



THIS IS YOUR SPACE TO MAKE YOURS

REFLECTION POINTS 2 AUG 2020

READING – HABAKKUK 1:1-4, 3:1-2, 16-19

1 The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

The Prophet's Complaint

² O Lord, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not listen?

Or cry to you 'Violence!'
and you will not save?

³ Why do you make me see wrongdoing
and look at trouble?

Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.

⁴ So the law becomes slack
and justice never prevails.

The wicked surround the righteous—
therefore judgement comes forth perverted.

3 A prayer of the prophet Habakkuk according to
Shigionoth.

The Prophet's Prayer

² O Lord, I have heard of your renown,
and I stand in awe, O Lord, of your work.

In our own time revive it;
in our own time make it known;
in wrath may you remember mercy.

¹⁶ I hear, and I tremble within;
my lips quiver at the sound.
Rottenness enters into my bones,
and my steps tremble beneath me.

I wait quietly for the day of calamity
to come upon the people who attack us.

Trust and Joy in the Midst of Trouble

¹⁷ Though the fig tree does not blossom,
and no fruit is on the vines;
though the produce of the olive fails
and the fields yield no food;

though the flock is cut off from the fold
and there is no herd in the stalls,

¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the Lord;
I will exult in the God of my salvation.

¹⁹ God, the Lord, is my strength;
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,
and makes me tread upon the heights.

These are words of faith
Thanks be to God.

INTRODUCTION TO THE READING

We know very little about Habakkuk. He is a Christian, Jewish and Muslim prophet who begins by questioning where God is in the midst of the injustice around him – the book is a conversation between him and God. He wants to know from God why the wicked rulers always seem to prosper and the people suffer and calls for God to do something. Be honest, how often do we ask exactly the same question when we see people destroying others in the race to the top and yet seem to 'prosper'.

Our reading ends with acknowledgement that God is there even when there appears to be no blossom on the trees. God is still present and the prophet will still worship. It's feel is very similar to some of the psalms - God's shoulders are broad enough for criticism and will not turn away from us even when we lash out in despair at the seeming unfairness of life. This is a conversation between Habakkuk and God beginning with Habakkuk accusing God and finishing with an acknowledgement of God's faithfulness.

We have so many stories of faith to share with illustrate God's faithfulness. Some are sacred stories from the Scriptures, others are from our own personal experience.

We are called by God to share these stories with the generations to come, generations yet to be born. How do we do this, remembering it is our responsibility as people of faith to share, not the responsibility of others to listen?

REFLECTION POINTS

- Where can you see God's faithfulness at work in the world?
- Which sacred stories of faith would you use to illustrate God's faithfulness?
- Do you have a personal story of faith to illustrate God's faithfulness?
- What do we do with these stories?
- How does this affect our thinking around the new church building?