

St James News: Thought for the day – Tuesday 23rd June 2020

Thought for the day by Revd John Marshall

We enjoyed Spring Watch in lockdown – it was different and absorbing. As we have pottered we enjoy watching the bird, especially the crows and pigeons on Tooting Bec common, on another part of the common we saw a fox having its photograph taken and it was posing beautifully.

Gerard Manley Hopkins combined observation and theology in

Pied Beauty

Glory be to God for dappled things –

For skies of couple-colour as a brindled cow,

For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim,

Fresh fire coal chestnut falls; finches wings;

Landscapes plotted and pierced – fold, fallow and plough;

And all trades, their gear and tackle and trim

All things counter, original, spare, strange;

Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)

With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;

He fathers – forth, whose beauty is past change

Praise Him

- From the Lion book of Christian Poetry

You might like to see if you can find the Windhover.

There are many mentions of birds in the Bible, take your pick of Eagles, quails, sparrows, hens etc.

In Psalm 124 our soul is compared to a bird.

“Our soul has escaped as a bird from the snare of the fowlers. The snare is broken, and we have escaped. Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.”

Song: You laid aside Your majesty – you can listen to it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Asy9EQSvrZ4>

You laid aside Your majesty,
gave up everything for me.
Suffered at the hands of those You had created.
You took away my guilt and shame,
When You died and rose again.
Now today You reign,
In heaven and earth exalted.

I really want to worship You my Lord,
You have won my heart and I am Yours.
Forever and ever, I will love You.
You are the only one who died for me,
Gave Your life to set me free.
So I lift my voice to You in adoration.

Prayer:

God of all grace, we rejoice that your love is for all, unlimited and free.

May we, your children, have the same generous love for the world that you show us in Christ. For in Christ, we are all seen and known fully, redeemed and restored, and we need never be ashamed of failure.

May we, in responding to all you offer us in Christ, learn to view others and see your world only through the lens of your love, which holds us, heals us and restores us to fullness of life. Amen.

Helen Cameron, Northampton District Chair – Methodist Church.