

Sunday 7 March 2021

Ian Baillie

HYMN: MP 624 Take my life

*Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

*Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.*

*Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only, for my King;
Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.*

*Take my silver and my gold;
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect, and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose.*

*Take my will, and make it Thine;
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart; it is Thine own;
It shall be Thy royal throne.*

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Father God, as we go through Lent, help us to think of all you so freely gave up for us, You not only fasted in the wilderness but gave up your very life for us. We ask that as we reflect this week that instead of **giving up** help us to **keep going** sharing our lives in a positive way with others and pour out our very lives for you. Amen.

BIBLE READINGS

Matthew 4 v 1 – 11
Mark 2 v 18 - 22

REFLECTION The Fast Life

Fast from judging others;
Feast on Christ dwelling in them.
Fast from fear of illness;
Feast on the healing power of God.
Fast from words that pollute;
Feast on speech that purifies.
Fast from discontent;
Feast on gratitude.
Fast from anger;
Feast on patience.
Fast from pessimism;
Feast on hope.
Fast from negatives;
Feast on encouragement.
Fast from bitterness;
Feast on forgiveness.
Fast from self-concern;
Feast on compassion.
Fast from suspicion;
Feast on truth.
Fast from gossip;
Feast on purposeful silence.
Fast from problems that overwhelm;
Feast on prayer that sustains.
Fast from anxiety;
Feast on faith.

BENEDICTION

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope and live in the love of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday 7 March 2021

Ian Baillie

BIBLE READINGS

Matthew 4 v 1 – 11
Mark 2 v 18 - 22

REFLECTION The Fast Life

Fast from judging others;
Feast on Christ dwelling in them.
Fast from fear of illness;
Feast on the healing power of God.
Fast from words that pollute;
Feast on speech that purifies.
Fast from discontent;
Feast on gratitude.
Fast from anger;
Feast on patience.
Fast from pessimism;
Feast on hope.
Fast from negatives;
Feast on encouragement.
Fast from bitterness;
Feast on forgiveness.
Fast from self-concern;
Feast on compassion.
Fast from suspicion;
Feast on truth.
Fast from gossip;
Feast on purposeful silence.
Fast from problems that overwhelm;
Feast on prayer that sustains.
Fast from anxiety;
Feast on faith.

BENEDICTION

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope and live in the love of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday 14 March 2021

Rev. Debbie van Welie

BIBLE READING Hebrews 2:17-18

Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted

REFLECTION

When we pray the Lord's Prayer and ask God, 'lead us not into temptation', we ask that temptations may not come our way. When they do come to us in different forms and at different times, we have to make choices. Jesus too was tempted. In Matthew 4 we learn that temptations came to Jesus when He was in the desert for forty days. They came to him through the devil, who did his best to tempt Jesus to choose for the power as he offered it to Jesus. Worshipping him instead of worshipping God, Jesus would be given the power as the world has it; power of the strong that comes with weapons; power that is loud, stifles and so causes suffering in many ways and forms. And so the devil made three attempts to pull Jesus away from His heavenly Father. But Jesus stood firm. He went the way that God had planned for Him: the way of suffering and dying, so that He would be the helper for those who are tempted; for those who suffer under the power as it is exercised by the strong in the world. The world that is full of display of power and where it is used to gain honour and more power. In that world stands the display of God's power: His dying Son, on the cross whose power lies in His vulnerability; in His Love for each one in His world. May that be the power that shapes our thoughts, words and deeds so that we won't be led into temptation but always be led by Jesus.

HYMN: CH4 557

1. *O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.*
2. *O Light that foll'west all my way,
I yield my flick'ring torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.*
3. *O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.*

PRAYER

Heavenly Father

We thank You that You will not let one of us go; that from Your words to Moses we know that You are '*a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness*'. We thank You for how Your Word became flesh in Your Son, who chose Your way in the midst of temptations. Help us to let Him go before us, to let Him lead us on the way that You go with us, with His help, with the patience, strength, loyalty as we find them in Him.

BLESSING

The LORD bless you and keep you, the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you, the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen

Sunday 14 March 2021

Rev. Debbie van Welie

BIBLE READING Hebrews 2:17-18

Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted

REFLECTION

When we pray the Lord's Prayer and ask God, 'lead us not into temptation', we ask that temptations may not come our way. When they do come to us in different forms and at different times, we have to make choices. Jesus too was tempted. In Matthew 4 we learn that temptations came to Jesus when He was in the desert for forty days. They came to him through the devil, who did his best to tempt Jesus to choose for the power as he offered it to Jesus. Worshipping him instead of worshipping God, Jesus would be given the power as the world has it; power of the strong that comes with weapons; power that is loud, stifles and so causes suffering in many ways and forms. And so the devil made three attempts to pull Jesus away from His heavenly Father. But Jesus stood firm. He went the way that God had planned for Him: the way of suffering and dying, so that He would be the helper for those who are tempted; for those who suffer under the power as it is exercised by the strong in the world. The world that is full of display of power and where it is used to gain honour and more power. In that world stands the display of God's power: His dying Son, on the cross whose power lies in His vulnerability; in His Love for each one in His world. May that be the power that shapes our thoughts, words and deeds so that we won't be led into temptation but always be led by Jesus.

HYMN: CH4 557

1. *O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.*
2. *O Light that foll'west all my way,
I yield my flick'ring torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.*
3. *O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.*

PRAYER

Heavenly Father

We thank You that You will not let one of us go; that from Your words to Moses we know that You are '*a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness*'. We thank You for how Your Word became flesh in Your Son, who chose Your way in the midst of temptations. Help us to let Him go before us, to let Him lead us on the way that You go with us, with His help, with the patience, strength, loyalty as we find them in Him.

BLESSING

The LORD bless you and keep you, the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you, the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen