

Reflection on Mark 13: 1-8

It is highly likely that St Mark's Gospel was put together after the destruction of the Temple in AD70, so while these words appear prophetic, they are much more about the Evangelist pointing to the return of Jesus at the end times, and encouraging this congregation to have hope.

I am reminded of that poem by Shelley called *Ozymandias*, written in 1818. He describes 'a traveller from an antique land' who has seen in the desert a vast statue of a once powerful ruler, where now there only remain 'two vast and trunkless legs of stone'. He ponders on the vanity of the inscription: 'Look on my Works, ye Mighty and despair!'

The stones of the western wall (or wailing wall) in Jerusalem tell the opposite story however. Yes, one of destruction and on-going suffering and division, but also of the Jewish faith which has endured. The faithful still place their hands on the warm stones and say their prayers.

Fr David



Codes for the Zoom worship at 5pm on the FIRST Sunday of each month (7th November)
Meeting ID: 817 4532 4542
Passcode: 574847
Telephone numbers: 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196

NEXT SUNDAY 21.11.2021 Christ the King

SERVICES 10.30am in Church

READINGS: OT Daniel 7: 9-10, 13, 14
NT Revelation 1: 4b-8
GOSPEL John 18: 33-37



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St Thomas, Exeter

Sunday 14th November 2021

Remembrance Sunday

*10.50am at the War Memorial
then into Church*

Remembrance Sunday: gathering at the War Memorial in the Churchyard at 10.50 (weather permitting) for an Act of Remembrance and then into the Church for our Eucharist. For those who choose not to come outside, there will be a short service in Church.

*They shall not grow old as we that are left
grow old:*

*Age shall not weary them, nor the years
condemn.*

*At the going down of the sun and in the
morning*

We will remember them.

28 November is the start of **Advent**, it is nearly upon us! How are you going to prepare this year for the birth of Jesus: the Word made flesh? There will be an 'Advent Course' - see Notices here.

Fr David



Collect

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Daniel 12.1–3

‘At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

Hebrews 10.11–14 [15–18]19–25

And every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, ‘he sat down at the right hand of God’, and since then has been waiting ‘until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.’ For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. [And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying, ‘This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds’, he also adds, ‘I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.’ Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.] Therefore, my friends,

since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Mark 13.1–8

As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, ‘Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!’ Then Jesus asked him, ‘Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.’ When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ‘Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?’ Then Jesus began to say to them, ‘Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, “I am he!” and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

Post Communion

God of peace, whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom and restored the broken to wholeness of life: look with compassion on the anguish of the world, and by your healing power

make whole both people and nations; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

NOTICES

For our services in Church, **mask wearing** is still advised by the Church of England. On most Sundays you can also be seated with some social distancing if you wish.

Coffee and tea will be offered after the 10.30am Mass. It will be served in the Hall. **There are a few gaps in the rota before Christmas. Volunteers are required for after Christmas. See Judith.**

Knit and Natter November 2021 We shall be meeting every Thursday from 10.30 to midday at 19 Maple Road. Details from Jenny on 01392 498725.

House Group. Tuesdays at 7.30pm. We are comparing other religious faiths. Zoom details from Ian Totterdell. Next **meeting on Tues 16th November**, new people very welcome!

Community Larder The Community Larder will be collecting on **Tuesdays** from 10am-12noon. The collecting point is in the Choir Vestry via the Tower door. Please continue to be generous.

Thank you to all who helped tidy the garden. Pat Mounce.

Jeanne Hambley's funeral will be on Friday, 19th November at 11.30am in Church. All welcome.

During Advent there will be a weekly Evening Prayer followed by a discussion on the Readings. This will be on Zoom. Details to follow.

Winter Market 20th November 12-4pm in the Church Hall and Churchyard. Stalls, children's activities, entertainment, food! Come and be part of the fun.