

Weekly Fellowship
Wednesday 6th December 2023



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Join us for weekly fellowship, reflection and prayer

Wednesdays 10am-11am

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83895983569>

Telephone: 0203 4815240

Meeting ID: 838 9598 3569

Opening Prayer

In the name of the Blessed Trinity
of Life and Light and Love.

Amen.

Psalm 40

For the director of music. Of David. A psalm.

1 I waited patiently for the Lord;

he turned to me and heard my cry.

2 He lifted me out of the slimy pit,

out of the mud and mire;

he set my feet on a rock

and gave me a firm place to stand.

3 He put a new song in my mouth,

a hymn of praise to our God.

Many will see and fear the Lord

and put their trust in him.

4 Blessed is the one

who trusts in the Lord,

who does not look to the proud,

to those who turn aside to false gods.[b]

5 Many, Lord my God,

are the wonders you have done,

the things you planned for us.

None can compare with you;

were I to speak and tell of your deeds,

they would be too many to declare.

6 Sacrifice and offering you did not desire –

but my ears you have opened;

burnt offerings and sin offerings[d] you did not require.

7 Then I said, ‘Here I am, I have come –

it is written about me in the scroll.

8 I desire to do your will, my God;

your law is within my heart.'

9 I proclaim your saving acts in the great assembly;

I do not seal my lips, Lord,

as you know.

10 I do not hide your righteousness in my heart;

I speak of your faithfulness and your saving help.

I do not conceal your love and your faithfulness

from the great assembly.

11 Do not withhold your mercy from me, Lord;

may your love and faithfulness always protect me.

12 For troubles without number surround me;

my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see.

They are more than the hairs of my head,

and my heart fails within me.

13 Be pleased to save me, Lord;

come quickly, Lord, to help me.

14 May all who want to take my life

be put to shame and confusion;

may all who desire my ruin

be turned back in disgrace.

15 May those who say to me, 'Aha! Aha!'

be appalled at their own shame.

16 But may all who seek you

rejoice and be glad in you;

may those who long for your saving help always say,

'The Lord is great!'

17 But as for me, I am poor and needy;

may the Lord think of me.

You are my help and my deliverer;

you are my God, do not delay.

Thanks be to God for His word.

Gospel Reading Mark 1.1-8

John the Baptist prepares the way

1 The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, 2 as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

*'I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way'*

3 'a voice of one calling in the wilderness,

*"Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him."*

4 And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the River Jordan. 6 John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt round his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 And this was his message: 'After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 8 I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

^Thanks be to God for His word.

Reflection

We look back over the Bible readings
and explore any thoughts or questions that come to mind.

Prayer

We take our reading and reflection into prayer,
praying especially for those on our hearts or minds today.

We close our time of prayer with the Lord's Prayer,
and a blessing for all for whom we pray,
for one another and for ourselves.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen**

Come, O Christ.

**Open our minds to your presence,
our hearts to your love.**
And bless us in waking us
**to love, joy and peace,
patience, kindness and generosity,
faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.**
Let us bless God.
Amen.

If there is anything you would like to talk through any time,
just send me a message.

Penny

07881 496338 / penny@kentworkplacemission.org