



The Benefice of Upper Wensleydale



News Sheet: Feb 7th – 13th

Prov.8:1,22-31, Ps.104:25-37, Col.1:15-20, Jn.1:1-14

2 Before
Lent

From the Vicarage: Tomorrow is a lovely Day

My mother had a sweet singing voice and she was always singing around the home. One song I particularly remember was a WW2 classic by Irving Berlin: 'It's a lovely day tomorrow'. Vera Lynn: <https://youtu.be/IFYGJXAtX4k>

As the nation mourned the death of Captain Sir Tom Moore this week there has been a rush on Google for quotes he gave during recent interviews. Two I particularly like: *"I come from Yorkshire ... we don't give up."* And *"I've always believed things will get better; the sun will shine again, the birds will sing again and we'll all have a lovely day tomorrow."*

Sir Tom spoke of hope for the days ahead. As a nation we swiftly took this man to our hearts; perhaps because amongst the dark days of that first lockdown he reminded us of and reconnected us with the gentler, warmer and more loving side of our common humanity. Made in God's image, this is how it is shown and it gave us courage and hope.

Our readings today remind us of the greatness of God. A greatness that takes us above and beyond the difficulties we are facing no matter how great or grave they may seem. Paul and John both speak of the majesty and might of God. God as creator, God as ruler, God *above* all things, God *within* all things, God *before* all things. The description of Jesus in the letter to the Colossians is awesome and takes time to comprehend. It speaks of the supremacy of Jesus over everything. Look carefully first at the description of **who** Jesus is and then at **what** he has done. It is through Jesus that we can have peace with ourselves and then crucially ... with God himself.

John speaks about truth. Pontius Pilate, and more recently Donald Trump, have both had issues with the nature of truth. Some see it as a commodity to be manipulated to fit the needs of the moment as opposed to a living reality that cannot be altered. The world would see to persuade us that there is no one truth, no 'Super Narrative' that underpins our lives. Christians do not accept or believe that – those who know Jesus know that this is not the case and consequently have a very different experience of life. God is God: He is creator, we are created and we can see his likeness in one another. Living life with God changes things.

We are all going through a very difficult time at the moment and some of you are dealing with devastating loss and crippling anxiety over many issues such as your own health or finances. This is no time for flippancy or empty platitudes. All I can give you is what I know and have experienced. Jesus Christ holds all things together: we may walk through all kinds of trials in this life but we need never walk through them alone. *'In this world you will have trouble, but take heart. I have overcome the world.'* ^{Jn16:33}

Berlin's song speaks of 'forgetting' your troubles, but the hope that is in Jesus is **bigger** than just forgetting and it's greater than just tomorrow. The supremacy of Jesus stands above everything. In Paul's letter to the Philippians we're told that the name of Jesus is above all things ^{Phil.2:9}. It's a Hope that **seals** the past, it's a Hope that **speaks** to the present and it's a Hope that **secures** the future.

A transformed life is available through Jesus for everyone. God does not force it on us, we're free to decide but doubt and suspicion and ignorance keep many from stepping into the reality of something that is so wonderfully true and so readily available.

To paraphrase the song: 'If today your heart is weary, If ev'ry little thing looks grey: *give your troubles to Jesus, then you can say: Tomorrow is a lovely day.'*

Peri Dare.

Services For Sunday February 7th

Morning Prayer

10:30am: A service of **Morning Prayer**

Streamed on our FaceBook page and website.

The service was recorded in **St Margaret's Church, Hawes.**



Upper Wensleydale Church – CofE Website: www.upperwensleydalechurch.org/services

4:00pm: A service of **Evening Prayer**

Held in our telephone meeting room.

It's easy to join in and many have been drawing comfort and strength by doing so.

It's been good to hear one another's voices as we use the humble telephone to connect us together in worship. It works with both landline and mobile phones.

As 4pm approaches call this number: **03330 164757**

you will then be asked to enter the Room Number: **893 277 00#** and the PIN: **2772#**

The service will last for approx. 25 mins

Calls to 03 numbers should be free as they are included in most UK landline or mobile minute packages.

We hope that many of you will engage with these different opportunities to share in worship together whilst staying in the safety of your own homes.



It's hard to believe but **Lent** begins in just over a week's time.

Shrove Tuesday and **Ash Wednesday** are on February 16th & 17th.

We hope to be able to publish details of some Lent activities next week.

Thank you to the Cloughton family for these lovely **Candlemas** pictures from Mill Gill. Miriam, Daisy, Jonny and Emma created the lanterns and then placed them among the snow drops. What a lovely celebration.



COLLECT

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all
your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit
reigns supreme over all things,
now and for ever.

FIRST READING Proverbs 8:1. 22-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? The LORD created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth – when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil. When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

PSALM Psalm 104:25-37

R *Send forth your Spirit, O Lord,
and renew the face of the earth.*

O Lord, how manifold are your works!
in wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures. **R**

Yonder is the great and wide sea
with its living things too many to
number,
creatures both small and great.

There move the ships,
and there is that Leviathan,
which you have made for the sport of
it. **R**

All of them look to you
to give them their food in due season.
You give it to them, they gather it;
you open your hand and they are
filled with good things.
You hide your face and they are
terrified;
you take away their breath
and they die and return to their dust. **R**

You send forth your Spirit and they
are created;
and so you renew the face of the earth.
May the glory of the Lord endure for
ever;
may the Lord rejoice in all his works.
He looks at the earth and it trembles,
he touches the mountains and they
smoke. **R**

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will praise my God while I have my
being.
May these words of mine please him;
I will rejoice in the Lord.
Let sinners be consumed from the earth,
and the wicked be no more.
Bless the Lord, O my soul.
Alleluia! **R**

SECOND READING Colossians 1:15-20

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers – all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased

to reconcile to himself all things,
whether on earth or in heaven, by
making peace through the blood of
his cross.

GOSPEL John 1:1-14

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

POST COMMUNION

God our creator,
by your gift
the tree of life was set at the heart of
the earthly paradise,
and the bread of life at the heart of
your Church:
may we who have been nourished at
your table on earth
be transformed by the glory of the
Saviour's cross
and enjoy the delights of eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.