

Who spake by the prophets

Welcome to today's TFTD from Robin, based on Micah 3.1-8

When we declare our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed, the final section of the creed is about our faith in the Holy Spirit. If we are using the traditional language of the Book of Common Prayer, we get to the bit where it says 'who spake by the prophets,' and this reminds us that while we celebrate the Holy Spirit descending upon the disciples at the first Pentecost, actually this Holy Spirit has been active in the world since the world began, including in the time of the prophets when it 'spake' through them.

Our reading this morning comes from the prophet Micah and Micah doesn't flinch in his words of condemnation for those who perpetrate injustice on the poor. And he finishes by saying,

But as for me, I am filled with power,
with the spirit of the Lord,
and with justice and might,
to declare to Jacob his transgression
and to Israel his sin.

And this same Holy Spirit that rested upon Micah, is the Holy Spirit to whom we will all open our hearts as we worship on Sunday at the celebration of Pentecost.

Will future generations say of us: 'They were prophets through whom the Holy Spirit spake'?

Do we dare to condemn the injustice in the world which the Spirit condemns?

I invite you to take a quick look at a website called www.theworldcounts.com

I found the page which gives you the running total of the number of people who have died from starvation so far this year. We are already at over 3,500,000. Starvation will be a far bigger killer than Covid 19 this year.

There is enough food in the world to feed everybody.

Imagine if we made feeding everybody our top priority. Imagine if this was the story that made up 95% of our newspaper and media headlines. Imagine a huge international effort which restructured all our lives that aimed to end starvation deaths by the end of this year. Imagine if there was a daily government briefing with government ministers flanked by scientists and experts telling us we were ramping things up getting close and closer to a world liberated from hunger so we could all relax and get back to living our lives as normal. Imagine a world where when leading members of the government did things that appeared to undermine this huge collective effort, there were calls for them to resign because nothing was more important than ending the scandal of death from hunger.

The scale of injustice in the world is beyond what we appear to be able to cope with. Our response to it seems so inadequate. Our sense of priority so poorly judged. Will we ever see what is really important? Will we ever summon up the courage to respond the way the Spirit calls us to respond?

We refuse to give up hope. The Holy Spirit has been active in the world since the beginning of creation, moving across the waters before the land was even made. The Holy Spirit has been active throughout human history: 'who spake by the prophets.' Let us not underestimate the Holy Spirit as we open our hearts

afresh to her this Pentecost.

Come, O Spirit of God, and make within us your dwelling place and home.
May our darkness be dispelled by your light,
and our troubles calmed by your peace.;
may all evil be redeemed by your love,
all pain transformed by the suffering of Christ,
and all dying glorified in his risen life. Amen.