



**16 OCTOBER 2022**

Welcome to worship this morning,  
we hope you enjoy being with us.

## Lectionary Readings

**This week 16 October, 2022**

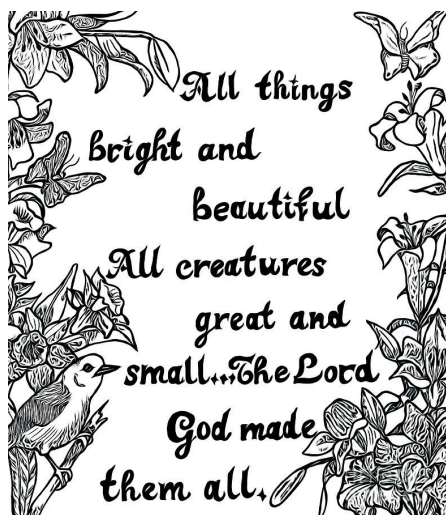
Jeremiah 31:27-34  
Psalm 119:97-104  
2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:5  
Luke 18:1-8

**Next week 23 October, 2022**

Joel 2:23-32  
Psalm 65  
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18  
Luke 18:9-14

## Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study will meet on  
Tuesday afternoon at 3pm in the  
chapel, and they are looking at  
Study 3 "From Generation to Gener-  
ation" - Psalm 78:1-8.



## Gail's Message

This Sunday we will be focusing on love for all creation. One of the best examples of being "in tune" with nature can be seen in the life and witness of St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis allowed himself to be moved with compassion for not only all living beings, including lepers and outcasts, wolves and noisy birds but also rocks and trees, the sun, the moon, and the stars. At the end of Sunday's service I have adapted a blessing known as the Franciscan Blessing to close worship. Here it is in its original version:

"May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart.  
May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace.  
May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and turn their pain to joy.  
And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done. Amen."

What does it take to allow ourselves to feel discomfort, anger at injustice, and empathy for all who suffer? What does it take to never give up hope? After all our natural reaction is to block these things out to prevent ourselves from falling into a pit of despair or emotionally burning out.

Like St. Francis we can maintain our sense of compassion for all created things by understanding the whole of creation as God's gift to us; a beautiful, wondrous thing to enjoy, and be refreshed in. Our natural world has a huge impact on our wellbeing, and it is scientifically proven that time in nature does refresh us; it lifts our mood, and raises our spirit.

As an act of praise this week be inspired by St. Francis, try to find a little bit of Sir Brother Sun, and allow God's light to shine upon you.  
"Praise be You, my Lord, with all your creatures, especially Sir Brother Sun, who is the day and through whom You give us light. And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour; and bears a likeness of You, the Most High One ..." St. Francis of Assisi