

Worship at Home

Sunday 17th July 2022

*Service prepared by South Molton and Ringsash
Methodist Circuit.*

Call to Worship - Psalm 15

LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? who may abide upon your holy hill?

Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, who speaks the truth from his heart.

There is no guile upon his tongue; he does no evil to his friend; he does not heap contempt upon his neighbour.

In his sight the wicked is rejected, but he honours those who fear the LORD.

He has sworn to do no wrong and does not take back his word.

He does not give his money in hope of gain, nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.

Whoever does these things shall never be overthrown.

StF 340: *Ye servants of God*

**Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,
and publish abroad his wonderful name;
the name all-victorious of Jesus extol;
his kingdom is glorious, and rules over all.**

**God ruleth on high, almighty to save;
and still he is nigh, his presence we have;
the great congregation his triumph shall sing
ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.**

**'Salvation to God who sits on the throne!'
Let all cry aloud, and honour the Son;
the praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.**

**Then let us adore, and give him his right;
all glory and power, all wisdom and might,**

**all honour and blessing, with angels above,
and thanks never-ceasing, and infinite love.**

Charles Wesley (1707–1788).

Prayers

We come now to God, to worship and adore Him.

Loving Father as we come on this day, we come as we are to worship you as our God and Father of all. Thanking you for all your goodness and care for us. we thank you for Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour, to whom we can bring our very thoughts, knowing that through Him we have access to the throne of Grace.

That Grace that gives us the assurance of the forgiveness of our sins.

We thank you for the wonderful time of the Queens Jubilee. We thank you for her steadfast example to us all. She has remained faithful through times of personal troubles and through all the turmoil of world trials. Thank you that her strong faith shines through.

Forgive us Lord for all our unworthy thoughts. For our sins of omission and the sins that we commit. Forgive our times of forgetfulness. When we do not come to you as we ought. Forgive us when we are quick to judge, when we think our way is the right way. As we have been recently reminded we judge by what we see, while You see into the hearts of each one.

So, Lord we come accepting that we are cleansed and forgiven. In Jesus Name we ask these prayers. Amen.

Reading: Colossians 1 v. 15 -23

Reading: Luke 10 v 38 - 42.

StF 254 *Seek ye first the Kingdom of God*

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God,
and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you;
Allelu-, alleluia:**

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
allelu-, alleluia!*

**Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
seek and ye shall find;
knock, and the door shall be opened unto to you;
Allelu-, alleluia:**

**We shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord;
Allelu-, alleluia:**

Karen Lafferty (b. 1948).

Reflection

Martha and Mary. A very familiar story. I turned to the late Dr. Barclay's words to see what thoughts he had.

We see two very different characters in this Gospel reading. Both were great friends of Jesus. We also see a clash of temperaments. Do we allow enough differences of temperaments in our families; in our Church families?

Some people are naturally dynamos of activity. Some are naturally quiet and thoughtful. There is no right or wrong way in this. God made us all different.

One person may pray:

Lord of all pots and pans and things , since I have no time to be,

A saint by doing lovely things or watching late with Thee.

***Or dreaming in the dawn light or heavens stormy gales.
Make me a saint by getting meals and washing up the plates.***

Another person may sit with folded hands, mind intense and think and pray, and both are serving God. God needs His Marthas and His Marys as well.

But these verses show us something more, they show us the wrong sort of kindness. We remember where Jesus was going in this story. He was on His way to Jerusalem to die. He had to bend His will to the will of His Father.

Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Martha and Mary. Like many of us would be, Martha was fussing around to give their guest the best she could. That was not what Jesus wanted at that time. He needed quietness and peace. With the Cross before Him and the inner tension of His heart, He had come to Bethany to find that oasis of peace and calm, away from the crowds for a while. That is what Mary was giving Him. Martha in her misguided kindness was taking this away. Nothing wrong with Martha's busyness but it was the wrong time. Jesus said Mary has chosen the better part.

This is one of the difficulties in life. We want to be kind in our way, but we need sometimes to be sensitive to what others need.

In different ways we all need and can have our own personal relationship with Jesus.

In a lovely old book, "The transforming Friendship", by the late Dr, Leslie Weatherhead is this story. An old Scotsman lay very ill and his Minister came to see him. As the Minister sat down he noticed another chair near the bedside placed at such an angle as to suggest that a visitor had just left.

Well, Donald, said the Minister, I see I am not your first visitor. The Scotsman looked up in surprise, so the Minister pointed to the chair. "Ah", said the sufferer, "I'll tell you about the chair. Years ago I found it hard to pray, I often fell asleep on my knees. I was so tired. And if I kept awake, I could not keep my thoughts from wandering. One day I spoke to my Minister. He told me not to worry about kneeling, just sit down and put a chair opposite you and imagine Jesus sitting there. Talk to him as though He was your friend. I have been doing that ever since. Quite soon the gentleman passed away. His daughter said he died with his hand out on the Chair. His daughter asked the Minister if he understood why. Yes he said, I understand. By accepting this gift of friendship with the Master, he had made it real. What a friend we have in Jesus. **Amen**

StF 531 What a friend we have in Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus,

**all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer!
Have we trials and temptations,
is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged:
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness:
take it to the Lord in prayer.**

**Are we weak and heavy-laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Saviour, still our refuge —
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
in his arms he'll take and shield you,
you will find a solace there.**

Joseph Medlicott Scriven (1819–1886).

Prayers of intercession

Heavenly Father we come in the name of Jesus, with many concerns for others laid upon our hearts. We pray for all who are ill at this time. Many known to us. We ask that you will lay your healing hands upon them. As we bring those known to us, **Lord hear us**

Silence

We pray for those who have been recently bereaved. Help them Lord in their grief and loneliness. Surround them with your peace. Lift them out of the darkness of this time. **Lord hear us**

Silence

Father we think of all the people of the Ukraine. We pray for the homeless, for those families who are torn apart. Our hearts ache for them Lord as we see the devastation of that country. The loss of life,

home and everything that they knew, destroyed. Having to flee from their homeland because of the evil of some people. **Lord hear us.**

Silence

Lord in your mercy, hear our heartfelt prayers, in Jesus name. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

StF 526 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy

**Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever childlike, 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.**

Jan Struther (Joyce Placzek) (1901–1953).

Blessing

May the God of peace be with us all this day.
May the love of Jesus shine from us.
May the power of the Holy Spirit guard and guide us
as we go into the world,
in the Name of Jesus Christ. **Amen**