



Trinity 2

The Benefice of Upper Wensleydale



Edition 14

'Church in the Home'

Sunday June 21st – Saturday June 27th

From the Vicarage

This weekend will mark the Summer Solstice; that point in the year when we can celebrate and appreciate the **longest day** of the year. A little bit of research tells me that on Saturday the UK will enjoy 16hrs and 38 minutes of daylight. Wonderful! I hope that you can enjoy them, for as an old school friend of mine who lives in Australia always revels in reminding me; 'it's all downhill to winter now.' The 21st is also **Father's Day**. One little boy, when asked to explain about Father's Day, said, "It's just like Mother's Day, only you don't spend as much on the present!" That may or may not be the case, but I have always felt that as a church we might benefit from paying it a little more attention.

Paul quoting from the Old Testament reminds his readers: 'Honour your father and your mother' – *which is the first commandment with a promise* – 'that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.' Eph.6:2 (Deut.5:16)

On Mothering Sunday we give thanks for all of those who have had a mothering role in our lives and for our mother church, well perhaps on Father's day we would do well to be grateful for the positive paternal influences we have received as we also follow the leadership of Jesus and look to our Heavenly Father with praise and thanksgiving for all that we need and for all that he has given us.

In our reflection this week, Joe reminds us of how God desires us to deal with the issue of challenge and that despite times of difficulty and uncertainty, the frequently repeated command is, 'Do not be afraid.' How might that be possible I wonder, when surrounded by all the uncertainty that we feel around us right now? The Bible provides instruction and guidance on how to live our lives in freedom and fulfilment and in doing so turns our world view upside down. We are so used to putting ourselves first and thinking that what is right for 'me' or for 'us' will lead to an answer to all of our difficulties, but Jesus teaches us that the real answer is in turning that passion away from ourselves and directing it towards God. Putting God *first* in our lives, believing and trusting that Jesus came to make a difference and that he really can and that he really does, creates a very different perspective and a very different future.

Watching our daughter and two sons develop in their role as parents is such a joy and reminds Sarah and myself of all the fun, the trials and the privilege that we encountered in our parenting journey when they were young. They now are experiencing that deep satisfaction that comes from a child loving and trusting them and wanting to spend time with them. Jesus reminds us that our heavenly Father feels the same, but offers us so much more. If you have never taken the step of placing your trust in God above all things, then I commend Him to you and on this Father's day, may we all look to him as the source of our hope, life, joy and our freedom.

Rev Dave.



From the breaking of the Dawn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0DpSIIiWkEM>



As Christians In this country we have freedom to declare that we are children of God, we may face ridicule or be mocked for our Faith but we can stand firm in the word of God. He is a constant, and will guide us through the dark, we are not forsaken nor alone, and even when we stumble and feel the pressure of condemnation, he will hold us and lift us from despair with a love that casts out fear. I love the message in this song, it brings strength and surety, it brings comfort when the cloud of doubt rests heavy over me.

From the breaking of the dawn
To the setting of the sun,
I will stand on every promise of Your word.
Words of power, strong to save,
That will never pass away,
I will stand on every promise of Your word.
For Your covenant is sure,
And on this I am secure,
I can stand on every promise of Your word.
When I stumble and I sin,
Condemnation pressing in,
I will stand on every promise of Your word.
You are faithful to forgive,
That in freedom I might live,
So I stand on every promise of Your word.
Guilt to innocence restored:
You remember sins no more!

So I'll stand on every promise of Your word.
When I'm faced with anguished choice,
I will listen for Your voice,
And I'll stand on every promise of Your word.
Through this dark and troubled land
You will guide me with your hand
As I stand on every promise of Your word.
And you've promised to complete
Every work begun in me,
So I'll stand on every promise of Your word.
Hope that lifts me from despair,
Love that casts out every fear,
As I stand on every promise of Your word.
Not forsaken, not alone,
For the Comforter has come,
And I stand on every promise of Your word.
Grace sufficient, grace for me,
Grace for all who will believe,
We will stand on every promise of Your word.

Tell out my Soul

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qf3mgRUZkAk>

This traditional hymn is one of my favourite, it uplifts me when I'm feeling uncertain, doubting my ability to live my day to day life in a way that pleases God. Going to church on a Sunday is one thing, but to live each day striving to be in his likeness is a much taller order. It speaks of the greatness of his might, powerful enough to banish pride and stubborn will, in humility we can be lifted on high to tell anyone and everyone of the glory of his promise, "to children's children and forever more!"

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of his word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy name, the Lord, the mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and forever more!



Sunday June 21st Bible Readings:

Jeremiah 20:7-13, Psalm 69:8-11 (12-17) 18-20, Romans 6:1b-11, Matthew 10:24-39

Click on this site, type in the reading you want and then listen to David Suchet read it to you.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/audio/suchet/nivuk/Gen.1>

Reflection

No-one could see today's lectionary readings as unremitting sweetness and light. Jeremiah spent 40 years as a prophet to the nation of Israel through the reigns of five kings and didn't meet with much appreciation from his fellow citizens. He complains that God deceived him. He is mocked and insulted for what he has to say and yet holding back from saying what

God wants him to say is, if anything, even more painful than putting up with the abuse for saying it. The Psalmist is at odds with his own brothers and insulted, mocked and scorned as he seeks to relate to God. He can find no sympathy and no comfort. Matthew reports Jesus as saying that he did not come to bring peace but a sword. He predicts that people's enemies will be members of their own households, a man's father, a woman's daughter.

Before we move to more cheering passages in the readings it is worth pausing to reflect that the Bible speaks to the most challenging moments of our lives. There is no pretence that the human condition can be all ups and no downs. I'm sure that there are a few people who have preferred lockdown to their previous lives but for the great majority of us it has been more negative than positive. I don't want to suggest that Jeremiah accusing God of deceiving him is a role model but there may be a lesson for us that, if we are feeling lonely, depressed, badly treated or whatever, it is better to say that to God in prayer than to pretend that everything in the garden is lovely. God knows how we feel. There is nothing to be gained by faking cheerfulness.

Until I prepared this reflection I had no idea which command is repeated most often in the Bible. I might have guessed that it was something that included the word love. In fact, as I discovered from one of the scholars I consulted, it is three words that appear three times in our passage from Matthew: "don't be afraid". We may not face what Jeremiah faced, we may not have close family members mocking us for our faith - though we may - but there are bound to be testing moments if we are faithful to Jesus and moments when we feel we have let him down. The command is don't be afraid.

One reason for not being afraid in our gospel passage is that God knows when a sparrow falls and knows the number of hairs on our head. Our household has two people who are very enthusiastic about birds but they wouldn't dispute with Jesus when he says that each of us is worth a great deal more than many sparrows.

As we think about the references to close family members in Matthew it is worth remembering the wider context. Elsewhere we are bidden to care for each other including our close relatives. Jesus thought about his own mother as he was about to die but, of course, he was obedient unto death even though Mary would be left without him on earth. If we face a tension between our faith and our care for our parents or our children we must pray for wisdom and it might also be sensible to share the problem with a fellow-believer whom we respect. Honesty compels me to mention that I discussed these passages with my brother.

The passage from Romans is tightly argued and not easy to follow like much else in Romans but it is also glorious. At first sight the references to death and resurrection may mislead us into thinking that Paul is writing about our own death and life after death. In fact he is writing about our lives here on earth. By placing our faith in Jesus reflected in our baptism we are no longer slaves to sin. We are free to live a resurrection life. Paul is not saying that we will live perfect lives but he is saying that a believer need not be controlled by sin. Here again are the final two verses of the reading:

“The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

Joe Pilling



Prayers



Gracious & loving Father, we thank you for the lovely warm spring this year, allowing the lambs to grow well & strong. Then the rain came in abundance, making the grass grow and the hayfields ripen with wild flowers. You bless us with our quiet life here in the dales, our kind and loving neighbours, with our farmers & shop keepers keeping us fed, with our nurses & carers looking after our elderly folk & allowing us to share these hills & dales to bring peace & contentment to our souls.

But dear Lord, the world is full of people who need your help. People living in poverty & fear. People living in pain, sickness & sadness. People with families they are struggling to feed.

Loving Father, give your people hope not despair, love not anger, health of mind not sickness of spirit. And may they always know your enfolding love surrounding them.

Merciful Father, hear our prayer & let our cry come unto thee. Amen.

Sue Foster

For Father's Day

Heavenly Father, bless all the fathers in the world.

Guide them to be positive role models and loving to all their children

Help them to be a Father like you are, full of grace and patience.

May they be brave and bold to stand for what is just and right

That they may find strength in their role and be a blessing to all they meet.

...This Sunday This Sunday This Sunday This Sunday ...

Sunday June 21st
10:30am
Join us for our
Family Together
Service



To view this Sunday's service:
Visit the website
www.upperwensleydalechurch.co.uk
or our FaceBook page :
[upperwensleydalechurch-cofe](https://www.facebook.com/upperwensleydalechurch-cofe)

The Askrigg and District Produce show must go on...line.

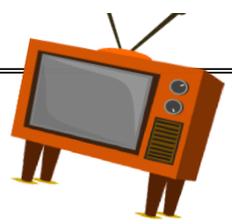
This year we are inviting entries from across Wensleydale and beyond as our show will be held entirely online. We are asking people to photograph their creations and produce and send them in by email, facebook or Instagram. Find out more at:
www.askriggproduceshow.weebly.com.



Your generosity has been absolutely wonderful over the past few months and all of the donations placed into the box at the end of the Vicarage drive have been put to very good use. **Thank You.** However, there is still a considerable need out there which looks set to remain for quite some time. Supplies are currently running low once more, so if you're able to contribute in anyway, large or small, we would be most grateful as every donation makes a difference.

TV
Radio

Worship on the BBC:



Tune into some of the services on TV and Radio.

- Sunday: Radio 4** Sunday Worship 8:10 – 8:50am **'Exploring God as Father'**
- Radio 3** Choral Evensong 3:00 – 4pm from Trinity College Cambridge
- Wed: Radio 3** Choral Evensong 3:30 – 4:30pm from Manchester Cathedral

Sunday BBC1 Worship. 11:45 – 12:15am **A service for Father's Day**
From Holy Trinity, Manchester with Rev Dr Paul Mathole
1:15-1:50 *Songs of Praise* with Sean Fletcher
Inspiring Dad's putting Christian love into action

