**Bible Study on Matthew 5. 10-16**

In this passage we look at the last of the Beatitudes and then three topics that are addressed directly to the disciples of Jesus. In addition to reading the passage you may want to look at the notes on Ray Porter’s sermon

1. We shall look first at the verses on persecution
   1. What do you know about the persecution of Christians in the world today?
   2. Why are so many Christians persecuted?
   3. Have you had any personal experience of persecution for your faith?
   4. In what ways do changing cultural patterns put more pressures on Christians in UK today?
   5. What blessings come from being persecuted?

***Take a few minutes to pray for Christians who are being persecuted****. If you want specific things to pray for the leader may want to go on Open Doors website https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/*

1. Persecution, salt, and light are joined together here
   1. What benefit do you see in discussing these themes together?
   2. Why are salt and light good metaphors for the relationship of Christians to the society around them?
   3. Ray looked at John 3. 19-21 to see how Jesus’ light was received. How does that passage help you understand the role of Christians in the world today?
   4. What practically should we do as a church community to increase our role as salt and light in society?

The Collect for the first Sunday of Advent:

ALMIGHTY God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen.