

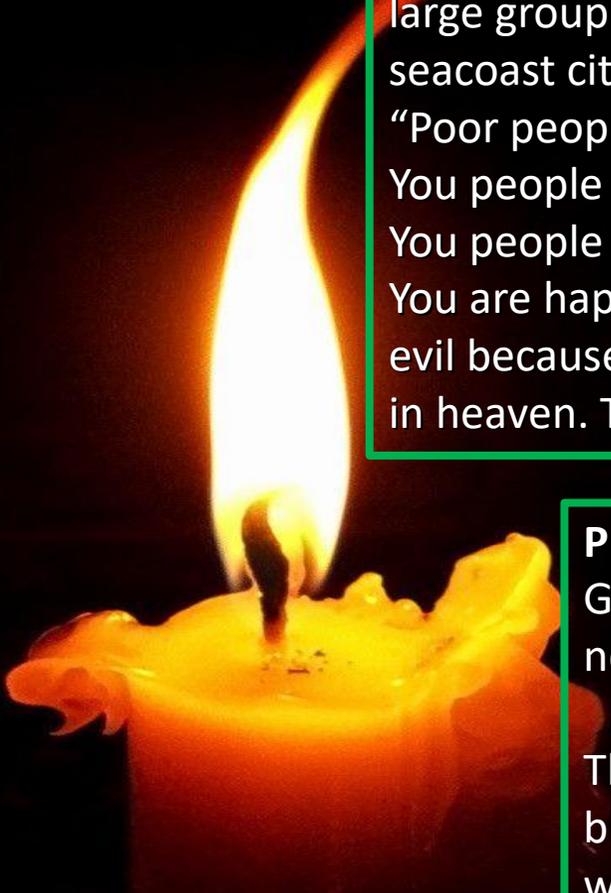
Beatitudes

I think it would be fair to say that my wife has the ability to murder a song when she sings it. She can sing in the same way that Les Dawson could play the piano. And yet when she sings, she still seems to ascertain some joy and happiness from it. The rest of us have usually left the room.

The scripture this week wants us to focus on what makes us truly happy. The Beatitudes reminds us that true joy and happiness lie in how we treat one another and do God's work through our words and actions. The Psalm this week is a song of joy that we should sing to celebrate this pursuit of true happiness. And our Saint of the Week used another artistic form, that of painting, to celebrate the faith. So does it matter whether you can actually sing or paint or are artistic? Not at all. The Christian faith is there to be expressed and celebrated ... and if that means hitting a few wrong notes, then so be it.

[Mr Doust]





Scripture:

Jesus and the apostles came down from the mountain. Jesus stood on level ground where there was a large group of his followers. Also, there were many people from all around Judea, Jerusalem, and the seacoast cities of Tyre and Sidon. Jesus looked at his followers and said, "Poor people, you are happy, because God's kingdom belongs to you. You people who are now hungry are happy, because you will be satisfied. You people who are now crying are happy, because you will laugh with joy. You are happy when people hate you and are cruel to you. You are happy when they say that you are evil because you belong to the Son of Man. At that time be full of joy, because you have a great reward in heaven. Their fathers were cruel to the prophets in the same way these people are cruel to you.

Prayer:

God of the prophets, God of Christ: we are reminded today that your blessings do not necessarily follow the logic of the world.

The world believes that the rich are blessed, but Jesus reminds us that it is the poor who are blessed, the poor in spirit and the materially poor as well. We pray for a more just world in which all have enough and none are left behind.

Though we fear death and avoid its inevitable arrival, Jesus tells us that those who mourn are blessed. Help us to experience the truth of this mystery; bring healing and wholeness to those who are sick; and comfort those of us who have lost loved ones.

Amen