

**PARISHES OF TETBURY, BEVERSTON, SHIPTON MOYNE AND LONG  
NEWNTON**

**Readings and hymns for Sunday 26th July 2020  
Seventh Sunday after Trinity**

**First Reading**

**Psalm 119:129-136**

Your testimonies are wonderful;  
therefore my soul keeps them.

The opening of your word gives light;  
it gives understanding to the simple.

I open my mouth and draw in my breath,  
as I long for your commandments.

Turn to me and be gracious to me,  
as is your way with those who love your name.

Order my steps by your word,  
and let no wickedness have dominion over me.

Redeem me from earthly oppressors  
so that I may keep your commandments.

Show the light of your countenance upon your servant  
and teach me your statutes.

My eyes run down with streams of water,  
because the wicked do not keep your law.

For the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## **The kingdom of God is justice and joy**

*recorded remotely by the Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields in their homes, and edited together.*

- 1     The kingdom of God is justice and joy,  
      for Jesus restores what sin would destroy;  
      God's power and glory in Jesus we know,  
      and here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.
- 2     The kingdom of God is mercy and grace,  
      the captives are freed, the sinners find place,  
      the outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share,  
      and hope is awakened instead of despair.
- 3     The kingdom of God is challenge and choice,  
      believe the good news, repent and rejoice.  
      His love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross,  
      our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.
- 4     God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal,  
      in Jesus begun, in heaven made whole;  
      the heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call,  
      and all things cry glory to God all in all.

*Bryn Rees (1911-1983)*

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## **Gospel**

## **Matthew 31-33, 44-52**

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.' He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened. The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels

will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

For the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**God of grace and God of glory,**

*recorded remotely by the Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields in their homes, and edited together.*

- 1     God of grace and God of glory,  
      on thy people pour thy power;  
      now fulfil thy church's story;  
      bring her bud to glorious flower.  
      Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
      for the facing of this hour.
- 2     Lo, the hosts of evil round us  
      scorn thy Christ, assail his ways;  
      from the fears that long have bound us  
      free our hearts to faith and praise.  
      Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
      for the living of these days.
- 3     Cure thy children's warring madness,  
      bend our pride to thy control;  
      shame our wanton selfish gladness,  
      rich in goods and poor in soul.  
      Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
      lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.
- 4     Set our feet on lofty places,  
      gird our lives that they may be  
      armoured with all Christlike graces  
      in the fight till all be free.  
      Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
      that we fail not man nor thee.

*Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878-1969)*

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