

Dear all

My apologies for the lack of letter for last week – I only noticed I had missed it out when it was too late.

Tomorrow is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Trinity, and the lectionary readings are all Eco-related. The Gospel reading is Mark 4: 26-34, which describes faith as being like a mustard seed, growing into a massive tree, in which birds can shelter.

There is a choice of Old Testament readings (and associated Psalms too) during the weeks after Trinity. We can either opt for a continuous reading (working through an OT book), or a related reading (which is chosen because it relates to, and can shed light on the Gospel reading). We have opted for the related readings. This week the reading is Ezekiel 17: 22-24, and is about God planting a tree in Israel. The NT reading is from 2 Corinthians 5: 6-17. In this reading, Paul states that *If anyone is in Christ, there is new creation* (not A new creation, as it is usually written). A subtle but significant difference.

The hymns are *There in God's garden* [There in God's Garden \(SHADES MOUNTAIN\), arr. Jeremy Bankson - YouTube](#) (to a different tune!), and *God is working His purpose out* [God is working his purpose out VIDEO - YouTube](#).

The Psalm for the day is some verses from Psalm 92

Firstly, Anglican chant:

[Psalm 92: It Is A Good Thing To Give Thanks Unto The Lord - YouTube](#)

A lyric video to Paul Baloche's song: 'Psalm 92 (O Most High)'

[Psalm 92 \(O Most High\) Lyric Video - YouTube](#)

And a Messianic Christian take on the Psalm in Hebrew:

[Psalm 92 \(LIVE Hebrew Worship\) - Shilo Ben Hod - YouTube](#)

Anthems suggested include:

[Jesus Christ the Apple Tree - YouTube](#) by Elizabeth Poston (who made recordings during WW2, which held hidden messages, to be broadcast into Occupied Europe!).

[Attwood, Teach ME, O Lord - YouTube](#)

[The spirit of the Lord is upon me - Elgar, John Rutter, The Cambridge Singers, Andrew Lucas - YouTube](#)

[William Byrd: Teach me, O Lord - YouTube](#)

[Peter Skellern 'Waiting For The Word' - YouTube](#) (NB the video begins with a short clip of one of his pop songs).

**The Bible study group** will be meeting on Thursday. We will be looking at Mark's Gospel, chapter 11. New members are welcome. It is not a particularly academic study, though occasional insights are shared. More important is the discussion of how the text impacts and applies to our everyday Christian life. The link is <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8109399155?pwd=STVVU44RzJxTFFHbTY1Mnl0bjJZz09>

Meeting ID: 810 939 9155

Passcode: 1w2C9a

This coming week is Refugee Week. Amnesty International has a children's activity for 7-11 year olds, and can be found here: [Refugee Week at home - Bitesize activities for 7-11 year olds | Classroom to community | 9 Jun 2020 | Amnesty International UK](#)

There is also a [children's worksheet](#) for this Sunday, which is attached (if I remember!).

Many people find it difficult to pray – never knowing quite what to say, or how to say it. I am very grateful to our intercessors who bring their own personalities and concerns to our public prayers, but it is not always easy to find the words for private prayer either.

Here is a short comment and prayer from Nick Fawcett's latest blog [Home - Nick Fawcett \(devotional and reflective writer\)](#)

From my book *More Selected Prayers for Public Worship*, a reminder that there is no right or wrong way of praying, God always being ready to welcome us as we are.

Almighty God,  
save us in our dealings with you from becoming hooked on jargon  
or preoccupied with etiquette;  
from imagining that there is a prescribed way of approaching you  
and that if we fail to use the right words or adopt the correct manner  
you will fail to hear  
or might even punish us for our presumption.  
Teach us that you welcome us as we are,  
and want us to approach you not in fear but in confidence,  
as friend rather than foe,  
assured that you see beyond the words of our lips to our innermost thoughts.  
Help us, then, to pray spontaneously,  
gladly,  
honestly  
and openly,  
sharing every aspect of life with you  
in the knowledge that you delight to listen and respond.  
Amen.



Stay safe.

Blessings and love

Mark