



Team Parish of Christ the King St Aidan's, Brunton Park

Sunday 6th November 2022
Third before Advent

As I thought about this morning's readings over the last week, there's a word that kept coming back to me, and that word is: *life*. Both readings speak of the living God: 'I know that my Redeemer lives...'; 'Now he is not God of the dead, but of the living...' God is a God of life. And, as we explore them I think there are two parts to that life.

The first is life after death. Jesus is given what is supposed to be a trick question by the Sadducees, who didn't believe in resurrection, trying to make fun of the idea. But Jesus tells them that their question is essentially a category error. The life of the world to come is not like this life. It is instead the fulness of life in God: we become fully children of God, children of the resurrection. God is the God of the living, and the dead are alive in him.

And this wonderful mystery is at the heart of the Christian faith. That God is a God so filled with life, so bursting with it's creative power, that death is simply swallowed up by life. That there is no death in God, there is no place in him for its destructive and dividing power. Instead death is suffused and overwhelmed by new and abundant life. As Jesus, and Paul, tell us, a seed falls into the ground and dies, but only to live as the plant that it always held the potential to be; so it is with our life, and death, in God. In our day to day faith, we perhaps downplay the importance of this immense truth, but what could be more wonderful than this hope: that death is swallowed up in victory; that life is our eternal destination; that just as Jesus rose from death to life, so our death will be enveloped and transformed by the sheer creative force of God's eternal life.

And the second, is life before death. Because while we wait in hope for the fulness of God's life, we taste something of it here and now. And that foretaste is what allows us to hope. We find it in the deaths of joy, and peace that God gives us. We taste it in our prayer or our praise. We find it shaping and changing our hearts as we grow and are transformed by God's life. It is that foretaste, whatever it looks like for us, that allows us to hold on to hope as not simply wishful thinking, but as the prayerbook has it, a 'sure and certain hope.' So this morning perhaps Jesus is inviting us to taste something of God's life. To know it's creative and hope-filled power at work within us, as we live now in the life of God, and in the hope of still more life to come.

Job 19.23-27a

'O that my words were written down!
O that they were inscribed in a book!
O that with an iron pen and with lead
they were engraved on a rock for ever!
For I know that my Redeemer lives,
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth;
and after my skin has been thus destroyed,
then in my flesh I shall see God,
whom I shall see on my side,
and my eyes shall behold, and not another.

Luke 20.27-38

Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus, and asked him a question, 'Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. Now there were seven brothers; the first married, and died childless; then the second and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. Finally the woman also died. In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her.'

Jesus said to them, 'Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage; but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. Indeed they cannot die any more, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive.'

TODAY

8:00am: Said Holy Communion

9:30am: Family Service: Third before Advent: Rev'd Gerard Rundell will preside and preach from Job 19.23-27a and Luke 20.27-38

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon 7:30pm, Zoom: **Bible Study Group (see codes below)**

Wed 10.00am, Church: **BCP Midweek Eucharist**

Thurs 2:00pm, Community Room: **Film Club - The Windermere Children**

Fri 10:45am, Outside: **Act of Remembrance with wreath laying**

Sat 10am-12pm, Community Room: **Saturday Café**

Sun 13th 9:30am **Remembrance Sunday** : Rev'd Gerard Rundell presides and preaches from Malachi 4.1-2a, 2 Thessalonians 3.6-13 and Luke 21.5-19

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Sat 19th Nov 10am-12pm: **St Aidan's Christmas Market**
Sun 20th Nov 10:00am: **Feast of Christ the King: Team Service at St Aidan's**
6:30pm: St Columba's: **40th anniversary service**
Sat 3rd Dec 7:00pm: **Coquet Concert Band**

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – today's live broadcast link <https://bit.ly/3beforeAdvent>

CHRISTMAS FAYRE – will be held on Saturday 19th November between 10am and 12pm. This is a very popular and traditional community event with something for everyone... stalls, gifts, cakes, children's activities, festive refreshments, raffles and lots of prizes. Bring your friends along to enjoy the fun. We would also be very grateful for any donations for the raffle, tombola, Christmas stall and cake stall.

POPIES - poppies are now available at the back of church along with a donation tin.

BOOKS – A new series of 'little books of guidance' is available at the back of church. Each is designed to be read in about an hour and tackles one of the big questions of faith and life. They're written by some of the church's best thinkers, and worth a read. Please take one home, and bring it back when you're done!

BIBLE STUDY GROUP - The group will be resuming its study of St Luke's gospel on Zoom at 7.30pm on Monday 7th November, looking at Luke 8. Zoom link below. All are welcome to join us, either regularly or on an ad hoc basis. Contact Ken Newitt (kmnewitt@outlook.com) for further information.

DELIVERY OF CHRISTMAS CARDS – are you able to help? We really appreciate any help that can be offered in putting cards through doors, either to your neighbours in your street, when out for a walk or with the family getting the kids out the house for an hour or so. If you can help, please let us know, we particularly need help on Great Park.

MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE FUNDRAISING – Susan would like to thank everyone for their donations. She has raised £530 plus £96.25 Gift Aid giving a total of £626.25

MUSICIANS NEEDED – for Sunday 20th November for our Feast of Christ the King service. If you play a musical instrument please contact Gerard.

WINDBAND CONCERT – the Coquet Concert Band will be returning to St Aidan's following their successful summer concert on Saturday 3rd December at 7pm. Entrance is by donations on the door, and wine and nibbles will be served during the interval, again for donations.

ZOOM CODES – all our Zoom sessions will use only the following details:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7573778713?pwd=NGVjcTRLQjBEaStqYjFDSm1KOURtQT09> Meeting ID: 757 377 8713 Passcode: StAidan

BOOKING ZOOM MEETINGS: if you would like to use the St Aidan's Zoom account for a church meeting, please contact Janice

USED STAMPS – if you have any used stamps, please save them and put them in the box at the back of church to raise fund for St Oswald's Hospice.

CHURCH OPENING – church is now open during the day, every day. Please come in at any time for some quiet time or prayer.

FOOD BANK – for now, any items placed in the box at the back of church will be donated to Kenton Foodbank who are appealing for donations.

DONATIONS - to make a donation to St Aidan's, please use the following link
<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/8a599239-a9bd-4136-8b4b-1dcabb0a2c65>

For Our Prayers: St Aidan's Cycle of Prayer

For the church – Churches in our Deanery: Jesmond Parishes. Local Ministry Group and Pastoral Care Group, Eco church Group and Social Committee

For the community – Brunton Park Medical Centre, local shops and businesses

For the world – particularly for Ukraine, her people, and refugees. For Pakistan suffering devastating effects of flooding. For our own national and political life.

For those in particular need - Gladys Johnston, Esther Wooler

For those who have died and grieve – Fred Bewick, and on their anniversaries: Ernest Hall, Kathleen Everitt, Margaret McKey, David Wilson

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