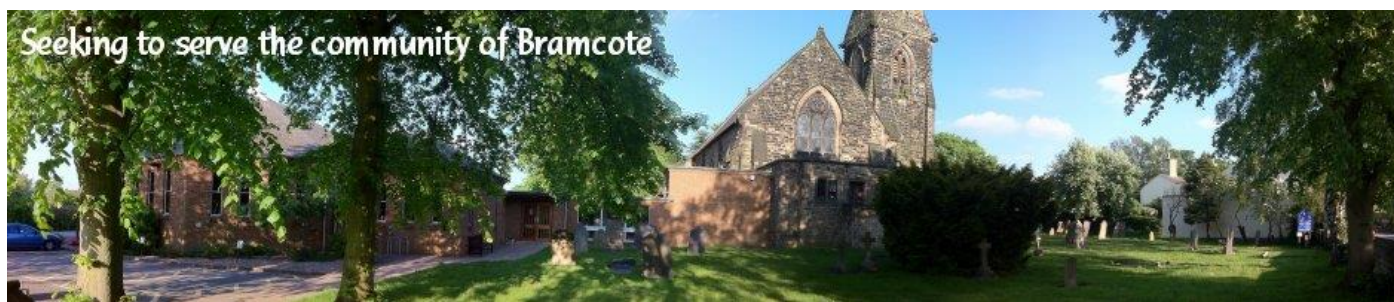


Saint Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Bramcote



Monday, October 19th, 2020

Bible Readings: [Psalm 98; 2 Kings 17:24-41; Philippians 1:1-11](#)
(Each reading may be viewed at www.biblegateway.com)

Reflection: ②

At a time when we can feel overwhelmed with gloomy and joyless news, Psalm 98 comes as a burst of sunshine and colour. Some of us may have Beethoven's Ode to Joy ringing in our ears too, remembering the tune used for a metrical setting of this psalm. It's certainly an outpouring of praise from the Psalmist, as he recalls what God has done for his people in the past and affirms his love and faithfulness to them.

First, the people are exhorted to sing and play instruments, then the vision expands and everything on the planet joins together in praise to God. And, with Advent now only a few weeks away, when we think about the coming of Jesus and prepare for his birth, then ending of this psalm reminds us that God is coming again, and will rule over his creation fairly, justly and with love.

Another song comes to mind - this time the words of Joy to the World, written by Isaac Watts and based on this psalm: "He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love". As we go about our daily business today, let's find the thoughts, the words, and maybe even the music to praise God for his goodness and love towards us.

Prayer:

O Lord God, we thank you that you reign for ever, that you have set your throne for judgement; that you will rule the world in righteousness and govern the nations with justice.

We praise you that you are a refuge for the oppressed and a rock in time of trouble: we who know your name will trust you, for you have never forsaken those who love you. O Lord God, we thank you. Amen.

"Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you." 1 Peter 5.7