

Worship at Home
Sunday, June 2nd, 2024



Prayer. Welcoming God - you welcome us here today wherever we are. You invite us in. You draw us near. You sit beside us. Your love is here amongst us, surrounding and enveloping us. Thank you that you call us, thank you that you know us so well you call us to what we can do - wherever we are - whoever we are - whatever we are like - however we come. Thank you that you wait on us you call again and again - sometimes we don't recognise your voice - sometimes we feel that we don't hear your voice at all - sometimes we believe you have left us alone - sometimes we think we have no purpose at all. We can feel deserted - we can feel alone - we can feel lost. Searching God, you come and find us - you take our hand - you lift us up, you walk with us, alongside and ahead of us, helping us on our journey with you, helping us to be transformed, being made new as we turn to your light. **Amen**

Hymn STF 526 Lord of all Hopefulness

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like,
No cares could destroy,
Be there at our waking, And give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord,
At the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled
At the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labours, And give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord,
At the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome,
Your arms to embrace,
Be there at our homing, And give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord,
At the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment,
Whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, And give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord,
At the end of the day.

Let us pray – Lord God, sometimes we can be very preoccupied. We have our own agenda and our own concerns. We don't let your Spirit get a

look in. **Forgive us, Lord, open our hearts and minds to you.** Lord God, sometimes we are just totally perplexed, confused. Filled with doubt. We limit you to our own poor understanding. **Forgive us, Lord, open our hearts and minds to you.**

Lord God, sometimes we try to limit the work of the Spirit in our lives. We hold back from going with the flow. We ban astonishment from our lives. **Forgive us, Lord, open our hearts and minds to you. Amen.**

God loves every single one of his children, wherever they are from, wherever they are now. As at Pentecost the Holy Spirit enabled people to hear in their own language, so today we can hear and feel and know your forgiveness, Lord, deep in our hearts and souls. We thank you, Lord God. **Amen.** ©Roots on the web

The Lord's Prayer – Our Father.....**Amen**

Today's reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

Reflection This week we reflect on God's word by sitting quietly with the story we have read. Enjoy this moment of silence, relaxing your body, sitting as comfortably as you can, rest your hands in your lap and focus on your breathing – steadily in and out. Choose to temporarily forget about all the work, duties, and anxieties the day may hold, so that you can focus on the task at hand. Once you feel peaceful and calm ask God to help you meet him in the words.

Read the story slowly again. Notice every specific word. Look for repetition, themes, pictures, and dialogue. Try to picture yourself inside the story. Stay alert for a single word, phrase, verse, metaphor, or message that catches your eye, stirs you, moves you or connects with you emotionally. Imagine that the author is speaking the words to you and try to imagine the tone of voice they might have used. The goal is not only to see the words but to feel them with your heart and mind. As you did this, was there anything that stood out for you – any pictures or images? Have you ever had an experience like Samuel's? How do we hear God's call? It can seem difficult to hear God's voice. Who do you think could be our "Eli" who points us in the right direction? If you have had such an experience, what did you take from it? What was the message for you?

God is waiting-searching for us-I wonder how do we hear God? Is it a voice we can physically hear -the words of a Bible passage - when we are sad do we feel him near us? Is it in the beauty of

creation - in particular situations – a feeling inside that God wants us to do something? Is it someone else pointing the way - even children – all-ages can help us hear God’s voice. But we must give time to waiting on God, although God may and will speak in the unexpected places and times and through the unexpected person. Samuel walked through the dark temple to get to Eli, and we experience dark times, when our way seems unclear. Eli encourages Samuel to respond helping him to see the way forward. God has a special job for Samuel – even as a young boy – he is to be God’s messenger. As we notice God’s voice, calling us by name, keeping God in the centre of our lives, we too can respond, and God can and will use us to bring in his kingdom of justice, joy, love, and peace.

Let us pray - The One Whose Heart Is Searching

Samuel on his bed beside the lamp,
its flame describing in slow pulses
the flickering hope of a lonely, quiet yearning;
the hollow stillness like a silent pond where
a searching voice could be heard
like a dropping pebble.
And in the dark and in the emptiness
the One who is doing the calling,
the One whose heart is searching,
is the unheard God.

Nathanael on the ground
under the fig tree, looking
up through its leaves at an empty sky.
The leaves sift the sunlight,
its harshness is filtered,
but the shade over his soul
shows little gleam of joy.
His heart nearly closed in its quest for truth,
his horizons have dimmed,
no corners of hope discerned.

But there is One who
remains watching and looking,
and the One who is searching for him
is the unrecognized God.
You and me on our beds,
our couches, you and me by our lamps.
You and me under spreading trees,
or peering at the sky through windows;
you and me at our office desks,
fingering the plastic of keyboards;
you and me in our living-rooms,
or sitting at our kitchen tables;

you and me, so yearning for hope,
so longing for meaning, truth, or joy –
may we become aware of the One
who is searching for us;
awake to the One who knows and calls our names
longing for us to listen:
the God of promise and of invitation.

A Poetic Kind of Place Andrew King's Lectionary Weblog

Hymn STF 654 I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Refrain - Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord,
if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people’s pain;
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send? (Refrain)

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts are satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send? (Refrain)

A blessing Listen for the voice of the Lord
and follow wherever it leads, offer yourselves as a
temple for the Holy Spirit. And may God be with
you and speak through you; May Christ Jesus be
one with you and raise you to life; And may the
Holy Spirit dwell within you and make you holy.
We go on in peace to love and serve the Lord,
.....In the name of Christ. Amen.

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(Rev'd Kate Hunt CCL 433779)

WORSHIP AT HOME

Sunday June 9th

From a world of choices
we choose to spend time with God;
let us offer him what we have and who we
are.

The consequence of our choice
is that God meets us and speaks to us;
let us not fail to listen.

- 668** 1 Teach me, my God and King,
in all things thee to see,
and what I do in anything,
to do it as for thee.
- 2 For those who look on glass
on it may stay the eye;
or if it pleases, through it pass,
and then the heaven espy.
- 3 All may of thee partake:
nothing can be so mean,
which with this tincture, 'For thy sake'
will not grow bright and clean.
- 4 A servant with this clause
makes drudgery divine;
who sweeps a room, as for thy laws,
makes that and the action fine.
- 5 This is the famous stone
that turneth all to gold;
for that which God doth touch and own
cannot for less be told.

George Herbert (1593–1633)

A prayer of approach

The people of Israel wanted a king.
They wanted someone who would fight their
battles.

They didn't think about the consequences.
You, mighty God, are above all the kings in
the world.

You give us the strength, abilities and choices
to fight our own battles.

We choose to follow you and avail ourselves
of your manifold strengths and blessings.

Glory be to you, our gracious God.

Amen.

A prayer of confession

Lord God, sometimes we are very aware of
the consequences of
bad choices. When we read the paper or

watch the news. Even
watching our own friends and
family. Then of course,
there's us.

We haven't always chosen
wisely. And sometimes we've
had to live with the

consequences. Lord God, we
are here now to confess our bad choices.

(pause) We are so sorry, Lord, and we ask you
to

forgive us and help us to put things right.

Amen..

Assurance of forgiveness

We walk by faith not by sight. God sees our
hearts and knows

when we are trying to do the best we can.

He loves us and wants us to make our best
choices in him. He blesses us now with his
forgiveness and fullness of life.

Amen.

Reading

1Samuel 8:4-11,(12-15),16-20, (11:14-15)

Some Thoughts

Many of the Churches in our United Area are
celebrating Bible Month in June. This
Worship Sheet is based on the lectionary

Our way of life needs energy. We are
increasingly aware of the dangers of
extracting our energy from fossil fuels, but
where do we draw the boundary? Vegan,
vegetarian or omnivore? Electric cars, hybrid
or no car? Long haul flights or stay at home?

There are pros and cons to each choice. The
people of Israel made a choice for monarchy,
a new way of leadership for them. There were
pros and cons for that choice too. Samuel
began with his face set against it – it offended
God, the true ruler of Israel. God, however,
was a little more pragmatic; the boundaries
were actually in a different place. But Samuel
was still given a solemn warning to declare.
In the end, it made no difference; the people
remained wedded to kingship, and God
allowed them to have a king. This was a
compromise in which God retained the right
to choose – the king would be God's anointed
– but it also gave the people what they
wanted. Where do the boundaries lie for us?



What part does God play in the choices we make, whether on a global or national scale, or in everyday living?

Saul was God's original and first choice as king. But later we learn that Saul misused his power, and God instructs Samuel to identify and anoint another (David) as Saul's successor. This happened a long time before David actually became king, so it gave him time to grow into the role. But we might wonder whether God had made a mistake in choosing Saul and subsequently changed his mind. Or perhaps we see this as illustrating the risks that God takes in choosing fallible men and women, and how success (from God's perspective, at least) depends on how the chosen one accepts and uses what God has given them. Either way, we cannot and should not second guess God. We can only faithfully go with what we truly believe God is calling us to do and be. How does this affect our understanding of leadership in the church and society?

Prayers of intercession

God, Maker of earth and heaven,
we bring our prayers for your people and for
your world.

We pray for those who feel their lives are
wasting away in poverty or pain,
and ask that you will give them renewing
strength.

We pray for those whose lives are restricted
by disability

and ask that that you will help us to create a
society where they may flourish.

We pray for those who suffer violence, abuse,
or oppression,
and ask that you will bring them justice and
freedom.

We pray for those caught up in change or
conflict,
and ask that you will grant reconciliation and
peace.

We pray for your earth, torn by pollution and
violence,
and ask that we may reach for your eternal
home.

Amen.

518 1 Father, hear the prayer we offer:
not for ease that prayer shall be,
but for strength that we may ever
live our lives courageously.

2 Not for ever in green pastures
do we ask our way to be;
but the steep and rugged pathway
may we tread rejoicingly.

3 Not for ever by still waters
would we idly rest and stay;
but would strike the living fountains
from the rocks along our way.

4 Be our strength in hours of weakness,
in our wanderings be our guide;
through endeavour, failure, danger,
Father, be there at our side.

Love Maria Willis (1824–1908)

Closing Prayer

May God give us eyes of faith to see God's
way in the face of the many choices we face.
May God be in our choices and our plans.
May God bless us and all those we seek to
serve. **Amen.**

**(Prepared by Bob Mantle, CCL No.
433779)**

WORSHIP AT HOME

SUNDAY 16th June 2024

Call to Worship:

Thank you, Lord, that you have been faithful to us through all the changes of our lives; we praise you, for there is no end to your faithfulness.

Help us today to be open to you, and to trust you through all the changes still to come.

Amen.

Hymn stf 594 Lord Jesus Christ

- 1 Lord Jesus Christ,
you have come to us,
you are one with us,
Mary's Son;
cleansing our souls from all their sin,
pouring your love and goodness in;
Jesus, our love for you we sing,
living Lord.
- 2 Lord Jesus Christ,
you have come to us,
born as one of us,
Mary's Son;
led out to die on Calvary,
risen from death to set us free;
living Lord Jesus, help us see
you are Lord.
- 3 Lord Jesus Christ,
we would come to you,
live our lives for you,
Son of God.
All your commands we know are true;
your many gifts will make us new;
into our lives your power breaks through,
living Lord.

Patrick Appleford (b. 1925)

Prayers

Heavenly Father, you see us just as we are, deep inside – .not only on the outside.
You remind us that it is our hearts that need to be changed.

As we come before you today, we pray that you will show us your pattern for our lives.
Make us willing to change and be changed. God, who can change and equip anyone for anything, chooses us. Show us anew how privileged we are to belong to you. **Amen.**

Lord, forgive us when we don't see change as a positive thing; when we try to hang on to things because we are used to them; when we don't acknowledge that we need change, and only you can do it.



Forgive us, Lord, help us to change and grow.

We often only look at outward appearance, make snap judgements, reject someone on looks alone, see the negative and not the positive. We might not cope with a change in circumstances. We might try to change others but are not open to change ourselves.

Forgive us, Lord, help us to change and grow.

Our unchangeable Lord doesn't see us as others see us. God sees the whole picture. God has heard the cries of our hearts and forgives us. Pure and simple. No questions asked. Bless you, Lord. **Amen.**

We say together – Our Father..... Amen.

Reading – Mark 4: 26-34

1 Samuel 15: 34 - 16: 13

Reflection –

Sounds like an advert for a film or drama, makes you sit up and take notice, eager maybe to know what's coming next - '**Your mission, should you choose to accept it...**' (made famous in the 1960s American TV series Mission: Impossible and subsequent films). It's an invitation to begin a highly dangerous but heroic mission, with only the barest of instructions. Samuel's situation was a bit like this – and he certainly wasn't looking for an adventure, being lost in his grief over Saul's failed kingship. But God has a mission for him: 'Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' This sentence highlights the way God chooses to work with human beings to bring about change, helping us to discern what's our part and what's God's part. It seems an altogether risky approach: what if the person (in this case, Samuel) refuses? Or fails? Do you have qualms about doing something when you aren't sure what the outcome will be? I am sure I would be very sceptical. Samuel dares to query God's instructions and is given further reassurance ('I will show you what you shall do'), and 'Samuel did what the Lord

commanded'. He is willing to change: to let go of his grief and to take hold of God's new purpose for him. What if God has a mission for us – either individually or as a church? What might it be, and how will we respond? Individually? As a Church family? But there's more. - Samuel has allowed God in, and to turn him around; now God is going to turn him upside-down. It is difficult to differentiate between our thoughts and ideas, and those of God. David has to learn that just as we can be held back by regrets and 'if onlys', so too can we be held back by our prejudices and preconceived ideas. Sometimes we make wrong choices and we can regret the path we have decided upon. If we're going to go on with God, we have to be 'life-long learners', always ready to accept that we might be wrong – and change our minds. This was David's experience: he learnt that 'the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart'. He got the message, and then he had to stay in close touch with God as he put his learning into practice, trusting God to show him which of Jesse's sons would receive the divine seal of approval: 'this is the one.'

God wants to change us: to change our minds, and thus our attitudes and behaviour. As Paul writes to the Christians in Rome, 'Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect'. Just for a moment have a go at this challenge - . Fold your arms, just as you always do. Now unfold them, and fold them again – but the other way round. It's quite tricky to do, isn't it? And the new way doesn't feel right. Habits are hard to change; the psychologists tell us it takes about six weeks to change a habit, as we gradually get used to 'the new normal'. Being a Christian means being free to change. Dare we be open to God's amazing changing grace this week? 'Your mission, should you choose to accept it...' was an invitation to embark on a high-risk mission, with minimal briefing. Perhaps God's invitation to Samuel was similar: 'Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you...' This highlights the way God chooses to work with human beings to bring about change – it's all about co-operation. But what if the person (in this case, Samuel) refuses? Samuel is reluctant, but God reassures him, then 'Samuel did what

the Lord commanded'. Might we sense a nudge from God to change, or to bring about change? How will we respond? .

Prayers - Spend time – read again the challenge set for Samuel. Put yourself in his place - think again about how you feel, what's going through your mind? Are you ready to accept the challenge, or are you not quite ready. Pray for God's guidance and support, remember He is always with you. **Amen**

Hymn 349 – I am not skilled to understand

I am not skilled to understand
What God has willed, what God has planned
I only know, at His right hand
Stands one who is my Saviour

Take him at His word indeed
Christ died to save me, this I read
And in my heart, I find a need

He should leave His place on high
To come for sinners here to die
You find it strange, so did I
Until I knew my Saviour

Dorothy Greenwell (1821 – 1882)

Blessing:

Thank you, Lord, that you love us and you can change us;
Thank you, Lord, that you have been faithful to us through all the changes of our lives;
We praise you for there is no end to your faithfulness.
Help us today to be open to you,
And to trust you through all the changes still to come. **Amen.**

(Janet Ladds, CCL No.783405)

With adapted parts from Rootsontheweb.com

WORSHIP AT HOME – SW Cumbria United Area
Sunday 23rd June 2024

Call to worship: Psalm 9, v9-12

The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed,
a place of safety in times of trouble.
Those who know you, LORD, will trust you;
you do not abandon anyone who comes to you.
Sing praise to the LORD, who rules in Zion!
Tell every nation what he has done!
God remembers those who suffer;
he does not forget their cry,
and he punishes those who wrong them.

Hymn – The right hand of God

Singing the Faith 715, by Patrick Prescod

The right hand of God is writing in our land,
writing with power and with love;
our conflicts and our fears,
our triumphs and our tears,
are recorded by the right hand of God.

The right hand of God is pointing in our land,
pointing the way we must go;
so clouded is the way, so easily we stray,
but we're guided by the right hand of God.

The right hand of God is striking in our land,
striking out envy, hate, and greed;
our selfishness and lust,
our pride and deeds unjust,
are destroyed by the right hand of God.

The right hand of God is lifting in our land,
lifting the fallen one by one;
each one is known by name,
and lifted now from shame,
by the lifting of the right hand of God.

The right hand of God is healing in our land,
healing broken bodies, minds, and souls;
so wondrous is its touch,
with love that means so much,
when we're healed by the right hand of God.

The right hand of God is planting in our land,
planting seeds of freedom, hope, and love;
in these many-peopled lands,
let his children all join hands,
and be one by the right hand of God.

Prayers: Almighty God, be with us today. Bring us your power, your love, your guidance and your healing as we praise you for all you have already

done for us, and trust in you for all that is to come.

Forgive us all our unjust thoughts, words and deeds, lift us from our shame with the knowledge of your forgiveness and bring us together to join with you in planting seeds of hope and love. **Amen**



The Lord's Prayer - Our Father Amen

Today's Readings: Mark 4 v35-41

On the evening of that same day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake." So they left the crowd; the disciples got into the boat in which Jesus was already sitting, and they took him with them. Other boats were there too. Suddenly a strong wind blew up, and the waves began to spill over into the boat, so that it was about to fill with water. Jesus was in the back of the boat, sleeping with his head on a pillow. The disciples woke him up and said, "Teacher, don't you care that we are about to die?" Jesus stood up and commanded the wind, "Be quiet!" and he said to the waves, "Be still!" The wind died down, and there was a great calm. Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Why are you frightened? Do you still have no faith?" But they were terribly afraid and began to say to one another, "Who is this man? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

2 Corinthians 6 v1-7 (all texts Good News Bible)
In our work together with God, then, we beg you who have received God's grace not to let it be wasted. Hear what God says: "When the time came for me to show you favour, I heard you; when the day arrived for me to save you, I helped you." Listen! This is the hour to receive God's favour; today is the day to be saved!

We do not want anyone to find fault with our work, so we try not to put obstacles in anyone's way. Instead, in everything we do we show that we are God's servants by patiently enduring troubles, hardships, and difficulties. We have been beaten, jailed, and mobbed; we have been overworked and have gone without sleep or food. By our purity, knowledge, patience, and kindness we have shown ourselves to be God's servants—by the Holy Spirit, by our true love, by our message of truth, and by the power of God. We have righteousness as our weapon, both to attack and to defend ourselves.

Reflection: Psalm 9, like many of the Psalms, is (in some bible translations) subtitled 'A Psalm of David'. Today's Old Testament reading, though too long to include here, is the familiar story of David's first great exploit on behalf of the nation of Israel and the God of Israel – where he finds the courage to take on the gigantic Philistine Goliath and kills him with a simple stone, in a fight between two individuals on behalf of their warring armies. If you want to read the full account, it is in 1 Samuel 17, and it is clear that David finds his courage from his faith in God's protection, even declining the offer of armour in favour of the stick and slingshot he is used to using as a shepherd to fight off wild beasts. Perhaps that gives an extra meaning to the words attributed to David, praising God as a refuge and help in times of trouble who does not ignore his people's suffering and stands with them.

The danger faced by the disciples on the sea of Galilee is different but no less intimidating, as a storm threatens their control of the boat despite all their experience as fishermen. Jesus was a carpenter by trade, and I wonder if the disciples quite enjoyed feeling a bit superior to him at least when it came to handling a boat? Certainly they leave it quite late to call on Jesus for help, but when they do it is immediately effective and the danger passes. When Paul writes to the Christians in Corinth, it is with an assurance that God's favour will be with them and help will come when needed. Righteousness is described as the one true weapon in the face of all difficulties; being true servants of God in the power of the Holy Spirit. As I write this on the weekend of Trinity Sunday, I am struck how God is present across these three passages as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, always protecting and saving His people. Paul urges his readers not to allow God's grace to be wasted, not to give up, not to become disillusioned by hardships and setbacks.

By now the general election campaigning will be reaching fever pitch, with parties exchanging claims and counter-claims, probably focussing more on how terrible anyone else would be in government than on their own plans for improving people's lives. A remarkable number of sitting MPs have chosen not to stand again, and in the 'vox pops' an increasing number of those asked seem to be saying they have disengaged from the whole process as they trust no-one. We, at least, can trust God: let's not be disillusioned,

let's look for righteousness and hope among the mud-slinging and have faith that the world can be a better place if we remain true servants of God and seek his will in all the ways open to us.

Prayers of intercession:

We open our hearts to the needs of the world and cry with the tears of the sorrowful.
We mourn with the grieving souls of the world and feel their loss and share their pain.
We share our love with the lonely and loveless and feel the pulse of their life.
We offer our touch to the untouchable folk who are shunned by a passing throng.
We catch the whisper of the unspoken truths that burden the lives of so many.
We decipher the cries of a traumatised world for whom peace is an impossible dream.
Hear our prayers, Lord, and let us be the servants you would have us be. **Amen**

**Hymn – Through the love of God
StF 639, by Mary Peters**

Tune – Ar hyd y nos (All through the night)

Through the love of God our Saviour
all will be well;
Free and changeless is his favour;
all, all is well.
Precious is the blood that healed us,
perfect is the grace that sealed us,
strong the hand stretched forth to shield us;
all must be well.

Though we pass through tribulation,
all will be well.
Christ has purchased full salvation,
all, all is well.
Happy still in God confiding,
fruitful, if in Christ abiding,
holy, through the Spirit's guiding;
all must be well.

We expect a bright tomorrow;
all will be well.
Faith can sing through days of sorrow,
all, all is well.
On our Father's love relying,
Jesus every need supplying,
then in living or in dying,
all must be well.

*Prepared by Karen Edmondson, CCL No. 433779
(Intercessions from the 'Roots' preaching resource)*

WORSHIP AT HOME

SUNDAY, 30th June 2024

Call to Worship:

Come to the Lord, who is mercy and love.
Come to the Lord, who is healing and forgiveness. Come to the Lord, whose love is without limit. Come, as you are, to worship our Lord and our God! Amen

Hymn – At the name of Jesus (StF 317)

At the name of Jesus
every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him
King of Glory now.

'Tis the Father's pleasure
we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning
was the mighty Word.

Humbled for a season,
to receive a name
from the lips of sinners
unto whom he came,
faithfully he bore it
spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious
when from death he passed:

Bore it up triumphant
with its human light,
through all ranks of creatures
to the central height,
to the throne of Godhead,
to the Father's breast;
filled it with the glory
of that perfect rest.

In your hearts enthrone him;
there let him subdue
all that is not holy,
all that is not true;

crown him as your captain
in temptation's hour:
let his will enfold you
in its light and power.



For this same Lord Jesus
shall return again,
with his Father's glory,
with his angel train;
all the wreaths of empire
meet upon his brow,
and our hearts confess him
King of Glory now.

Caroline Maria Noel (1817–1877)

Prayer:

Lord, we have come today, bringing the baggage that we have carried with us for most of our lives. We have come, bringing our concerns and our worries and the questions for which we still have no answer. We come, bringing all that we have and all that we are into the presence of the one who is the bread of life, that as we adore you, you may bring healing to us and glory to him. You alone are our Saviour, our Lord and our Master, and there is no other. You are more gracious than we can imagine so we offer you the adoration of hearts that long to know you in Jesus. But Lord, we confess that we are not always the people you meant us to be, nor are we living the kind of lives that you intended. We confess that we often fail to love our neighbour as ourselves. May we each know that if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, He forgives us and he helps us to start again. Refresh us Lord. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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

Today's Bible Readings:

Psalm 130 and Mark 5 v21-43

Reflection:

An unnamed woman interrupts Jesus' journey by touching his cloak. She had been suffering with haemorrhages for 12 years, was isolated and seen as unclean. Due to this she doesn't announce that she is going to touch Jesus' cloak as doing this would also make Jesus unclean. But Jesus doesn't care about being seen as unclean, he cares about this woman and her faith and her heart. This woman's faith might have appeared scandalous to others, but she is desperate, and she knows that her cure lies with Jesus and him alone. She receives healing and a word of love and encouragement from Jesus as he calls her 'daughter'. This woman was considered to be unclean due to her medical condition, which challenges me to consider whether there are people in society today that we fail to welcome into our communities. Are we willing to adapt what we do to ensure that others feel welcome? Jesus showed immense compassion, love and mercy to this woman, because he knew what a difference it would make in her life to be accepted as part of the community, and to be loved. Where can we show this kind of love?

Prayer:

Loving God, today we especially pray for the world which you gave us to live in and to care for. We bring before you today all the people in the world. We pray for all who are hungry, thirsty, homeless or living in fear. We pray for those around the world who are living with conflict or war. We think of those living with the consequences of disasters. May each one affected know your comfort, strength and love at this time. We pray for ourselves, and all that we will be facing this week, for all the things that are making us happy or sad, angry or full of joy. We pray that we may know the

peace and the hope that comes from placing everything in our lives into your hands. Amen.

Hymn – We have a Gospel (StF 418)

We have a gospel to proclaim,
good news for all throughout the earth;
the gospel of a Saviour's name:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Tell of his birth at Bethlehem —
not in a royal house or hall,
but in a stable dark and dim,
the Word made flesh, a light for all.

Tell of his death at Calvary:
hated by those he came to save,
in lonely suffering on the cross,
for all he loved his life he gave.

Tell of that glorious Easter morn:
empty the tomb, for he was free.
He broke the power of death and hell
that we might share his victory.

Tell of his reign at God's right hand,
by all creation glorified.
He sends his Spirit on his Church
to live for him, the Lamb who died.

Now we rejoice to name him King:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
This gospel-message we proclaim:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Edward Joseph Burns (b. 1938)

Blessing:

Lord, send us out in your name, to serve the world and to love our neighbour as ourselves. Send us out in faith and hope, that we may be channels of your grace to all. Amen

(Rev'd Hayley Edmondson, CCL No. 315086)

Some items modified from 'Rootsontheweb'.