



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

Sunday 9th July 2023
Trinity 5

This morning's Gospel, I think, asks us to explore a child-like wisdom. Jesus tells of children calling in the marketplace, saying: 'we played the flute for you and you did not dance, we wailed and you did not mourn.' Then he tells of a wisdom hidden from the wise but revealed to infants. It's an enigmatic saying, but perhaps we can learn to be wise as a child is wise.

A child is immersed in the ups and down of life but as we grow we often learn to hide, or temper those emotions. A child is free to dance with joy, to inhabit moments of abandon, wonder and excitement without inhibition and self-consciousness. And a child weeps freely in grief (even if it's only over a lost toy!). Perhaps we too can learn the wisdom of inhabiting the ups and downs of our lives. Our moments of dancing, and our moments of weeping, our moments of joy, and our moments of sadness.

Perhaps we might ask what wisdom we learn from joy. Can we pay attention to the times and places, the people, the situations, that most fill us with joy? Can we notice where our heart most truly dances and comes alive? We may find it's not in the places we expect. Perhaps we'll find that the places we look for joy are selling us a false promise – whether luxury, power, alcohol, distraction, instant gratification. Perhaps if we pay attention to the deeper joys that truly cause our hearts to dance we'll draw closer the wisdom of God.

But equally perhaps we can learn wisdom in our weeping. It may be a harder wisdom to learn, but perhaps if we are attentive to our sadness instead of trying to ignore or banish it, we can learn the wisdom of compassion, empathy, honesty, vulnerability, community. Perhaps as we pay attention to our weeping we can also draw closer to the wisdom of God, hidden from the wise, but revealed to children.

Genesis 24.34-38,42-49, 59

The servant whom Abraham had sent said to Laban: 'I am Abraham's servant. The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, "You shall not take a wife for my son from

the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son."

I came today to the spring, and said, "O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, 'Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,' and who will say to me, 'Drink, and I will draw for your camels also' – let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son."

Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, "Please let me drink." She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, "Drink, and I will also water your camels." So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, "Whose daughter are you?" She said, "The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him." So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshipped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.' And they called Rebekah, and said to her, 'Will you go with this man?' She said, 'I will.' So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men.

Matthew 11.16-19,25-30

At that time Jesus said, 'To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another, "We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn."

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon"; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.

I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

TODAY

9:30am: **Trinity 5:** Rev'd Gerard Rundell leads and preaches

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon 7.30pm, Zoom **Bible Study Group**

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

Thurs 2:00pm, Community Room: **Film Club:** 'The Father'

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

Sun 16th 9:30am: **Trinity 6** Mr Ken Newitt leads and and Rev'd Gerard Rundell preaches. Readings: Genesis 25.19-34, Romans 8.1-11
Matthew 13.1-9,18-23

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Sat 22nd July 11:15am **Musical Buds concert:** Church

Wed 2nd Aug 12:00pm **Lunch Group:** Rugby Club

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – today's live link: <https://bit.ly/5Trinity23>

ALAN PHILLIPS – Alan Phillips sadly died on the morning of Friday 30th June. Please pray for Debs and Vicky as they mourn the loss of their Dad. His funeral will be held on **Tuesday 18th July**, with a private committal at the crematorium followed by a service at St Aidan's church at 3:15pm to which everyone is welcome.

SOFIA - who is from Ukraine and part of our congregation, is hoping to continue her studies in the UK. She recently, at very short notice, found out that her Student Loan will not be available to cover the cost of the foundation year she needs to complete in order to continue her studies. She is hoping to work as much as possible to cover living expenses as well as fees, but has set up a crowd-funding campaign to be able to afford to continue her studies. Anything you can give would be hugely appreciated! https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/FoundationYear?utm_term=9yMbQwnMK

FREE CONCERT – we've a Musical Buds concert at St. Aidan's Church on Tuesday 11 July at 5:30pm. Do please come along to support the young Suzuki Recorder & Piano students, the more friendly faces in the audience the better! The concert ends around 6:15pm & will be followed by bring & share refreshments. Entry is free, though donations are appreciated to help local disadvantaged children learn an instrument too:
<https://www.musicalbuds.com/donate.html>

LUNCH GROUP - will meet on Wednesday 2nd Aug at the Rugby Club at 12:00pm for a 12:30pm meal. Please contact Pat or Pauline if you wish to join us.

SUMMER FAYRE – thank you to everyone who supported our fayre last week which raised £1040.

CHILDREN'S GROUP- we are looking to expand our leaders and helpers within our Sunday morning children's group. We spend about 30 minutes with the children, telling a story, doing an easy craft, some colouring, or playing with toys. If you feel you could help us, even only occasionally, please let Gerard know. We would be very grateful.

ZOOM CODES – all our Zoom sessions will use only the following details:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7573778713?pwd=NGVjcTRLQjBEaStqYjFDsm1KOURtQT09M>
Meeting ID: 757 377 8713 Passcode: StAidan

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.

FOOD BANK – any items placed in the box at the back of church will be donated to Kenton Foodbank.

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 – St Nicholas' Cathedral. Churchwardens and all involved in looking after our building.

For the community – Groups using our Community Room and the Community Centre.

For the world – for Turkey, Syria, Ukraine and all countries facing hardship and conflict. For our own national and political life

For those in need - Gladys Johnston, Esther Wooler, Alan Gregg, Martin Seaton, Sofiia Karnaukh, Susan Armstrong

For those who have died – Alan Phillips and on their anniversaries: Alison Bishop, Jackie Morley, Les Surtees, Freda Dunn, Caroline Waller, George Carson, Herbert Robson, John Williams, Alan Davenport

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 [St Aidan's Church Brunton Park Newcastle www.staidanschurchbruntonpark.co.uk](https://www.staidanschurchbruntonpark.co.uk)