

## Forgiveness



The headlines seem full of reprisals, anger and bitterness. Our global shared lockdown experience is creating stress, putting even the most balanced of relationships under strain and so forgiveness is something that I am sure we have all required in recent months. Sarah has certainly needed to exercise it many times over towards me! Forgiveness however, in the words of CS Lewis, always sounds good until we are called to implement it. 'Mere Christianity'

In a previous parish where Sarah and I were leading the 'Freedom in Christ' discipleship course, one particular lady at the end of the course reminded us that forgiveness can come in different measures. Her life, she explained, had been radically transformed as she understood for the first time why God asks us to forgive others. It's about freedom.

Ten years previously, her eighteen year old son had just begun University when he was attacked by a gang of drunken men. Beaten and kicked into unconsciousness, he suffered permanent brain damage that changed his and their lives forever. At the subsequent trial they watched his attackers laugh amongst themselves as they recalled the events of that night with none of them showing or expressing any sign of remorse. The family were heartbroken, distressed and angry as the sentences handed down seemed to let their son's attackers 'off the hook.'

She explained the challenge that Jesus' words in Matthew's gospel had given her. "But then I realised", she said, "that they weren't off God's hook, but if I forgave them, I could release myself from **theirs**".

Forgiveness is not about forgetting or tolerating sin and it is not about seeking revenge. We all live with the consequences of the hurt others have caused us, so the only real choice we have is to decide if we are to live in the bondage of bitterness or the freedom of forgiveness. Jesus offers us the means and the power to live our lives in freedom and to break the bondage of the past. It's a call to forgive others as we have been forgiven.

*'To be a Christian means to **forgive** the inexcusable because God has **forgiven** the inexcusable in you.'*

'On Forgiveness – The Weight of Glory' CS Lewis

God offers each & every one of us perfect forgiveness **and** perfect freedom. It's radical, it's life transforming and it comes with the power of God's Holy Spirit to help us do the same. May we all know God's strength as we fulfil His will for our lives.

With the Lord's Blessing

*Rev. Jane.*



**Praise my soul the king of heaven**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sx1eMwIDFb8>

The message this week is all about forgiveness and the need for repentance, it is not for us to judge others. Fall on your knees and beg forgiveness for your transgressions and forgive those who sin against you. Our God is compassionate and all those who truly repent will be forgiven.

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,  
 to his feet your tribute bring;  
 ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
 who like you his praise should sing?  
 Alleluia, alleluia!  
 praise the everlasting King.

Father-like, he tends and spares us,  
 All our hopes and fears he knows;  
 in his hands he gently bears us,  
 rescues us from all our foes:  
 Alleluia, alleluia!  
 widely as his mercy flows.

Praise him for his grace and favour  
 to our fathers in distress;  
 praise him, still the same as ever,  
 slow to blame and swift to bless;  
 Alleluia, alleluia!  
 glorious in his faithfulness.

Angels, help us to adore him;  
 you behold him face to face;  
 sun and moon, bow down before him,  
 praise him all in time and space.  
 Alleluia, alleluia!  
 praise with us the God of grace.

**The Lord is gracious and compassionate**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Xzk9qtlvuo>

I love this modern worship song, it speaks the truth in simple terms, if we can look to reflect the message of compassion in our lives we will find peace, he has moved our transgressions from us, we will praise the Lord with all our heart and soul.

The Lord is gracious and compassionate  
 Slow to anger and rich in love  
 The Lord is gracious and compassionate  
 Slow to anger and rich in love  
 And the Lord is good to all  
 He has compassion in all that he has made  
 As far as the east is from the west  
 That's how far he has removed our  
 transgressions from us  
 The Lord is gracious and compassionate  
 Slow to anger and rich in love

The Lord is gracious and compassionate  
 Slow to anger and rich in love  
 And the Lord is good to all  
 He has compassion in all that he has made  
 As far as the east is from the west  
 That's how far he has removed our  
 transgressions from us  
 Praise the Lord, oh my soul  
 Praise the Lord  
 Praise the Lord, oh my soul  
 Praise the Lord



**Sunday Sept 13th Bible Readings:**

Genesis 50:15-21, Psalm 103:1-7, 8-13, Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21-35

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>

## Forgiveness – Mercy - Compassion

# Reflection

Our readings this week deal with issues of forgiveness, mercy and compassion. How often do we stop to consider forgiving others through the power of love?

A constant that exists in scripture is that of us humans behaving inconsistently in regards to following God's advice and instruction, especially in regards to showing one another understanding and forgiveness.

The Psalm for today reminds us that God forgives us and our sins whatever we have done. He pulls us out of the mess we so regularly create as we hurt others and our world. *'He redeems our life from the pit'*. The Lord doesn't come on us with a pile of bricks when we sin but with abounding love, crowning us with *'love and compassion'*. Can we follow in His way?

Paul in his letter to the church in Rome is caused to challenge judgemental attitudes that are beginning to affect the worship of its members. Here the issue is to do with complex attitudes towards food that existed in the ancient world but there are many contemporary comparisons that could be drawn regarding the way in which worship is to be conducted.

Paul was very concerned that Christians should behave out of love for one another, resist squabbling and live for the Lord.

The Gospel reading emphasises forgiveness. Peter thought he was feeling very generous to forgive someone seven times. Our Bishop Nick suggests that Jesus has put some humour into his story by drawing attention to the enormous figures that Jesus uses to make his point. The servant owes the equivalent of millions of pounds [No servant would have that amount of money] and yet the whole debt was cancelled. As a result our attitudes towards others are brought into sharp relief. *'This is how my heavenly Father will treat each one of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart'*. Suddenly Peter is given to realising that his understanding of mercy is nothing to the mercy that he has received from God.

This makes the concept of forgiveness very important in our Christian lives. How dare we treat others without forgiveness when we consider everything that God does for us? It isn't about a 'totting up' of scores against others or ourselves; instead, it is all about the importance of placing love into the heart of every situation. Let us remember how God has treated us and pass on the loving forgiveness to others. Perhaps we need to take away from the readings that forgiving is a natural result of love, so it is not an option for us but a command, just as we are reminded every time we say the Lord's prayer.

I finish this reflection today with the poem 'Temper in October' by V.L.Edmison.

He rode with furious speed to Broken Edge, and he was very angry very small,  
But God was kind, knowing he needed not a scolding, nor a swift unpleasant fall,  
Or any kind of high reproach at all.  
"It matters not," said Reason and Good Sense, "absurd to let a trifle grow immense."  
"It matters very much," said Busy Brain,  
"you cannot be content and calm again, when you are angry in a Righteous Cause."  
"Poor queer old waxy," laughed the hips and haws.  
"God has a sense of humour," said a ball of gold inside a spindle berry  
"And Christ our Lord is full exceeding merry."

He lingered in the lane at Broken Edge. Bryony berries burned in every hedge.  
Snails in the deep wet grass of fairy rings, told him of unimaginable things.

Love was in all the colours of the sky - Love in the shadows of the high blue hills.  
Oh fool! How blind and earthbound so to grieve!

He turned his horse.

Through level sunset beams he saw a tiny little road that curled and climbed, elusive through a sky of dreams. His anger over Broken Edge was hurled, to shatter into nothing on a gust of wind that brought the twilight to the trees.

The soft October dusk hiding the chestnuts in the squirrels store heard a low murmur, spoken on his knees.

**"Lord...you have made a very perfect world.  
Don't let me spoil it. Ever... any more!"**

Amen



## Prayers



We come in a moment of quiet to still ourselves in God's presence, to pray for the needs of the world, for the needs of our own communities & to give thanks for the many gifts we have received.

Lord, open our hearts, guide us in the way you wish us to go, give us strength when we are failing & joy knowing that you are always with us. Help us to forgive others as you forgive us.

The lord is full of compassion - His love lasts for ever.

For our incapacity to feel the sufferings of others & our tendency to live comfortably with injustice  
God forgive us.

For the self-righteousness which denies guilt & the self-interest which strangles compassion  
God forgive us.

For living our lives in careless unconcern; for our lack of understanding of the fears of others.  
God forgive us.

For our lack of forgiveness ,& our inability to love as you love us.  
God forgive us.

The Lord is full of compassion - His love lasts for ever.

We pray for all those in authority, that they might serve humbly , respect the dignity of all creation & work for the common good of all.

We pray for our Benefice, for all the 4 churches who ,in their different ways, work for the Kingdom of God.

We pray for our vicar & his wife who work so hard on our behalf.

We pray for ourselves that we might in some small way reflect the light of the loving God.

We pray for the needs of the world & those who suffer violence & live in fear.

In a moment of silence, we pray for those known only to us who need our prayers.

The Lord is full of compassion - His love lasts for ever.

Holy God, grant that your love may be present in our lives so that what we say & what we do may be filled with your Holy Spirit. Help us to live our lives with resolve, grace, courage & humility within the embrace of your love & compassion - **Amen**

*Mary Rose Kearney*

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

**Sunday Sept 13th**  
**We hope that you**  
**can join us for**  
**Sunday worship**



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



Please wear a  
face covering

### Sunday Sept 13th

**St Mary & St John's Hardraw -9.00am Holy Communion**  
**St Oswald's Askrigg at 10.30am Holy Communion**  
**St Margaret's Hawes at 2.30pm Evening Prayer**  
**St Matthew's Stalling Busk 4.00pm Holy Communion**

### The Number Six....

Hurrah! -The recently announced measures from the government regarding restrictions on numbers gathering together will NOT, according to current information, alter our arrangements for Sundays services in anyway.

## TV Radio

### Worship on the BBC:

**Sunday: Radio 4** Sunday Worship 8:10 – 8:50am Rt Rev Nick McKinnel  
Bishop Plymouth reflects on story of the 'Mayflower'

**Sunday Radio 3** Choral Evening prayer 3:00 – 4pm from Neresheim Abbey, Germany

**Wed Radio 3** Choral Evensong 3.30-4.30pm from Chapel of Royal Holloway  
University of London



**Sunday: BBC1** *Songs of praise* 1:15-1:50pm with Aled Jones  
in Plymouth



**Services for  
Sept 2020**



<b>Date</b>	<b>Harddraw 9am</b>	<b>Askrigg 10:30am</b>	<b>Hawes 2:30pm</b>	<b>Stalling Busk 4pm</b>
13 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening Prayer	Holy Communion
20 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	
27 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening Prayer

**Please note –The timing of Services in October will be returning to  
10:30am for Hawes and 2:30pm for Stalling Busk**