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Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21

One of the great eternal truths of Christ's message to the world are verses 19-21 in Chapter 6..."for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." It's a cracker!

For sure we still live with the pandemic, and elsewhere there is war, the threat of war, violence, extreme poverty, human trafficking and constant misery inflicted upon refugees. But our times are not necessarily defined by the negatives or the endless array of horror stories which the press pour out.

So, perhaps the focus should not be on the media's agenda, but on what gives life? – the spirit of generosity, humility, and kindness, which focuses on how should we be trying to live? How can our love for God and our love for one another guide us? These crucial questions can lead us to ask ourselves more worthwhile questions that take our hearts to the real treasure, which is the knowledge not of the spirit of death, but the spirit of life in all its abundance.

Stephen

Lent Bible Study on Zoom

The URC Group for Evangelism And Renewal (GEAR) are hosting a lent series that is open to any individuals and churches who wish to join. Each week there will be worship, Bible Study, discussion and prayer.

Wed 2 March - Growing Close to Jesus, led by Sally Willett

Wed 9 March - Enthusiastic about the Bible, led by Andy Twilley

Wed 16 March - Alive in the power of the Spirit, led by Paul Stokes

Wed 23 March - Reaching out with the good news, led by Ashley Evans

All from 7.30-9pm on Zoom. If you would like to take part contact Matt Stone for the Zoom details:
matt.stone@cantab.net.

Green News (3)

In the Sunday morning service on 20th February, I spoke about the changes we can make in our personal lifestyles in relation to the environment as suggested by Eco Church.

They are: following the principles of reduce, re-use and recycle.

Reducing car use. Reducing personal energy consumption. Operating a communal Christmas card scheme in church, which already happens. Promoting personal use and consumption of Fair Trade goods which again the promotion of Fair Trade goods already happens. Putting practical lifestyle tips and advice on caring for God's earth in the church newsletter or website ... hence this article.

Let us use the weekly letter to share practical lifestyle tips and advice. I would be interested to learn of any gardening tips for example. Please either let Mary Page, Carol or me know of your tips and advice.

In relation to *re-use* I would welcome any donations of sturdy carrier bags for the UiD clothing bank please?

Adella

Ash Wednesday

Cries from a weary heart

Lectionary Readings: Joel 2.1-2, 12-17: Psalm 51.1-17: 2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10: Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21

Darkness. Gloom.

*Clouds and thick darkness –
like “blackness” spread upon the mountains.*

But wash me and I shall be “whiter than snow”.

When will be the acceptable time, Lord?

When will be our day of salvation?

Why must we wait ... and wait ... and wait ...

for the time of justice and equity

when we won't need to question whether or not “Black Lives Matter?”

We know all lives matter to *you*, Holy God,

but what about in our world ... our societies... your Church?

When will obstacles cease to be put in the way of some –

the “norms” to which they must conform,
the hoops to be negotiated to belong or progress?

Make us ashamed of our public piety –

lofty words and good intentions,
which fail to result in lasting change.

Teach us truth in our inward beings

That we may live justice in our outward lives.

Hear the cries of a myriad weary hearts, Great God. Amen.

Karen Campbell (URC Prayer Handbook 2022)