

Connecting the Sunday Sparkle at Hearsall Baptist with the Daily Dust of Life

Welcome

- If you were a tree, which tree would you be, and why?

Worship

- Display a picture of a tree - or, even better, look at a real tree!
- Allow people to ponder the tree for a couple of minutes.
- Read Psalm 1.
- Let people share reflections on either the tree or the Psalm or both.
- Pray this prayer (or make up your own prayer):
*Lord, plant me by the water!
Let my roots go deep into you.
Let my leaves be lush and green.
Let my fruit grow to be sweet and abundant to nourish the world.
Let me be healthy in body, mind and soul as I live my life your way.
For Jesus' sake. Amen.*

Word

Read Luke 18: 9 - 14

This well-known story concerns a Pharisee and a tax collector. The Pharisee was a member of a holiness movement, keen to make sure people lived according to God's laws. The Tax Collector was a Jew who had taken work collecting money for an occupying power, and therefore was hated.

- Rewrite this story for our era. Actually write it out word for word. (Use modern characters instead of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector. Think of a worship setting where they might meet in modern Britain. How would they express their feelings about their righteousness?)
- If you'd like to present it in worship, have a word with Martin Prue who is planning the service for next Sunday.

- How does the teaching of this story fit with the message of Psalm 1?
- On what basis can we live a righteous life? Where does righteousness begin? (See Proverbs 1:7.)

Response

- Design a social media post or a letter explaining what it means to live well as a Christian. Post it!

Notes this week kindly prepared in advance by Revd David Sutcliffe without reference to the Sunday service.