

Bulletin for Sunday 8th November 2020

A very Good Morning to you all - and despite everything, I hope it is.

At this time of uncertainty, today's Gospel reading strikes a chord, as it speaks to us of unpredictability. Today is also, of course, Remembrance Sunday. It is right and important that we should remember, and there will be appropriate worship broadcast on TV and radio, both today and on Wednesday. This order of service is not explicitly on that theme, but please do take time to remember in silence.

Hymn: O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder (R&S 117)

Prayer: Awesome God - and reliable, loving Father -
we thank you that in every generation
you care for your children.
There is much that we don't know or understand -
be patient with us!
We thank you for all you have given to us,
and ask your blessing on everything we do,
and everything we bring to you or give in your service,
today and every day.
Bless us with awareness of your presence...
Speak... and help us to hear... In Jesus' name. Amen

followed by The Lord's Prayer

Readings: Psalm 70 and Matthew chapter 25: verses 1-13

Reflection: Doctors have reported a lot of people having problems with sleep over the last few months. High stress levels and a different (or completely absent) routine have affected many, of all ages. And it has been a period of huge unpredictability.

Jesus told this parable about being prepared for the unpredictable, not really about sleep. All the bridesmaids dropped off, not just the foolish ones! We cannot know the day or hour of Christ's return, and sleep deprivation will obviously help no-one. What we can do is to live each day, to the best of our ability, in line with our prayer that, 'thy kingdom come, and thy will be done'. Then, while sleep may remain unpredictable, we can know that night or day, awake or asleep, we are secure in the love and protection of our heavenly Father.

May the Lord bless us and keep us all, whether awake or asleep. Amen

Hymn: I lift my eyes to the quiet hills (R&S 64)

Prayer: Ever-loving God,

we pray for those who are suffering,
whether as a result of war, illness or natural disaster.
We hold in our minds the faces of
some of those we have seen this week -
in photos... or on film... or in real life....
and ask that you protect and bless them.
We pray for our communities
and for all acts of remembrance.
We pray especially for all those around the world
traumatised or bereaved by the current pandemic.
Loving God, as we wait for your coming,
help us to be both attentive and quietly confident -
in your good time. Amen

Hymn: Eternal Father, strong to save (R&S 58)

As we journey on unknown roads
may we know that God journeys with us;
and now may the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with us and with all those we love
today and always. Amen

The current regulations mean that our churches can't be open for worship until next month at the earliest. In the meantime we will continue to distribute the Bulletin (either by email or a printed copy), and hold services, meetings and social events on Zoom (hopefully even a few more of these). Let's try to keep in touch with each other, whether by phone or online, so that we support each other and stay safe as well.

Pulborough members - the Annual Church Meeting will be held on Zoom next Sunday, 22nd November at 12 noon. Reports and papers available very soon.

There will be an evening service - Sunday at Six - on Zoom at 6pm this and every Sunday. All welcome, online or using a landline phone, contact me if you need details.

Anne Lewitt