



West Devon Methodist Circuit

Worship at Home

Sunday 3rd July 2022

Service compiled by Vicki Brown - Circuit Lay Assistant
West Devon Methodist Church

Opening words:

Give praise to our Father. God who created the heavens and the earth. Give praise to the Son, Saviour of the world. Give praise to the Spirit, companion and guide. Blessed Trinity, we worship.

StF 52: He is exalted

He is exalted,
The King is exalted on high,
I will praise him.
He is exalted,
Forever exalted
And I will praise his name!
He is the Lord,
Forever his truth shall reign.
Heaven and earth
Rejoice in his holy name.
He is exalted,
The king is exalted on high!

Twila Paris (b. 1958)

Let us pray together:

Loving Father God, the heavens declare your glory. You are mighty, you are holy and we struggle to comprehend your greatness. As we seek you in this time of worship, bless us with a tangible sense of your presence. Enable us by your Holy Spirit to grow

deeper and stronger in our walk of faith. May we grow to be more like our Saviour Jesus and reflect his character in our day to day lives.

We confess that we have squandered your blessings, been ungrateful for your provision. We have not sought a way of love, joy and peace and have ignored our neighbours.

Bless us O Lord with your mercy and forgiveness. Thank you for restoring us again to righteousness in Christ Jesus and may we bless you with lives of service and praise. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Reading: Luke 10 v 1-11

StF 712: Put peace into each other's hands

Put peace into each other's hands
and like a treasure hold it;
protect it like a candle flame,
with tenderness enfold it.

Put peace into each other's hands
with loving expectation;
be gentle in your words and ways,
in touch with God's creation.

Put peace into each other's hand
like bread we break for sharing;
look people warmly in the eye:
Our life is meant for caring.

Put Christ into each other's hands
he is love's deepest measure;
in love make peace, give peace a chance
and share it like a treasure

Fred Kaan (1929-2009)

Reflection:

Before I go away anywhere, I always make a list, updated many times, of what I need to take with me and what I need to do before I go. It's not fool proof, but it helps. In our gospel reading there is a list of things that the disciples are not to take. No purse, bag or sandals. It sounds crazy, they have no money to support themselves. They are reliant on the hospitality of strangers, no bag to hold gifts of food or money to see them through. And why were they to go around barefoot? That could be a health and safety nightmare! Everything about their appearance said they were poor and vulnerable. And yet they were rich with the blessing of God. They were granted gifts of healing and were told to bless receptive households with the peace of God. Interestingly, they are not to get into ministry along the road. This is about homes, where the heart is. Where people are on their own turf, the truth of themselves behind closed doors exposed to the light of the Gospel.

It's a reading about being sent on a mission of healing, blessing and the joy of the Kingdom of God. But it is also a reading about rejection. Jesus does not say "if" you are not welcomed, but "when".

Firstly, when they say "Peace be upon this house" and they are not welcomed, the peace goes back to the disciple. The peace of God is not an ethereal cloud that will hang around in the air until someone notices.

God's peace needs a human heart to reside in. It becomes through relationship, not a mystic invocation. People being kind to one another, responding to the love of God, recognising the goodness of God in the disciple at their door.

Then what about the places where they are rejected? Here is where the bare feet have meaning. Jesus tells them to wipe the dust of that place off their feet. There is an echo of the calling of Moses from centuries before, when God tells Moses to take off his sandals

because he was on holy ground. There was to be no man-made footwear sole as a barrier between Moses' body and the holy ground. He was to feel it, be connected to it. Jesus' disciples likewise were to be connected to everywhere they went, and so when they were rejected, they publicly wiped that rejection off from themselves.

Rejection has a habit of sticking to us like glue. The hurt may run deep, hampering our enthusiasm and confidence to reach out to others with the good news of Christ. Rejection can impact upon our relationships with others, making us timid, wary and closed in on ourselves. We may even sabotage relationships in order to prevent what we fear as an inevitable rejection. By not only wiping their feet, but also speaking the declaration, the disciples are leaving the effects of rejection where they belong - behind them. On they go to a new place, with their faith and enthusiasm intact. At the end of their mission, they are full of joy at the wonderful things they have witnessed. Funny how they don't focus on the times when things didn't go to plan - they simply praise God who brought them through an amazing experience.

Let us pray together:

Bountiful God,

You promise to provide all that we need,

Help us to trust in you that when you call, you also equip.

We pray for the many projects in the Plymouth and Exeter District where your church is reaching out to those in need.

Reaching out with your love to the lonely, bereaved, sick in body and mind. Reaching out to refugees, to struggling families. There are so many needs to respond to. Give us the faith and enthusiasm in your calling to see your hand at work in us and through us.

May your Holy Spirit guide and prompt us to participate in your great mission in whatever way you desire.

Help us to truly feel connected to your mission field.

May we, like the disciples, focus on your provision and not

on our own inadequacy and vulnerability.

Thank you that you involve us all in your work, whatever our circumstances. We are all called into discipleship and mission.

***Glory to you O God, King of the universe,
Be glorified in all that is done in your Holy Name. Amen.***

StF 404: God's Spirit is in my heart

**God's Spirit Is In My Heart
He Has Called Me And Set Me Apart.
This Is What I Have To Do,
What I Have To Do**

*He Sent Me To Give The Good News To The Poor
Tell Prisoners That They Are Prisoners No More
Tell Blind People That They Can See
And Set The Down Trodden Free
And Go Tell Everyone The News That The
Kingdom Of God Has Come
And Go Tell Everyone
The News That God's Kingdom Has Come.*

**Just As The Father Sent Me So
I'm Sending You Out To Be,
My Witnesses Throughout The World,
The Whole Of The World**

**Don't Carry A Load In Your Pack,
You Don't Need Two Shirts On Your Back
A Workman Can Earn His Own Keep,
Can Earn His Own Keep**

**Don't Worry What You Have To Say,
Don't Worry Because On That Day
God's Spirit Will Speak In Your Heart
Will Speak In Your Heart**

*Alan T Dale (1902-1979)
& Hubert Richards (b.1921)*

Make me a blessing by David Adam

**Lord,
Make me a blessing,
Those that I meet
Make me a blessing
As I walk down the street
Make me a blessing
This day, even this hour
Make me a blessing
It lies in your power
Make me a blessing
At work and at home
Make me a blessing
Wherever I roam
Make me a blessing
That people may see
I am a blessing
For you are with me. Amen.**

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Reflections on a Methodist Way of Life

Learning and Caring

Some questions to ponder on as you take a little time to reflect on today's service.

Hospitality and generosity are key qualities in the practice of the Christian faith.

How do you reflect that in your own life?

"Blessings are yet another open gate and the traffic as always is two-way flowing, from us to others and from others to us. The traffic is also between heaven and earth, and earth and heaven.

The gate is open, the entering is part of our pilgrimage and the invitation to life in all its fullness." (David Adam)

What does that statement mean to you?

Thinking about your own life experiences, does Jesus' approach to rejection help at all?