

WORSHIP AT HOME

SUNDAY 5th September 2021

Call to Worship:

Let us worship God, whose generosity knows no bounds. May we learn to give, as God gives to us. Lord, let our eyes and ears be opened. Let us leap like deer, and sing for joy! Amen

Hymn – The kingdom of God (StF 255)

The kingdom of God
Is justice and joy,
For Jesus restores
What sin would destroy;
God's power and glory
In Jesus we know,
And here and hereafter
The kingdom shall grow.

The kingdom of God
Is mercy and grace,
The prisoners are freed,
The sinners find place,
The outcast are welcomed
God's banquet to share,
And hope is awakened
In place of despair.

The kingdom of God
Is challenge and choice,
Believe the good news,
Repent and rejoice!
His love for us sinners
Brought Christ to his cross,
Our crisis of judgement
For gain or for loss.

God's kingdom is come,
The gift and the goal,
In Jesus begun,
In heaven made whole;
The heirs of the kingdom
Shall answer his call,
And all things cry glory
To God all in all!

Bryn Rees (1911-1983)

Prayer:

All-inclusive and ever-loving God, we praise and adore you. With you there is no south or north, no east or west – no borders. You care for each one of us. You are a healing God, who heals us wherever and whenever we need your touch – whether in body, mind or spirit. We look upon you now, our hearts ablaze with love for you. But forgive us, Lord, for all the times we are too quick to form opinions, too quick to judge others; for the times we don't give people the benefit of the doubt; or fail to consider what they might be going through. Open our eyes to see and our ears to listen, as you do. The Gentile woman and the deaf man opened their minds and hearts to Jesus. When we open our minds, God helps us to understand his ways. When we open our hearts, God sees deep within. He loves us and wants us to turn to him, even when we've done wrong. God comes to us now and listens to us, loves us, and forgives us. He makes us whole. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer - Our Father.....Amen

Today's Readings:

Mark 7 v 24-37; James 2 v 1-10 & 14-17

Reflection:

You might already know but I'm not a great fan of sport or exercise in general so when I was at school, I was always the last person to be picked for a sports team. But what does it feel like to be the 'other' person, to be the one left till last? It's really not a great feeling at all. The 'other' person can be somebody who is different from the rest, who we find it hard to get along with and sometimes we can be the 'other' person left out or not listened to.

Jesus makes it very clear that whoever we are, he loves us all, with all our God-given differences. So we as Christians have the challenge of letting everyone including those 'other' left out people know that Jesus loves them. We do that by



sharing our time with them, listening to them and supporting them no matter their circumstances. To share our faith with others we have to enter into a relationship with them. We have to reach forward and welcome them in. Only in this way can God's love break into the world and change the lives of those concerned.

When someone claims to have faith, what he or she may mean is that they agree with a set of Christian teachings. This is an incomplete faith. True faith transforms our conduct as well as our thoughts. We become new people when we let God into our lives and we fully believe in him. The final verse of the passage from James says 'faith by itself, if not accompanied by action, is dead.' We cannot earn our salvation by serving and obeying God. Deeds of service are not a substitute for faith, rather they are proof of our faith in Christ. By living out our faith in the world, we can truly reflect the love of God to all who we meet. Amen.

Prayer:

Loving God, who rescues us and restores us, we think of those who need your help today. We pray especially for those who feel ignored, those whose problems are swept under the mat, whose cries for help are downplayed or devalued. We pray for those who feel they do not have a place to belong, a safe place to find support and friendship. We pray for those in situations of captivity, in whatever sense of the word, for those who cannot see a way through the darkness, for those who feel their lives are in pieces. We ask that you would touch their lives, that they may know you as healer and as friend. And as for us, make us their advocates and their champions; where the world has abandoned them, help us walk beside them, showing your love to all who need it. In Jesus' name. Amen

Hymn – Dear Lord and Father of Mankind (StF 495)

Dear Lord and Father of mankind
forgive our foolish ways;
re clothe us in our rightful mind;
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard
beside the Syrian sea
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee.

O sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love!

With that deep hush subduing all
our words and works that drown
the tender whisper of thy call,
as noiseless let thy blessing fall
as fell thy manna down.

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still small voice of calm!

John Greenleaf Whittier (1807–1892)

Blessing:

Living Saviour, lead us and guide us. Help us in our lives this week to reflect our faith to all we meet. In your name we pray, and in your name we go. Amen.

[Prayers from Roots on the Web]

Prepared by Hayley Edmondson CCL No.315086

WORSHIP AT HOME

SUNDAY 12th September 2021

Call to Worship:

Come to worship,
to be comforted and disturbed,
challenged from our complacency,
but also offered forgiveness
and the hope of eternal life.
Come to Jesus, prophet, priest and king.

Hymn Take my life (StF 566)

- 1 Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to thee ;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
- 2 Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love ;
take my feet, and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.
- 3 Take my voice, and let me sing
always, only, for my King ;
take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee.
- 4 Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold ;
take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.
- 5 Take my will, and make it thine ;
it shall be no longer mine ;
take my heart — it is thine own ;
it shall be thy royal throne.
- 6 Take my love ; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure-store ;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Frances Ridley Havergal (1836–1879)

Prayer:

Most merciful and gracious God,
we offer you our heartfelt love and praise
because your Son, Jesus Christ,
was willing to risk everything for the whole world.
Even for us.

We come to worship you,
earnestly seeking your will for us –
however risky that might be, you are worth it.

Amen.

Who is Jesus?’

For the times I have been asked this question,

and have struggled to
give an answer:

**Forgive me, Lord, and
give me your words to
speak.**

For the times I have
been ashamed to acknowledge you:

Forgive me, Lord, and grant me courage.

For the times I considered only human concerns,
and not God’s:

Forgive me, Lord, and widen my horizons.

For the times I saw opportunities to take risks for
God but looked the other way through fear or
indecision:

**Forgive me, Lord, and build up my confidence
in you.**

For the times I only take the chocolates I like out
of your box:

**Forgive me, Lord, and make me whole, ready
to do your good will.**

Amen.

Assurance of forgiveness

We have a relationship with God through Jesus
Christ.

The same Jesus who took up his cross and died
for our sins.

The same Jesus who looks on us now with love
and intercedes on our behalf.

Open our hearts to receive your forgiveness and
blessing, Lord.

Amen.



The Lord’s Prayer - Our Father.....Amen

Today’s Reading

Mark Ch8 V27-38

Reflection:

When Jesus asked his disciples ‘who do you think
I am’ it’s easy for us 2,000 years later to just
accept Peter’s response as par for the course. We



all know that is the right answer. Just afterwards Peter is rebuked for contradicting Jesus prediction for the future. Do we just take the bits of the Bible that we like and ignore the others. The less savoury aspects of life have been evident over the past months. We have been stopped doing things that we have been accustomed to and made to do things that we didn't like. Isn't that some people's impression of the Christian way of life. Although that is not our version there will undoubtedly be times when we will have to make sacrifices, probably not being put to death, but still sacrifices Jesus rejects the story that Peter wishes to write. Do people try to write your story from their knowledge of you as a Christian. Are you prepared to enlighten them Could your personal experiences be compared with those of Jesus.

When some people think of taking up the cross they may think of a piece of jewellery. Taking up our cross however means being prepared to suffer hardship for the sake of the Gospel. Are we prepared for this?

A few thoughts here for you to ponder over the coming week

Prayer:

We pray at this time for all those who have been and still are affected by the Covid 19 epidemic. We think of all those who have lost their lives and their families. We think of all in the medical profession, Doctors, Nurses, and all who work in Hospitals. We think of those who work on treatments and on vaccines. We especially pray for all those who are involved with the roll out of the vaccines and pray for all who are still waiting to receive their vaccinations.

We pray for all politicians making decisions that are often not popular, we pray that someday soon there will be a world after Covid when we can resume some sort of more normal life.

We ask all these prayers in Jesus name.

Amen

Hymn Will you come and follow me (StF673)

- 1 Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name ?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same ?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me ?
- 2 Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name ?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same ?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare ?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me ?
- 3 Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name ?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same ?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me ?
- 4 Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name ?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same ?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me ?
- 5 Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

John L. Bell (*b.* 1949) and Graham Maule (*b.* 1958)

Blessing:

Loving God,
we commit to following you this week
into corners of the community
we usually prefer to ignore.
Help us to pray and speak and act for change.

Amen.

(Prepared by Bob Mantle, CCL No. 315086)

WORSHIP AT HOME

SUNDAY 19th September, 2021

Call to Worship:

At this time, in this place, let us worship God – with open ears ready to listen and hearts ready to receive, minds willing to be challenged and attitudes given to God. Come, we worship God as one.

Hymn – Ascribe greatness to our God,

Ascribe greatness to our God, the Rock
His work is perfect
And all His ways are just
Ascribe greatness to our God, the Rock
His work is perfect
And all His ways are just

Chorus

A God of faithfulness and without injustice
Good and upright is He
A God of faithfulness and without injustice
Good and upright is He

Mary Kirkbridge Barthow & Mary Lou King

Prayer: Loving, gracious God, who does not put us in order – greatest to least, best to worst, loved most to loved least, or any other order: be with us as we spend time with one another and with you. Help us to listen to you as you speak to us and challenge us, love us and encourage us.
Amen.

Loving Lord, our community is made up of many different people, with different skills, gifts and abilities – and that includes each one of us here. Who we are and how we live and work together makes our community what it is. We are all equally loved and valued by you, Lord. And yet we make mistakes. Sometimes we may see ourselves as better or more important than others. Sometimes we may be greedy and take more than we need. Sometimes we may shout louder than others because we want our own way.

Help us to see each other as you see us, valued and loved – and equal in your sight. Help us to

work together to make our community stronger, supportive, compassionate, loving and giving. May we see Christ in one another and shine with Christ in our daily living. In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen.



The Lord's Prayer - Our Father.....Amen

Today's Readings:

John 9: 30 – 37

James 3: 13 – 4: 3, 7-8a

Reflection:

Two events dominate the passage. First, there is the evident discomfort of the disciples to Jesus' prediction of his death and resurrection. This is the second such prediction made by Jesus. On the first occasion, Peter tried to reason with Jesus and was firmly put in his place. This time the response, after an initial sullen silence, is followed by the disciples – led by James and John – jostling for position, wanting to be acknowledged as the greatest. It reads rather like children bickering over who gets or deserves the biggest piece of cake! One of the themes of Mark's Gospel is the repeated failure of the disciples to understand what Jesus said or did. How often do we plough on, hoping things will work out rather than admitting our limitations and taking advice?

In the second event, later the same day, Jesus responds to the earlier bickering with an enacted parable of a powerless and (in terms of the prevailing culture) insignificant child. In the modern world, influencers are powerful because they shape the spending habits of people who aspire to be important or simply 'on trend'. Here, Jesus challenges the understanding that greatness means being important or 'on trend'. The word 'servant' is probably better translated as 'slave' – although for modern ears this is extremely unacceptable. We must remember that in Jesus' world, slaves were common and accepted as normal. Slaves were universal and no one particular race was more likely than any other to be enslaved. A slave was someone who

belonged to a master, whose role was to reflect the greatness of his owner in all that he or she did. For Jesus, greatness is not about climbing to the top of the pile. For Jesus, greatness exists in the rightness of our relationships – starting with our relationship with God. How do we know when we are being pulled in different directions? Do we have to be the greatest to serve God? Can we see examples of serving God in simple ways? Again, the disciples do not understand. They are still caught up in a one-sided understanding of messiahship. They are seeking to place themselves in a pecking order of greatness in relation to Jesus. They recognise glory as being divine, but not suffering and servanthood. As children, we would probably have relished the role of being the eldest, the one in charge; the one who could do the ‘special’ things. I know in our family it caused many a disagreement. Being the third child of four, and a girl at that, it made for lots of jostling in the hierarchy. In relationships, pride spoils relationships, it also hinders the relationship between people and God. When pride is cast aside for an attitude of humility, relationships can function. The attitude of the faithful, obedient servant replaces the high and mighty, self-seeking person. It is not about seeking glory for ourselves, or being in charge, above others, running the show, having our own way. The Christ we follow is not like that, so neither should we be. Jesus didn’t seek glory but it flowed from the kind of ministry he had. Our place is not to argue who is first, who is greatest, but it is to ‘draw near to God’, living in awareness of God’s constant presence and love, seeking God’s guidance and inspiration and, as Jesus indicates, recognising God in the most unlikely places. The Gospel reading presents a clear contrast between James and John, who want to be important, and the child sat on Jesus’ knee, who is ‘just’ a child. We are told neither the name nor the gender. For the disciples, this was in a small child — who Jesus invited to stand with them - Where else might God be? How do we draw near to God? In drawing near to God, we put ourselves in God’s service. That’s what discipleship is, and who we are called to be.

Amen.

Prayer: Our quiet time of prayer for other people
 – Let us pray for the world, for the many nations facing troubled times...
 - For understanding for those struggling to fit in....
 - Difficulties in family relationships, illness, hardship, disillusionment...
 - Ourselves, our needs and concerns..
 We bring all our prayers to you, gracious God, **Amen.**

Hymn – Title (StF 272) From heaven you came -

From heaven you came helpless babe
 Entered our world, your glory veiled
 Not to be served but to serve
 And give Your life that we might live

*Ch. This is our God, The Servant King
 He calls us now to follow Him
 To bring our lives as a daily offering
 Of worship to The Servant King*

There in the garden of tears
 My heavy load he chose to bear
 His heart with sorrow was torn
 'Yet not My will but Yours, ' He said

Ch This is our God,

Come see His hands and His feet
 The scars that speak of sacrifice
 Hands that flung stars into space
 To cruel nails surrendered

Ch This is our God,

So let us learn how to serve
 And in our lives enthrone him,
 Each other’s needs to prefer,
 For it is Christ we’re serving.

Ch This is our God,

:

Graham. Kendrick (b. 1950)

Blessing:

Go, in the spirit of sacrifice.
 Think what God may be asking of you.
 Serve the Lord as his disciples.
 Give yourselves to Him, and follow him.

Amen.

(Alan Ladds, CCL No. 315086)

WORSHIP AT HOME

SUNDAY 26th September 2021 (Year B)

Call to Worship: (part of hymn 727 StF)

God in his love for us lent us this planet,
gave it a purpose in time and in space:
small as a spark from the fire of creation,
cradle of life and the home of our race.
earth is the Lord's, it is ours to enjoy it,
ours, as God's stewards, to farm and defend.
From its pollution, misuse, and destruction,
good Lord, deliver us, world without end.
Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)

Hymn – Title (StF 128) the harvest is here

The harvest is here;
earth's bounty we bring!
And as we draw near,
God's mercies we sing.
From greenhouse and garden,
allotment and store:
These love-gifts we offer
and praises outpour.

A harvest we bear –
our talents and time.
a calling to share:
such is God's design.
As people of Jesus
we honour his name;
through our love for neighbour
His love we proclaim.

God's harvest shall come,
when all is fulfilled:
Death's forces succumb,
and violence be stilled.
Then all that has breath
in creation restored
shall bow down in worship:
One harvest, one Lord!
Dominic Grant (b.1970)

Prayers of praise and confession

This is your garden, Creator God,
A thing of beauty beyond understanding,
A poem that is being written, not in words,
But in colours, Wind's whisper,
Soaring bird, Snowdrop's petal,
Gentle rain, Sunlight's warmth.

This is your garden, Creator
God,
A thing of beauty
Beyond understanding.

Amen.

Creator God, forgive our
moments of ingratitude,
the spiritual blindness that prevents us from
appreciating the wonder the wonder that is this
world, the endless cycle of nature, of life and
death and rebirth.

Forgive us for taking without giving, reaping
without sowing.

Open our eyes to see, our lips to praise, our
hands to share. May our feet tread lightly on the
path we tread, and our footsteps be worthy of
following, for they lead to you. **Amen.**

We say together –

Our Father, who art in Heaven – Amen.

**Readings - Genesis 2: 8 – 9; & 8: 6 – 22
John 15: 1 – 17 (the vine & the branches)**

Reflection: Harvest

It's autumn time, the colours are changing to
hues of browns, golds, oranges; crinkly, crisp
leaves to kick your way through, child or adult
alike. All the hard work of the springtime planting
is coming to fruition, with hopefully a plentiful
harvest to take us through the barren winter. The
harvest moon, the full moon of September was
the traditional time to give thanks for all safely
gathered in. the farmers used their first wheat to
make loaves for the churches to use at a special
communion thanking God for the harvest.
Down the years, hymn writers have penned
appropriate words to be sung, harvest isn't
harvest without 'we plough the fields and
scatter', some might say. We all remember the
gathering of fruits and vegetables, water, coal,
wood, flowers, and wool, crop sheaves, and
maybe corn dollies, to be made into a wonderful
display in church. Then, afterwards, the harvest
supper and sale of fresh produce, the money
going to charity. The barn dance to conclude the
festivities. As the years have passed, fresh food at
harvest became less favourable, the harvest
became a tins and packets, household and tea.
People were conscious of what would be most
useful. Even the schools have a very different
festival to the ones I remember; and yet we are
serving the community just the same.



God's promise to Noah after the flood, says a great deal about the purposefulness of the land, and how it is to be used. Interestingly, in the comments part of my passage, evil and suffering will always be around, it is an ongoing part of life in God's creation until Christ comes again. Such evil does not threaten the natural order. God maintains control of his creation and promises the regular coming and going of the seasons of the year. He did assert His control of nature, but God did not promise we would never have natural disasters.

In the New Testament, Jesus refers to the vine, and how it grows; but it needs pruning to bring on new growth. We bring the gift of ourselves to the harvest; as thanksgiving for all that God has done for us. God gave his son, that we may flourish and grow new disciples. Part of our discipleship, is to tread gently, and treat God's earth with respect. The bible images of land and food, and gathering in, remind us of our responsibility as Jesus' disciples to appreciate the land and all living things around us and act in ways to protect and care for them. Let us ensure our spiritual lives are rooted in both earth and heaven. A question for you to consider- what practices in your life root you deeply in Jesus and the world around you? May your spiritual harvest be ever fruitful. **Amen.**

Prayer of Intercession.

Let us be still, and look around us, appreciating what God has provided for his people.

- We pray for our war-torn world, and untold suffering....
- We pray for our leaders that they are able to make the right decisions, to ask What Would Jesus Do?
- We pray for broken families; and those who struggle to put food on the table.....
- We continue to pray for all those affected by the pandemic; ongoing health issues; loss of loved ones....
- We pray for our United Area, our Circuits in Cumbria, as we begin a new connexional year; open our hearts and minds to seek where God is taking us as churches.....
- And we pray for our own families, and friends and ourselves; let us bring our

needs before the God who loves, and cares.

We ask all our prayers in and through the Lord Jesus Christ, **Amen.**

Hymn (StF 729) Touch the earth lightly

Touch the earth lightly,
use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder,
ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

We who endanger,
who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster
clouds of disaster –
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

Let there be greening,
birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden,
hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.

God of living,
God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us,
Christ reconnect us,
Using us gently, and making us one.

Shirley Erena Murray (b.1931)

Blessing:

May the rains sweep gently across your fields,
May the sun warm the land,
May every good seed you have planted bear fruit,
And late summer find you standing in fields of plenty.

May your day be filled with blessings
like the sun that lights the sky,
and may you always have the courage
to spread your wings, and fly.

Amen.

(prepared by Janet Ladds - CCL No. 315086)