

***'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.'***

Where have you experienced God's *hesed* – his mercy and loving-kindness? Where might God be calling you to show it in a new way? How have you been blessed? Are there situations or relationships where your forgiveness might bring healing?

***'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.'***

How has God drawn closer to you, or have you grown closer to God? Is something new or different in your experience of prayer and worship? What did you realise when we weren't able to meet in church? What difference did it make?

***'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.'***

How can we learn to be more fully people of peace? What does it mean to you to be a child of God?

***'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.'***

What are you willing to risk? Where might you dare to speak or live more prophetically? What does the Kingdom look like now?

***'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.'***

There are people who wish our churches had remained closed forever and who actively want to privatise all faith and pretend that there is a neutral secular voice. How do we respond when the cost can be high?

***Blessings are not postponed: reflecting on the Beatitudes***

***When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:***

What have you heard Jesus saying to you through all of this? What blessings have you received?

***'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven***

What does it mean to be 'poor in spirit' and also to be fully alive? Where do you find joy? What has sustained you through this season? Where has God surprised you?

***'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.***

What are you grieving for or lamenting? What things need acknowledging, or a proper farewell? Where have you found comfort, consolation, and hope?

***'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.***

What does it look like to be meek? What have you realised you need (or don't need)? What have you learned about dependence – on others? on God? How do you see our taking a more modest place in God's creation?

***'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.***

What is the righteousness you hunger for? Where do you long to see God's justice? What are you praying for? What is God asking you to do?