



Email: manseltonurc@gmail.com

Weekly Letter – 21 January 2024

Mark 1.14-20 and Psalm 62.5-12

I'm sure you have time to read Psalm 62, verses 5-12! This bright and upbeat section begins with, 'Yes, my soul, finds rest in God, my hope comes from him ... My salvation and honour depend upon God ...'

In Jesus' baptism, verses 9-11, it is clear that Jesus publically states that he is 'dead' to a false life, and so chooses to be filled with God's life. (We need to hold on to the fact that Jesus is both fully human and divine). In this decision, we are beginning to see what Mark meant when he states Jesus is, "The Son of God", that is, Jesus of Nazareth (a fully human being) is completely reconciled to accepting the life the Father gives him. Or, put this way, Jesus of Nazareth has let go of all self-concern, and in the words of the psalmist chooses, lives, and proclaims, "My salvation and honour depend upon the divine".

This is the person we meet in the gospels – a person who knows and experiences the joy of turning to God. This is the man who speaks to four locals. And I'm not surprised these four business men in today's gospel reading, Simon, Andrew, James and John jumped at Jesus' invitation to join him in sharing 'The Good News' with others – for they see the Divine in this man – Jesus of Nazareth.

Let us pray that our lives reveal our choice to depend upon God, to rest in God and to live a life which reveals the joy of turning to God.

Stephen

**Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom at 10.30 am will be led by Rev Dr Noel Davies
Bible Readings: Luke 10.25: Genesis 18.1-8.**

Our Worship will be based on the parable of the Good Samaritan from material prepared by the ecumenical group in Burkino Faso for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 18th- 25th January.



'You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbour as yourself

Cycle of Prayer in the Region – we will pray for Tabernacle, Mumbles

Tuesday, 23rd January – Tea and Chat in Christ Well – 2-4 pm – Board games

Winter Warmer Crafts Group at Brynhyfryd Library every Wednesday in January, February and March from 10.30 to 12 noon.

Winter Warmers Coffee Meet-up at Manselton Community Centre every Thursday during winter from 11am – 1pm. Free hot drinks and light snacks available.

Called as Disciples(Lectionary Readings: Jonah 3.1-5: 10: Psalm 62.5-12: 1 Corinthians 7.29-31: Mark 1.14-20)

Loving God,
You call each of us to be your disciples
today and every day.

We thank you that your calling
is one that comforts and challenges in equal measure.
A calling encouraging us to welcome the stranger
and create communities of belonging where we worship and grow together,
where we eat and laugh together where we learn and dream together.

Because when we become individuals and communities
which revolve round your Good News of unconditional love
we can be transformed
and we can create into the Kingdom of God
here and now and forever.
Amen.

Nicola Robinson (URC Prayer Handbook 2024)

