

The Roughton Benefice

Sunday

16 February 2020

Second before Lent

Collect

Almighty God,
give us reverence for all
creation
and respect for every person,
that we may mirror your
likeness
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-23

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' ⁷So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw

that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' ²¹So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

Psalm 136

¹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures for ever.

²O give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures for ever.

³O give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures for ever;

⁴who alone does great wonders, for his steadfast love endures for ever;

⁵who by understanding made the

heavens, for his steadfast love endures for ever;

⁶who spread out the earth on the waters, for his steadfast love endures for ever;

⁷who made the great lights, for his steadfast love endures for ever;

⁸the sun to rule over the day, for his steadfast love endures for ever;

⁹the moon and stars to rule over the night, for his steadfast love endures for ever;

¹⁰who struck Egypt through their firstborn, for his steadfast love endures for ever;

¹¹and brought Israel out from among them, for his steadfast love endures for ever;

¹²with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, for his steadfast love endures for ever;

¹³who divided the Red Sea in two, for his steadfast love endures for ever;

¹⁴and made Israel pass through the midst of it, for his steadfast love endures for ever;

¹⁵but overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea, for his steadfast love endures for ever;

¹⁶who led his people through the wilderness, for his steadfast love endures for ever;

¹⁷who struck down great kings, for his steadfast love endures for ever;

¹⁸and killed famous kings, for his steadfast love endures for ever;

¹⁹Sihon, king of the Amorites, for his steadfast love endures for ever;

²⁰and Og, king of Bashan, for his steadfast love endures for ever;

²¹and gave their land as a heritage, for his steadfast love endures for ever;

²²a heritage to his servant Israel, for his steadfast love endures for ever.

²³It is he who remembered us in our low estate, for his steadfast love endures for ever;

²⁴and rescued us from our foes, for his steadfast love endures for ever;

²⁵who gives food to all flesh, for his steadfast love endures for ever.

²⁶O give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Second Reading

Romans 8:18-25

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Roman Christians

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Gospel Matthew 6:25-end

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

²⁵Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And can any of you by

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worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

³⁴So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

Post Communion

God our creator,
by your gift
the tree of life was set at the
heart of the earthly paradise,
and the bread of life at the
heart of your Church:
may we who have been
nourished at your table on
earth
be transformed by the glory of
the Saviour's cross
and enjoy the delights of
eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.