

## Words of Light and Hope by Fran Neale

As today is the first Sunday after Epiphany and the New Year is still not very old, here are some thoughts on those lines.

"Beckoning God—

who called the rich to travel toward poverty,  
the wise to embrace your folly,  
the powerful to know their own frailty;  
who gave to strangers a sense of homecoming in an alien land  
and to stargazers true light and vision as they bowed to earth—  
help us to lay ourselves open to your signs for us." Kate Compston

"Stirring the easy slumber of my consciousness,  
He jolts me from the cosy rut I'd channelled for myself,  
Breaking the mould of others' expectations  
He questions once more the status quo in me.  
Prompting me to steer my route across uncharted ground,  
He challenges me to set my feet on pathways new..  
It's not an easy option, following God.  
For he calls me in directions where I had not thought to go,  
Requires of me a courage which I did not think I had,  
Turns on their head my preconceived ideas and plans.  
It's not an easy option, following God." Pat Marsh

"Jesus has two hands - one to point the way and the other to help us along." W Manson

Quoted by King George VI in his 1939 Christmas broadcast:-

"And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'

And he replied: 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.' " M. Louise Hoskins.



REEPHAM & WENSUM VALLEY  
TEAM CHURCHES

## Pew Notes

January 13th: 7:30pm—9pm Bible Study , Acts of the Apostles. Weston Longville, for more information please see our website or Facebook page.

### Services for next week: Sunday 12th January 2025

9am Mattins, St Andrew's, Thurning

9am Holy Communion (BCP), St Mary's, Bylaugh

10::30am Covenant Service , Reepham Methodist Church

10:30am Words and Praise, St Margaret's, Lyng

4pm Epiphany Carols by candlelit , St Mary's, Gt Witchingham

The Rev'd. Helen Rengert, 01603 879275 [revdhelenrwv@gmail.com](mailto:revdhelenrwv@gmail.com)

The Rev'd. Richard Turk, 07721 035009 [revdrichardrwv@gmail.com](mailto:revdrichardrwv@gmail.com)

Email [parishofficerwv@gmail.com](mailto:parishofficerwv@gmail.com) to submit articles or join the mailing list.

**FACEBOOK:** Reepham & Wensum Valley Events

**WEBSITE:** [www.reepham-and-wensum-valley-team-churches.org.uk](http://www.reepham-and-wensum-valley-team-churches.org.uk)

**Pew Notes are available to download from the RWV website and the E-newsletter**

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact your Parish Safeguarding Officer. Details in the church porch or on the RWV website.

**Isaiah 43:1-7**

Thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth-- everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

**Psalm 29 Afferte Domino**

1 Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.  
 2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.  
 3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the LORD is upon the mighty waters.  
 4 The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.  
 5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;  
 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.  
 7 The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire; the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.  
 8 The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.  
 9 And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"  
 10 The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as King for evermore.  
 11 The LORD shall give strength to his people; the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

**Acts 8:14-17**

When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

**Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

**The Collect**

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*