

Proper 17, Trinity 12 Evensong WW

Exodus 12:21-27

Passover. Protection through ritual

Matthew 4:23-5:20

Jesus healing, then to mountain

Beatitudes

I have spent much of all this week thinking about this sermon ..

I am taking a risk in this sermon. I have

Picture this.

The world is created from God and by God. Proverbs 8: The Lord created me (sophia), the first of his acts ... before the beginning of the earth. John 1: In the beginning was the word (logos) and the word was God – everything was made by logos and of logos. Two words for the material out of which the cosmos is made: sofia and logos. Are they the same? I say they are: sofia for Hebrew readership and logos for Greek.

The created world comes into being.

The entrance into this world of personified sofia, personified logos, personified God as Jesus Christ, and the Christ-events from incarnation to ascension and Pentecost, changes the monochrome old ways into the Technicolor new. Like Mary Poppins. It transforms old ways into new. It transforms us, if we agree to being transformed.

The readings for today look at aspects of that transformation.

In the first few verses of the gospel reading we heard this evening we hear of Jesus's growing popularity as he went about

- **teaching**
- **Preaching**
- **healing.** Healing those who sought healing
- the light bulb has to want to change and never making a big fuss of it

A ministry of word and deed – not just fine thoughts and fine sayings, but actions

As with prayer last week – prayer demands action

With this kind of action, we might then begin to make an impression on society instead of being rather peripheral to today's society

Peter McVerry

Derby

Beatitudes

WORDS and TRANSLATIONS

In today's world when values that seem to be commended are fame and fortune, image and spin, we hear here of the transformation, the inversion of values, the entry into the parallel universe that is God's kingdom.

And the people who will find joy are about as far removed from those that prosper in our world today as could be.

- Blessed - makarios - God looks with favour, content, satisfied (not worldly wealth blessed). **Joy**
- Poor (in spirit added??) no sense of worth to God? Humble? Word for beggars. Can bring nothing to God. God gives them everything. Not pride in one's own virtue like the Pharisees. Jesus is not saying that poverty is a blessing in itself. Poverty has nothing to do with choosing to live simply. Why is it that people who write about poverty are hardly ever bothered by poverty?

Old people I see on my travels.

- Mourn grieving for one's sins and for the state of society rather than people.
- Meek – gentle. Not weak. Great strength that comes from humility. Meek – contentment with the simple life in a possession-hungry world. Psalm 37 The meek shall inherit the land.

- Hunger and thirst for righteousness, IT concept , eucharistic?? Merciful (eleison)
- And these people are often hounded and reviled. Persecuted, prosecuted, reviled. Tutu.
- Pure in heart – kardia – this morning
- Peace – shalom – wellbeing of whole of created order – wisdom really
peace of mind, eirenic, safety, freedom from worry, create peace. Yes peacemakers - who bring the warring together. This is difficult stuff. And it may require heads to be banged together.

So what good is all this?

salt and light. The gospel transforms people – changes the taste, illuminates. Salt must be salty otherwise it is thrown out. Certainly not colourless or blending with the scenery or nice

all this fulfils the law rather than supersedes it. Jesus is changing Moses' law – a sign of his divinity.

Beatitudes like through black hole into parallel universe.

When? Thy kingdom come not after death – as it is in God's space – in God.

Live in the present as it will be

So what are we to do?

It is hard to say anything other than that we should stand up vocally to the corrections of society.

Recent poll. corruption

It is worth reading Ibrahim Mogra for Leicester

Magnificat

Unexpected

Church as comforter – paraclete – strengthener, empowering agent

Light – Glow worms

When the church lights up like a lighthouse on a hill it will begin to be noticed

Society will take it and us seriously.

– his kingdom is HERE for each one of us NOW, as it is in heaven.