



The Benefice of Upper Wensleydale



Trinity 8

'Church in the Home'

Edition 20

Sunday August 02nd– Saturday August 08th

From the Vicarage



The word 'Praise' appears hundreds of times in the Bible and we read of the call to praise God throughout its pages. The psalmists praised God in the good times and in the bad. Praise is certainly about thanking God for all he has done, is doing and will do, but it goes deeper than that. Praise is about declaring the truth of who God is and rejoicing in that knowledge and that is something that we are all called to do. Paul reminds us that praising God changes us. [Philippians 4:4-7](#) It recalibrates the way we look at the world, changes our experience of it and our ministry within it.

As we return to our buildings this Sunday for public worship for the first time in 20 weeks, there is much to praise God for. Some things, however, will be a little different as we manage the space and the way we do things; e.g. restrictions on us singing and sharing the chalice in communion, but I'm sure that our ability and desire to gather together to praise God as community will override all of these issues. I am extremely grateful to the teams of folks who have worked so hard in preparing the buildings on your behalf to ensure that they are clean and safe. In recognition of this Visit Britain have awarded us with the 'We're Good to Go' accreditation

Sadly, our family services will have to continue on line for a little while longer as the resources and materials that we use in our times together have had to be removed. However: we hope to be able to organise an outdoor event later in August in which we can have room to gather together, dance and perhaps sing!

Rev Dave



Garment of Praise

<https://youtu.be/T6cNIHUhTqY>



Isaiah 61 speaks of putting on a garment of Praise instead of a spirit of despair. This song translates it as a spirit of heaviness which we exchange for that garment of praise. It's true we cannot fail to have our spirit changed when we lift our hearts in true worship and focus on Praising God. Why not try it? In these days where we have been told we cannot sing in public (just yet) we MUST Not allow our praise of God to be stolen . We can praise him anywhere! Even without singing! But we can sing at home still 🎵🎵

Put on the garments of praise, for the spirit of heaviness
Let the oil of gladness, flow down from your throne
Put on the garments of praise, for the spirit of heaviness
Your joy is my strength alone, my strength alone
Put on the garments of praise, for the spirit of heaviness
Let the oil of gladness flow down from your throne
Put on the garments of praise, for the spirit of heaviness
Your joy is my strength alone, my strength alone
Make these broken weary bones rise to dance again
Wet this dry and thirsty land with a river
Lord our eyes are fixed on you and we are waiting
For your garland of grace as we praise your name
Put on the garments of praise, for the spirit of heaviness
Let the oil of gladness flow down from your throne
Put on the garments of praise, for the spirit of heaviness
Your joy is my strength alone, my strength alone

Make these broken weary bones rise to dance again
Wet this dry and thirsty land with a river
Lord our eyes are fixed on you and we are waiting
For your garland of grace as we praise your name

Hallelujah, sing hallelujah
We give all honor and praise to your name
Hallelujah, sing hallelujah
We trade our sorrows for garments of praise
Hallelujah, sing hallelujah
We give all honor and praise to your name
Hallelujah, sing hallelujah
We trade our sorrows for garments of praise

Restore oh Lord <https://youtu.be/1g4p3v06lhk>

This hymn was always sung over our area by all the deanery clergy led by our previous rural dean Michael Hepper. It speaks of the restoration and renewal through the Holy Spirit ... that only the Holy Spirit can do. Let's sing this with the same fervency of prayer and intercession, so that after the times we have been through, God restores our lives to fullness in him and fullness through life in the holy spirit. It is indeed a prayer for revival. Never more have we needed it!

Restore, O Lord
The honor of Your name
In works of sovereign power
Come shake the earth again
That all may see
And come with reverent fear
To the living God
Whose kingdom shall outlast the years
Restore, O Lord
In all the earth Your fame
And in our time revive
The church that bears Your Name
In Your anger
Lord, remember mercy
O living God
Whose mercy shall outlast the years

Bend us, O Lord
Where we are hard and cold
In Your refiner's fire
Come purify the gold
Though suffering comes
And evil crouches near
Still our living God
Is reigning, He is reigning here
Restore, O Lord
The honor of Your name
In works of sovereign power
Come shake the earth again
That all may see
And come with reverent fear
To the living God
Whose kingdom shall outlast the years
Restore us, Lord
Revive us again



Sunday Aug 02nd Bible Reading: Isaiah 61

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

It's a time of disruption, disease, poverty, mistrust in systems of justice, civil and political unrest, distortion of the truth, hunger, a sense of moral decay and fear as super powers flex their muscles amidst a changing world order. The situation might sound familiar, but this is the landscape into

which Isaiah brings God's word to the nation some 700 years before the birth of Christ. It's a word of promise and it's a word of hope that many may have struggled with, but for those who remember the faithfulness of God in the past it will be transformational.

Chapter 61 speaks of a new way of life that is on the way. We have heard much about the 'new normal' into which we are now making tentative steps after so much change has taken place. Our local businesses are coming back to life once more as visitors return to the Dale, but this necessary development is also bringing nervousness and apprehension regarding the health and wellbeing of all who live here. Isaiah spoke words of promise and change into turbulent and uncertain times and that message of hope remains the same today: an unchanging God promising new experiences for those who place their trust in him.

Jesus began his earthly ministry by reading these very words in the synagogue. It is a proclamation that the Messiah is here and this is His agenda, but it's also a call to arms for each and every one of us. As disciples of Jesus this is *our* manifesto. The Apostle John tells the early church that just like Jesus, they (*we*) have received an anointing to be about God's work. ^{1John 2:20}

Jesus tells us that he has come to bring life in all its fullness ^{John 10:10} and here is what it looks like – hope, freedom, joy. In God there is always transformation.

In these times of uncertainty, we have words of promise and hope from a God of transformation. We need to adapt our thinking accordingly. *To think how God wants us to think, say what God wants us to say, be how God wants us to be, to do what God wants us to do.*

So; when things are tough, we don't let the world dictate to us our feelings. God has promised us something better – a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. Praise changes everything.

The other week I issued a challenge for folks to send in an A-Z list of the qualities of God and it was very encouraging to read the responses. This week, despite the joyful anticipation of coming back together again, I have felt under a heavy spiritual cloud and despite myself, I started to feel a weight descending upon me. I knew that there was only one way this was going to change and that was with Praise. I put on some worship music, declared my 'A-Z', read from the psalms and moved into prayer. I was free from my 'captivity'. Paul tells us that our struggle is against unseen spiritual forces, ^{Eph.6:20} so a *spiritual* response is needed to fight back. *'You have ordained praise to silence the foe'* ^{Ps.8:2} Covid 19 has at least created a very clear reminder that things unseen can have a very significant impact on our lives. Praise changes things. It recalibrates our position, reminds us of God's greatness and our identity before Him.

In v4 there is a promise that God will rebuild the places that have been ruined. Ruin can take many guises but there is a definite call to rebuild places of spiritual ruin, where God's word has been forgotten, obstructed, discarded or distorted.

During lockdown, the church of Jesus in all its different expressions has been wonderfully alive but what happens now? How do we build on the new contacts we have been making through our telephone calls, letters, cards, food bank deliveries, digital services, and deliveries of 'Church in the Home'? What do we keep and what do we adapt?

It's an exciting time of transition and opportunity for the church and we're all called to be involved. Isaiah speaks of a new leadership, ^{v6}, where we are all ministers. This has been taking place and I'm

delighted to tell you that four members of our church family begin training on the diocesan lay worship leader's course next month.

Isaiah speaks of a change of circumstance that comes through a change of attitude. Praise changes things. When we work together in unity, God commands a blessing Ps133. Things might have to be managed differently for a while but this should not, *must* not, affect our praise and our worship and our focus. We're called to go deeper with God in order that we might think how God wants us to think, say what God wants us to say, be how God wants us to be and to do what God wants us to do. Exciting times ahead.

Rev Dave



Prayers



Creator God, we give thanks this morning for the beauty of your world in which we live. We celebrate your presence in our lives, your steadfast love, your support & strength.

As we come together in person for the first time in months, we celebrate the beauty of this wonderful building and absorb the spirit of the Lord in the cornerstones. We give thanks for the joy that comes from communal worship and the excitement of being together again. We pray especially for those members of this congregation who are not yet able to join us physically – let them be assured that we are standing alongside them in their worship, praising the Lord in unity and love.

Holy God, we pray for strength and renewal for our clergy, both in our parishes and the wider church. We pray that our vicar, Dave continues to be a loving conduit for your message, leading us, holding us and teaching us in your ways that we may come to know you fully and completely.

As the country is cautiously coming out of the grips of the pandemic, with those who have been shielding for the past 4 months finally able to renew contact, friendship and family, we pray that we are all kept safe and secure. Let us respect those who do not yet feel confident in their journey out of the safety of their own homes and continue to support them where needed.

Daily life feels very different with social distancing, masks and no welcome hugs. Embracing the spirit of the Isaiah reading this morning, let us adopt a spirit of confidence, regrowth and renewal and not despair. More than ever we must "let go & let God" – we must trust that whatever adversity is facing us, He is there next to us, supporting and encouraging us. As disciples we must go out and "bind up the broken hearted" passing on the joy of loving God and offering the comfort of prayer and faith. Let us lean into each other remembering that all the individual parts come together to make one – we are stronger together, shored up by love. We give thanks for those who are supporting those in need in the community, whether through their work or through voluntary contributions. We especially give thanks for those in the caring professions whose dedication and determination has kept the care homes in this area the safe places they should be. Let the guard not be dropped as the doors are opened and let us remain vigilant in our responsibilities. There are many in our community who need support and friendship to see them through isolation and loneliness – we are grateful that this enforced life style change has allowed us to look outwards, build bridges, seek out those in need, to hold out a helping hand. We give thanks to the co-ordinators in our community who facilitate these links and forge new relationships.

Life giving God, your love is unending, your faith in us unshakeable, your strength incomparable. As we go forward into this new week, let us do so clothed in the Garment of Praise, with the light of your eternal love shining from us so that it may draw those in need to us, that we may show them the joy and confidence that comes from a life lived in you.

Let us go out with JOY! Halleluiah, halleluiah!

Elizabeth Fawcett

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

Sunday Aug 02nd
CHURCH OPEN!
Join us at one of
our churches for
Holy Communion



Visit the website
www.upperwensleydalechurch.co.uk

or our FaceBook page :
[upperwensleydalechurch-cofe](https://www.facebook.com/upperwensleydalechurch-cofe)

Sunday 2nd August

There will be a Holy Communion service in all our churches on Sunday at the following times: **St Mary & St John's Hardraw at 9.00am, St Oswald's Askrigg at 10.30am, St Margaret's Hawes at 2.30pm, St Matthew's Stalling Busk at 4.00pm**

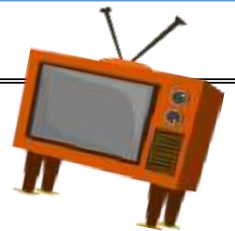


Much time and consideration has been given to prepare our buildings for our return. In accordance with current guidelines there is plenty of hand sanitizer to use and **we're good to go!** The Church of England '*strongly advise*' that a face covering should be worn but at present this will not be enforced.

**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 Rev Dr Isabelle Hamley, Chaplain to Archbishop of Canterbury charts her walk with God & COVID-19

Sunday: Radio 3 Choral Evensong 3:00 – 4pm from Hereford Cathedral

Wed: Radio 3 Choral Evensong 3.30-4.30pm from Buckfast Abbey

Sunday: BBC1 1:15-1:50 Songs of praise –at London Stadium,
Aled Jones explores what links Christianity and Sport





Temporary Pattern of Services August – September 2020

Date	Harddraw 9am	Askrigg 10:30am	Hawes 2:30pm	Stalling Busk 4pm
2 nd August	First celebration of Communion for each community.			
9 th August	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening Prayer	
16 th August	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	
23 rd August	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening Prayer
30 th August	OUTDOOR BENEFICE SERVICE If permitted- 10.30am venue tbc 8.30 HC in Hawes			
6 th Sep	'The Gathering' ONLINE ONLY Community involvement. 8:30 HC in Askrigg			
13 th Sep	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening Prayer	Holy Communion
20 th Sep	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	
27 th Sep	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening Prayer