

**Bulletin for Sunday 7 August 2022**

Good morning friends.

Let's pause as we prepare to worship... and then praise God as we sing:

Hymn:           New every morning is the love       (R&S 536)

Prayers:       Loving God, as we take time to worship you  
                  help us to open our hearts and our minds...  
                  You are not far above us, or hidden away  
                  but living amongst us, listening and present in love.  
                  We praise and thank you that in your presence  
                  we may find treasures to transform our lives...  
                  We ask your blessing on everything we do,  
                  and on everything we give in your service,  
                  today and every day.       Amen

followed by The Lord's Prayer

Readings:       Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16   and   Luke 12: 32-40

Reflection:   Where is our treasure? In a bank account? Or invested in a house or land? Perhaps it's in a box under the bed! Jesus points out that, "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also", and leaving your heart locked up in a bank vault (or even under the bed) would be a dreadful waste of the days we've been given to live and love and laugh in this beautiful world...

This reading from the letter to the Hebrews gives a wonderful summary of the story of Abraham, emphasising his faith - his trust in God - which allowed him to live in uncertainty. Abraham was comfortably off, in terms of livestock and portable possessions; but he travelled for much of his life in a foreign land, living in tents and not putting down roots. His lifestyle was always temporary, looking forwards to the land and to the descendants which God had promised him. He trusted God's promises, and travelled on, not knowing where he was going. He didn't try to create his own security, either by turning back to his original home or by taking possession of a likely-looking bit of land and building himself a nice big house there. His treasure - his hearts desire - was tied up with God's promises of a land and numerous descendants. Treasure almost

beyond his wildest dreams, which God would give him; but not treasure he could buy for himself.

Jesus tells his followers that God wants to give them the treasure of the kingdom - they just need to prioritise God's kingdom above their own financial accumulation. Where their treasure is, there their hearts will be... so if they want the treasure God offers, they need to loosen their hold on the things which they have been clinging to for security...

And the same goes, of course, for us...

Hymn: To Abraham and Sarah (R&S 553)

Prayers: Compassionate God, we thank you  
for the treasures in each of our lives:  
people we love, places we feel at home,  
all the things that bring us colour, beauty and joy...  
We hold out to you in prayer those who have  
been parted from loved ones, or lost their homes;  
those who are sick, anxious or grieving;  
those who are hungry or struggling to get by...  
Show us what we can do, and where we're needed;  
show us how we can use and share our treasure...  
In Jesus 'name we ask all our prayers,  
including the unspoken prayers of our hearts. Amen

Hymn: In heavenly love abiding (R&S 590)

Blessing: May we seek God's treasure,  
and as we find it, may we share it.....

and may the blessing of God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
be with us and with all those we love,  
this week, and always. Amen

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During August there will be Sunday at Six Zoom services on alternate weeks only. There will be one this Sunday (7th) and one on Sunday 21st.

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