



Email: manseltonurc@gmail.com

Weekly Letter – 17 March 2024

John 12.20-33 and Psalm 51.1-12

As Jesus walked, climbed and sailed around his country, numerous people were coming up to him, asking him questions, inviting him to speak in synagogues, and of course some were seeing if they could catch him out. So, Jesus must have been used to a vast array of different people and their thoughts.

On this occasion those who wish to be with Jesus receive both barrels (probably not the best way of referring to how Jesus responds!) Anyway, he doesn't mess about and says to the pilgrims, "What are you looking for? – (a very good question for you to answer!).

In essence he is saying, "Your answer should be, I am looking for divine life and glory". For over and over again Jesus has revealed God's glory and life, for example at Cana (water to wine), at the sheep pool (healing), in the healing of Lazarus, but people are still looking for tit bits instead of 'life in abundance', God's glory. They still haven't opened their hearts to what's on offer, and Jesus' repeated assurances that God is at work.

So Jesus gives in a nutshell his central message – words which you will have heard so many times, "unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it won't in a month of Sundays go into the next stage and grow". It will just remain an isolated and lonely seed in its casing. But if it dies, it blossoms into a bounty of life. So, take your choice: lie there encased in your iron will to control your life, or let go of your iron grip and live. That is, if you wish to have life, you will have put to one side your will and look at me, and learn from me, and as you learn you will have a greater desire to follow me".

Jesus doesn't suggest this is easy, but he reminds people that it goes without saying, as you lose control of your will, and increasingly put your faith in God, He will take care of your life.

Stephen

**Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom at 10.30 am will be led by Rev Linda Woollacott
Bible Readings: Jeremiah 31.31-34: John 12.20-33**

Cycle of Prayer in the Region – we will pray for Christ Well

Tuesday 19th – Tea and Chat - 2-4 pm Visit from staff at central Library – Jennifer and Gwilym

Tuesday 19th - Annual Church Meeting - 7 pm in Christ Well

Going Greener Coffee Morning

At the coffee morning last Saturday, we had 6 tables of people sharing what they do to help tackle the climate crisis. Peter Black came along and Delyth from A Rocha (the organisation that oversees the Eco Church scheme) gave ideas about resources that could help us make a difference.

We thought about what we could do as individuals to 'reduce, reuse and recycle' and to work with those who want to reduce the impact of climate change. Swansea Environment Centre is a great resource <https://www.environmentcentre.org.uk/> and Christian Aid help us to understand that the poorest countries are affected most by climate change <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/get-involved-locally/scotland/climate-change>.

We also talked about what would make a difference in Manselton, and the following suggestions were made: more green coffee mornings; organise litter picking and community clean ups; involve young people; engage the kids but not in a way that alienates their parents; local churches work together in the community on green issues; greater collaboration, co-operation and communication at a local level; find out about free planters that could be cared for by church groups. The comment was made about the cost of being greener and that affordability is crucial.

We were thanked for providing a place where different people could meet to share ideas on how to help each other, our community, and the world.

Do not be disheartened

(Jeremiah 31.31-34: Psalm 51.1-12: or Psalm 119.9-16: Hebrews 8.5-10: John 12.20-33)

When troubles overwhelm us and we feel anxious and afraid
you hear us, God, and your constant love is even stronger.
You are in all of our hearts, so how can we not know
you?
You know all about us – our strengths and our weaknesses.
You send helpers to pray for us so
that comfort and peace may come to all who need it.
It may start with just a glimmer of hope
but it is possible to feel joy and happiness again.

Julia Marsh
(URC Prayer Handbook 2024)





**Swansea &
District
Group
at**

Christ Well URC



Easter Coffee Morning

Thursday 21st March 2024

10.30 am - 12 noon

featuring

Tan y Lan School Choir

Entry: £2

***Includes a cup of tea/coffee
and a homemade Welsh Cake***

ALL WELCOME

Easter craft stalls, cakes, raffle (cash only)

**124-136 Manselton Road,
Manselton, SA5 8PW**