Jesus meant – blessed are those who don't fight for their own rights; blessed are those who treat others with gentleness and humility. But we can only really understand what Jesus meant when we read the two beatitudes for this session together ('Blessed are the meek' and 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for what is right').

This phrase concerning hungering and thirsting for what is right is counter-intuitive. Hungering and thirsting is a natural part of being human and what our bodies do. When we need to eat we hunger; when we need a drink we thirst. We have little control over these sensations but they are what cause us to look after ourselves, to care for our bodies. When Jesus says, 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for what is right', he is saying that we should seek for what is right with as much zeal and concentration as when we are driven to look for food when we are hungry or drink when we are thirsty. We should allow ourselves to be driven with a desire that is primal and almost beyond our