

10th January 2021

Dear

Friends,

This week the lectionary brings us one of my favourite Bible passages. It describes God's creation of the world. But I think it also reminds us how God reaches out to us in times of darkness and chaos bringing light and life.

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was without shape and empty, and darkness was over the surface of the watery deep*

In the beginning there was darkness. The earth was shapeless and formless submerged in deep water. A symbol that we still use today when we describe ourselves as feeling 'out of our depth.'

As we enter our third national lockdown this resonates with me. Yet again schools are closed, families are trying to juggle home-schooling and home-working. Yet again, people are suffering poverty. Yet again thousands are dying, health-workers are exhausted. I wonder, where the darkness seems deepest in our lives? Maybe it is concern for those we love,? Maybe it is isolation? Maybe poor health? Some days the 'deep' seems overwhelming.

*But the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the water.*

The Bible promises that it is in that place of 'deep waters' and 'darkness' that God is at work creating something new. Because it is over the place that is dark and formless and deep, that the Spirit of God hovers.

The same Hebrew term describes how a bird broods over a clutch of eggs. How it incubates them safely until they hatch.

God's Spirit hovers over the formless earth bringing light and preparing the way for new life.

*God said, "Let there be light." And there was light!*

Light that starts with God's own presence. Light that is breathed gently over the watery deep. Light that shines within the darkness.

*God saw that the light was good*

I guess that is my challenge this year. Not to pretend that the darkness or the deep don't exist. And not to be overwhelmed by them. Instead, to recognise that over all these things God's presence is hovering. Waiting to bring light and life and new creation. Not restoring the old but breathing something completely new. Something that is unimaginable until it is made real. Something 'good.'

*So, God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day" and the darkness "night." There was evening, and there was morning, marking the first day. (Gen 1:1-5 NET)*

God pauses. God's timing is patient, deliberate. The overnight pause is part of God's rhythm of creation, of work and rest, of creation and reflection.

In that pause we hold the tension. Watching and waiting for the fragile glimmers of God's new light dawning over Blacon, Britain, the world. Trusting that God's power is greater than the darkness that threatens to overwhelm us. Trusting that God's Spirit continues to hover over our deep waters bringing light and life.

With love, Louise

## NOTICES

Holy Trinity Blacon are the living church of our living God, and we continue to be at work here! If you are able, do check the parish website [www.holytrinityblacon.org](http://www.holytrinityblacon.org) or our Facebook page (holylrinityblacon) for updates.

**LOCKDOWN** affects the whole country now, but fortunately we can still continue to meet (socially distanced) in church to worship together, and we will continue meeting at 9.30am each Sunday. The minibus is also running, so do let us know if you would like a lift.

**PRAYING FOR BLACON** Louise and Tina are taking our exercise particularly along those streets we are praying for each week. Do join us in praying for those residents. *This week we are praying for: Onslow Road, Springwood Close, Overwood Lane, Melverley Drive.*

**EVENING PRAYER** We meet each Wednesday 5pm for Evening Prayer on Zoom. Do let us know if you would like the link – everyone is welcome to join us.

**BIBLE GROUP** Our weekly Bible Study group will continue to look at the letter to the Philippians through January. We meet on Zoom weekly from this Thursday 7th Jan at 7.30pm. You are very welcome to join us, please do contact us for the link.

<b>Rector</b>	Rev Tina Upton	01244 372721 <a href="mailto:tina.htblacon@btinternet.com">tina.htblacon@btinternet.com</a>
<b>Curate</b>	Rev Louise Annison	07861 490410 <a href="mailto:louise.htblacon@btinternet.com">louise.htblacon@btinternet.com</a>
<b>Warden</b>	June Middleton	01244 376933 <a href="mailto:june.middleton47@gmail.com">june.middleton47@gmail.com</a>
<b>Outreach Worker</b>	Sue Mountford	07835 006834 or 01244 313799
<b>Parish Office</b>	Linda Tudor ( <i>Admin</i> )	01244 376085 <a href="mailto:office.htblacon@btinternet.com">office.htblacon@btinternet.com</a>