

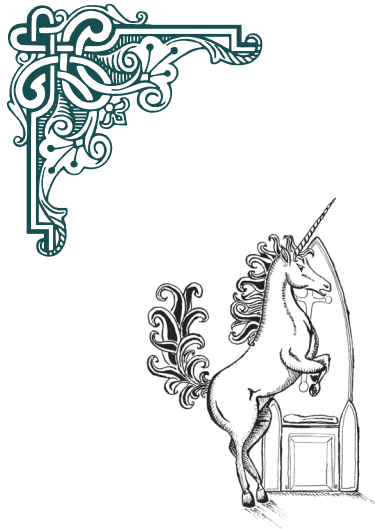
HEATH STREET

BAPTIST CHURCH

Lent 2021



Newsletter 1059



ON THY THRONE OF GLORY

AD TE REX SUMME

Psalm

Psalm 46

- 1 *God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.*
- 2 *Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,*
- 3 *though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.*
- 4 *There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.*
- 5 *God is within her; she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.*
- 6 *Nations are in uproar; kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.*
- 7 *The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.*
- 8 *Come and see what the LORD has done,
the desolations he has brought on the earth.*
- 9 *He makes wars cease
to the ends of the earth.
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.*
- 10 *He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."*
- 11 *The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

Psalm Reflection

First and foremost, God is our Creator. And that is something we're so happy to talk about and to reflect on until we have to wrestle with some of the more difficult creations of our world. Most notably, considering all that's going on, of course Coronavirus comes into our mind. We previously have been so happy to talk about God's strength and power and might, but in this moment when people are anxious, afraid and ill, it has become so much harder to dwell on.

But the very strange call found within this Psalm is to not be afraid. "Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way." And for many of us, the earth beneath us is giving way, metaphorical mountains are falling into the heart of the sea, the waters are roaring and the mountains quaking. Our natural world is shouting back at us, moving us and disorientating us, on this mass global scale, and it is not something many of us have had to cope with before.

The Psalmist paints a picture of the

City of God, where God dwells. Streams surround her, and though kingdoms around are falling, 'God is within her, she will not fall'. It is a wonderful reminder that the God who we profess has done so much for us, is indeed still with us.

The Psalmist reminds us of all the Lord has done before, the desolation brought to the earth, the wars that were ceased, the shattering spear. Perhaps it would be beneficial for each of us to take a moment to pause and remember all that God has done. The same God who we talk to now in this context is also the God of healing and peace, who many of us have experienced intimately in our lives.

Amongst all this violence, the Psalmist speaks God's voice in saying 'Be still, and know that I am God'. In a time where we do not have many options, enjoy the stillness. For me, when I begin to feel out of control, I get a nervousness or an anxiousness to do, do, do. To busy myself and to distract myself. So this call, though simple, feels so hard to do. To make use of

the one ray of light that I have, and to be still with God, and know who He is.

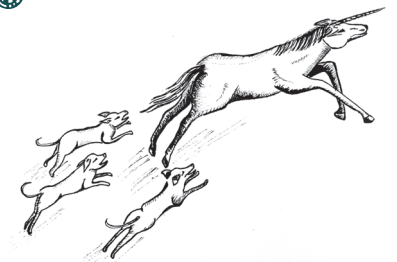
He is still God in coronavirus. He is still God in lockdown. He is still God in the sadness I feel about this time.

And despite how hard it is, we have the call that God will be exalted in the earth. Though it is difficult, there is something beautiful about saying, 'You are God, and I accept my position.' I am human and this has never been made more abundantly clear than in this situation where I have absolutely no control.

You are a good and powerful God, even in the midst of this.

The Lord Almighty is with us.

—Jen Finamore



**FOR WE HAVE SINNED
AGAINST THEE**

QUIA PECCAVIMUS TIBI

Taking Part in Compline

A very new experience for me was joining others (on the inevitable Zoom) to participate in a short daily service which marked the end of every day of Advent. As a died in the wool nonconformist, I see set orders of service as a bit alien and have never consistently attended (for example) Anglican worship so that the settings of weekly or daily services became familiar. What is fascinating for me is how various elements of the order for Compline which we followed shone out on different evenings – such as a moment of penitence or of praise, or a reminder of the need for preparedness (“for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh”). Each time I took part something particularly “spoke” to me. Sometimes this was uncomfortable – a sharp reminder of mortality, or consciousness that I most sincerely need to ask for mercy after the thoughts and actions of a tough day. But every one of these brief services ended with a sense of peacefulness, safety and repose and a reminder of the support of the community

of Heath Street Chapel. By looking at the parable of the wise and foolish virgins day after day, new layers of meaning emerged, and hearing individual voices beautifully singing *Wachet auf* and *O come, O come, Emmanuel* each evening, there really was time to consider the words, and the music, in a way that a quick run through a hymn on a Sunday morning (in the great days when we were allowed to sing) cannot provide. Advent for me for many years has been much more about the secular run up to Christmas with too much work to finish before the year-end, too many cards to buy and write against the postal deadline, all those presents to find and food to plan and prepare, and somehow squeezing in parties and social events too. This year, restrictions mean not only that much of this disappeared but the days of December 2020, being so very like all the dull days since March, might have been really hard to treat as special preparation for Christ’s coming. The rituals of lighting our Advent candle and joining in Compline made

the end of 2020 special in a positive way. Huge thanks to Ewan for these ideas and Ewan and John-Henry Baker and Chris Little for putting together the lovely little Compline booklet, and to the varied companions of different December evenings.

Gaynor Humphreys



**INNOCENT CAPTIVE. TAKEN
UNRESISTING**

**INNOCENS CAPTUS, NEC
REPUGNANS DUCTUS**

The Best 24 Years

After 24 years, Mr. Ron Sear is giving up the role of our church cleaner, though this was never an entirely accurate title since as well as all the mopping of the aisles and similar jobs, he always did lots of other less obvious work in keeping us shipshape – often in recent years with the help of his son, Mark. He has said that these were “the best 24 years”. Before this he worked as a Camden Council caretaker in some of the big housing developments.

In the midst of lockdown, we can't hold any kind of event to mark the retirement (and we will hope to put that right eventually), but meanwhile Theresa Thom says “Many thanks for your help over the years to the church generally and to me in particular, setting up the book stall and clearing up after Saturday coffee mornings.” And John-Henry Baker says “Thank you for all your dedication over the years to our church community. I'm especially grateful to have been able to call on you or Mark occasionally to get us

out of a fix when musicians were at the church door trying to get in and didn't have a key! You have always been very gracious. The dedication has been an example to follow.”

In the pandemic it has been getting on for a year since Ron and Mark have been able to come into the building – a great source of frustration. We all wish them and Mrs. Sear well and hope to see them at the church when everything gets back to normal.

Our other cleaner, Monica, well equipped with PPE, has been supporting us through the lockdowns and will carry on. In the periods we have been open for services in the last year, the ground floor has also benefitted hugely from COVID-19 precautions taken especially by Annie Fang and Theresa Thom and the weekly Sunday stewards.

Gaynor Humphreys

Stamp Collection

Several people at Heath Street know me as someone who eagerly takes used postage stamps from them. I bundle them up and send them to an amazing volunteer who sells them for Baptist Home Mission. He tells me that we have raised £55 this year from our recycled stamps, which is very pleasing. All you need to do is start to remember to tear or cut out every stamp you receive (but with at least half a centimetre border around it please) and pass it on to me – or post it through the Church letterbox with my name on until we reopen. Foreign stamps especially lucrative but even common or garden stamps welcome.

Once you start doing this it becomes a matter of habit quite quickly, you will find, along with all the other recycling you do. And if you find odds and ends of foreign coins, do chuck them in too.

Many thanks,
Gaynor



**FOR WE HAVE SINNED
AGAINST THEE**

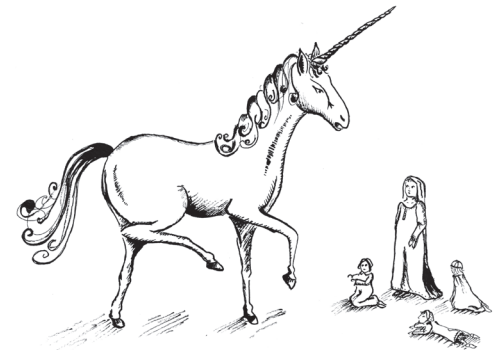
QUIA PECCAVIMUS TIBI

New Arrival

I'm struggling to put my two functioning brain cells together as a new mother to come up with a witty and interesting piece for the newsletter. Should I talk about how we have been affected by Covid-19? No, definitely not. Nobody can bear to read another piece about Covid-19. Should I talk about how it feels to be a new mother? Well, three weeks in, I'm struggling to offer a deep reflection on motherhood when I'm still getting used to the idea that I am actually a mother. I can say that it has meant cleaning a variety of bodily fluids off of a number of different surfaces (including myself). I've learnt that you don't actually need two hands to complete daily tasks. Motherhood has also taught me what it means to be on call 24/7 and the true meaning of an all you can eat buffet. Despite preparing mentally (and physically) for the past nine months, it has taken these past three weeks for

it to feel real and for me to realise that something so beautiful and precious is actually ours to keep. Should I talk about our new life in California? Despite moving halfway across the world, Thomas and I are still in our little bubble. We have increased our square footage and now can boast having more than one room, but we remain isolated from the outside world. How are we supposed to meet new people when we are prohibited from doing just that? Our only interactions so far have been at car boot sales or when we purchase used goods off of Facebook Marketplace. At least we can now boast that we have made our first American friend... our son.

Ugh, this is going to be hard. Maybe I should sleep on it and then decide... oh wait. -Gabrielle Falardeau



Readings and Prayers

February 14-20 2 Kings 5.1-14

14th Nathalia Bell
15th Fiona Ranford
16th Andrea MacEachan
17th Beza Geberegiabher
18th Otilie Johnson
19th Ewan King
20th Ali Ghasempour

February 21-27 Genesis 9.8-17

21st Rhona MacEachan
22nd Thomas Roy
23rd for the bereaved
24th Birgit Leuppert
25th Coco Ellenbogen
26th Susan Le Quesne
27th Edward Humphreys

February 28-March 6 Genesis 17.1-7, 15, 16

28th Josh Somers
1st Mar Monsignor Phelim Rowland
2nd Laura Somers
3rd Lydia Baker
4th Wilf Merttens
5th Robin Thorne
6th Elya Ghasempour

March 7-13 Exodus 20.1-17

7th Annie Fang
8th Beryl Dowsett
9th Gabrielle Falardeau
10th John-Henry Baker
11th Tom Somers
12th Nesa Thorne
13th Mysie Johnson

March 14-20 Numbers 21.4-9

14th Thaddeus King
15th Theresa Thom
16th Nomsa Ndebele
17th Joachim King
18th Selena Barrera
19th Leila Ranjbar
20th HK

March 21-27 Jeremiah 31.31-34

21st Jen Finamore
22nd Victoria Tjirimuje
23rd Frida King
24th Francesco Giannoccaro
25th for those in hospital
26th Cole Ellenbogen
27th Leo Patterson

March 28-April 3 Mark 11.1-11

28th Anselm King
29th Isabel Somers
30th Sarah Harper
31st Margarite Biadun
1st Apr Evelyn Baker
2nd Nathan Biadun
3rd Gaynor Humphreys



Weekly Activities

Sundays 11 am **Divine Worship**
Live from the church on Zoom and followed by after-church Zoom coffee, both using the following link:
Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87179878823>

Fridays 9:00 pm **Lecture Series**
These weekly Zoom discussions each focus on a theological lecture, available online.
Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87179878823>
More info at: <https://53theologylectures.webflow.io>



Online Activities

The Heath Street Home Companion

Songs, prayers and news from Heath Street people far and wide.

<https://soundcloud.com/heathstreet>

Storymakers Club

Online sessions of the after-school club aimed at children age 7 to 13.

For details, contact Wilf at

childrensworker@heathstreet.org

Storytelling

David: The Story of the Shepherd King

Storyteller Wilf Merttens' new storytelling show David: The Story of the Shepherd King retells the legendary centrepiece of the books of Samuel for the 3rd millennium, and finds out it is just as full of shock, longing and ambiguity as it was in the beginning.

www.heathstreet.org/media

Oldtime Nursery

By arrangement

If you would like to arrange a virtual session from the Minister's house to your one, please contact him at ewan_king@me.com

Please see the church website for updates: heathstreet.org

For requests regarding church membership, Baptism or opportunities for Christian ministry in the church, please contact the minister.

Copy for the next newsletter should reach Eleanor Patterson (eleanorlaise@gmail.com) not later than Friday 19th March.

Week 53 Friday December 31st - Kallistos Ware - Funny moments with Met Kallistos Ware
 Week 52 Friday December 24th - Gabriel Radle: Saint Nicholas
 Week 51 Friday December 17th - Jeremy Summery: Medieval Carols
 Week 50 Friday December 10th - Stanley Hauerwas: Facing Nothingness
 Week 49 Friday December 3rd - Rowan Williams: A Good Christmas
 Week 48 Friday November 26th - Sarah Coakley: A Theology of Desire
 Week 47 Friday November 19th - Rowan Williams: God, Theological Accounts and Ethical Possibilities #1
 Week 46 Friday November 12th - Willie Jennings: A New 'Ethico-Teleological' Argument for God's Existence
 Week 45 Friday October 29th - M. Shawn Copeland: Giving an Account of Our Hope
 Week 44 Friday October 22nd - M. Shawn Copeland: Theology and the Weight of the World
 Week 43 Friday October 15th - M. Shawn Copeland: Bearing Witness
 Week 42 Friday October 8th - Paul Daffyd Jones: Liberation Theology After Charlottesville
 Week 41 Friday October 1st - Rowan Williams: LEST XII Lecture
 Week 40 Friday September 24th - Elizabeth Theokritoff: The book of creation: How do you read?
 Week 39 Friday September 17th - John Milbank: Creation, Spirit and Time: Towards an Ecological Personalism
 Week 38 Friday September 10th - Elizabeth Theokritoff: Ecology and the Weight of the World
 Week 37 Friday September 3rd - Rowan Williams: The Saint and the Humanities
 Week 36 Friday August 27th - Kallistos Ware: On the Divine Liturgy Pt. 1
 Week 35 Friday August 20th - Nicholas Konostas: A Bridge Between the Churches 13/8
 Week 34 Friday August 13th - Nicholas Konostas: A Bridge Between the Churches 13/8
 Week 33 Friday August 6th - Rowan Williams: Presentation on David Jones
 Week 32 Friday July 30th - Vittorio Montemaggi: Encountering Mercy: Dante, Mary, and Us
 Week 31 Friday July 23rd - Ben Quash: Imaginative Hope 23/7
 Week 30 Friday July 16th - William Schweiker: The Creed as Critical Theory of Scripture
 Week 29 Friday July 9th - Robert Jenson: Genesis 1.1 and Luke 1.26-38
 Week 28 Friday July 2nd - Rowan Williams: Binding the Sacrifice: Theological Parodies in The Merchant of Venice
 Week 27 Friday June 25th - Robert Jenson: The Creed as Critical Theory of Scripture
 Week 26 Friday June 18th - Robert Jenson: The Creed as Critical Theory of Scripture
 Week 25 Friday June 11th - Sarah Coakley: The Coming of the Spirit
 Week 24 Friday June 4th - Rowan Williams: The Tanakh as Christian Scripture
 Week 23 Friday May 28th - Sarah Coakley: The Coming of the Spirit
 Week 22 Friday May 21st - Sarah Coakley: The Coming of the Spirit
 Week 21 Friday May 14th - Robert Jenson: The Tanakh as Christian Scripture
 Week 20 Friday May 7th - Robert Jenson: The Tanakh as Christian Scripture
 Week 19 Friday April 30th - Robert Jenson: The Tanakh as Christian Scripture
 Week 18 Friday April 23rd - Sarah Coakley: Ascension: What Does It Mean For Us That "Christ Ascended Into Heaven"? 16/4
 Week 17 Friday April 16th - Sarah Coakley: Resurrection: How Can I Believe It? 9/4
 Week 16 Friday April 9th - Sarah Coakley: Resurrection: How Can I Believe It? 9/4
 Week 15 Thursday April 1st (Maundy Thursday) Rowan Williams: Teresa of Avila as a Theologian of the Eucharist
 Week 14 Thursday April 1st (Maundy Thursday) Rowan Williams: Teresa of Avila as a Theologian of the Eucharist
 Week 13 Friday March 26th - William Schweiker: Does Religion Have a Future? (pm)
 Week 12 Friday March 19th - William Schweiker: Does Religion Have a Future? (am)
 Week 11 Friday March 12th - William Cavanaugh: The Eucharist as Politics
 Week 10 Friday February 26th - Denys Turner: Faith, Reason and the Eucharist
 Week 9 Friday February 19th - Janet Soskice: Image, Christology and Ethics
 Week 8 Friday February 12th - Rowan Williams: Religious Language Under Pressure
 Week 7 Friday February 5th - Rowan Williams: Religious Language Under Pressure
 Week 6 Friday January 29th - Sarah Coakley: God, Theological Accounts and Ethical Possibilities #1
 Week 5 Friday January 22nd - Sarah Coakley: A New 'Ethico-Teleological' Argument for God's Existence
 Week 4 Friday January 15th - William Turner: The Absent Tapes
 Week 3 Friday January 8th - Denys Turner: The Absent Tapes
 Week 2 Friday January 1st - Rowan Williams: The Intellectual Renewal of the Church
 Week 1 Friday January 1st - Kallistos Ware - Funny moments with Met Kallistos Ware

ROWAN WILLIAMS

The Intellectual Renewal of the Church January 1/1
 Religious Language Under Pressure 5/2
 The Tree of Knowledge: Bodies, Minds and Thoughts. 5/3
 Teresa of Avila as a Theologian of the Eucharist Week 14 Thursday April 1/4
 The Finality of Christ in a Pluralistic Society 7/5
 Christ, Creator and Creature: Reflections on Christology and the Nature of Created Being. [sic] 4/6
 Binding the Sacrifice: Theological Parodies in The Merchant of Venice 2/7
 Presentation on David Jones 6/8
 The Contribution of Orthodoxy in Cambridge and Beyond 3/9
 LEST XII Lecture 1/10
 The Deadly Simplicities of Adolf von Harnack 5/11
 A Good Christmas 3/12

SCRIPTURE

Robert Jenson: Creed, Scripture and their Modern Alienation 23/4
 Robert Jenson: The Tanakh as Christian Scripture 30/4
 Robert Jenson: The New Testament as Regula Fidei 14/5
 Robert Jenson: The Apostles' Creed 18/6
 Robert Jenson: The Creed as Critical Theory of Scripture 25/6
 Robert Jenson: Genesis 1.1 and Luke 1.26-38 9/7

SARAH COAKLEY

A New 'Ethico-Teleological' Argument for God's Existence 22/1
 Resurrection: How Can I Believe It? 9/4
 Ascension: What Does It Mean For Us That "Christ Ascended Into Heaven"? 16/4
 The Coming of the Spirit 28/5
 The Doctrine of the Trinity:
 What does it Mean and Why do We Need It? 11/6
 A Theology of Desire 19/11

THE CHURCH YEAR

Merold Westphal: Atheism for Lent 19/2
 Sarah Coakley: Resurrection: How Can I Believe It? 9/4
 Sarah Coakley: Ascension: What Does It Mean For Us That "Christ Ascended Into Heaven"? 16/4
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 Rowan Williams: A Good Christmas 3/12
 Stanley Hauerwas: Facing Nothingness – Facing God 10/12
 Jeremy Summery: Medieval Carols 17/12
 Gabriel Radle: Saint Nicholas 24/12

ORTHODOX THEOLOGY

Nicholas Konostas: St. Maximus the Confessor:
 A Bridge Between the Churches 13/8
 Kallistos Ware: On the Divine Liturgy Pt. 1 20/8
 Kallistos Ware: On the Divine Liturgy Pt. 2 27/8
 Rowan Williams: The Contribution of Orthodoxy in Cambridge and Beyond 3/9
 Elizabeth Theokritoff: Ecology and Christian tradition 10/9
 Elizabeth Theokritoff: The book of creation: How do you read? 24/9
 Kallistos Ware - Funny moments with Met Kallistos Ware 31/12

ECOLOGY

Elizabeth Theokritoff: Ecology and Christian tradition 10/9
 John Milbank: Creation, Spirit and Time: Towards an Ecological Personalism 17/9
 Elizabeth Theokritoff: The book of creation: How do you read? 24/9
 Rowan Williams: LEST XII Lecture 1/10

THEOLOGY AND RACE

Willie Jennings - The Origin of Race 29/1
 Paul Daffyd Jones: Liberation Theology After Charlottesville 8/10
 M. Shawn Copeland: Theology and the Weight of the World 15/10
 M. Shawn Copeland: Bearing Witness 22/10
 M. Shawn Copeland: Giving an Account of Our Hope 29/10
 Willie Jennings: Disrupting Image 12/11

THE EUCHARIST

Denys Turner: Faith, Reason and the Eucharist 26/2
 William Cavanaugh: The Eucharist as Politics 12/3
 Rowan Williams: Teresa of Avila as a Theologian of the Eucharist 1/4
 Kallistos Ware: On the Divine Liturgy Pt. 1 20/8
 Kallistos Ware: On the Divine Liturgy Pt. 2 27/8

THEOLOGY AND THE ARTS

The Intellectual Renewal of the Church January 1/1
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 Theological Parodies in The Merchant of Venice 2/7
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SAINTS

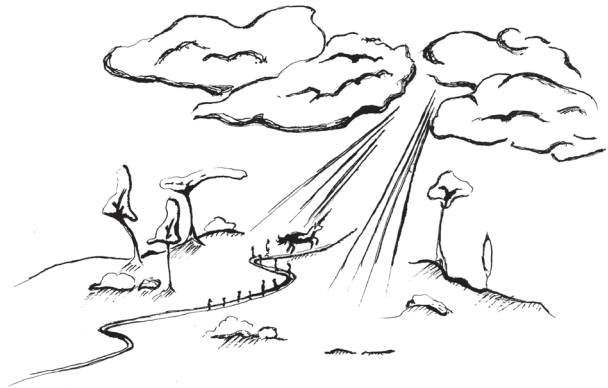
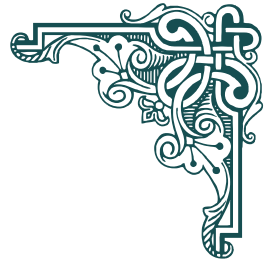
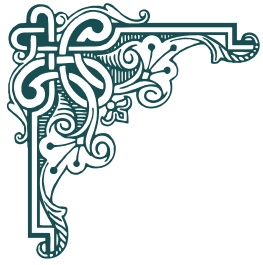
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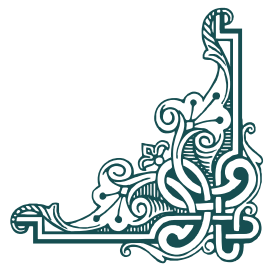
ATHEISM AND THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

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GATE OF LIFE CELESTIAL

JANUA CAELESTIS



HEATH STREET BAPTIST



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