



WED (Weedon, Everdon and Dodford) Worship Together-Apart

www.wedchurches.com

July 18th 2021

This Sunday is the 7th Sunday after Trinity

The First reading: Jeremiah 23.1-6

The Gospel reading: Mark 6.30-34, 53-end

Theological thoughts:

Because of the readings, today is sometimes known as 'Shepherd Sunday'. In them we have shepherds not doing their jobs properly, and sheep without a shepherd – and these pictures of ministry are familiar. But the actual pictures of Jesus as a shepherd that I grew up with were a bit unrealistic – a pristine person and a docile sheep. Any sheep-farmer will probably tell you that that is far from the truth. Shepherding is hard work, and the behaviour of sheep, at times, must qualify them for 'most stupid animal on the planet'. Sheep without a shepherd would be stuck with poor pasture, unshorn and diseased. Shepherds who do the job properly don't just care for the sheep, but feed them, treat them, lead them to better pasture.

Jesus sees people who are badly in need of that care. Those who were supposed to look after them – their priests – have revelled in their role, but forgotten their responsibilities. There is no feeding or caring or healing going on. No wonder the people flocked (no pun intended!) to Jesus. He obviously cared – he fed them, he nurtured them, he healed them, and he allowed himself to be interrupted by them (is that the ultimate sign of caring perhaps? – to allow yourself to be interrupted?).

This is a sobering reminder for those of us who are Church leaders. But it is also a reminder to all of us that the greatest gift we can give anyone is to care about them, and to show that care through taking responsibility for them. Perhaps much of the dis-ease we see in society is based on the fact that so many people feel nobody really cares about them. We saw a real outpouring of care for others everywhere in the first lockdown – let's pray that it continues in less crisis-ridden times.

Collect for today:

Generous God,
you give us gifts and make them grow:
though our faith is small as mustard seed,
make it grow to your glory
and the flourishing of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Worship this week:

Services this week:	9.30am	Holy Communion	Weedon Bec
	11am	Holy Communion + Baptism welcome	Dodford
Services next week:	9.30am	Holy Communion	Weedon Bec
	11am	Holy Communion	Everdon

The livestream link for the service from Weedon this week is

<https://youtu.be/LfUMCtGs1tk>

Morning Prayer is said in Weedon Church every morning Mon-Sat at 9am, and on Friday you can join in by Zoom:

Meeting ID: 847 6641 9168

Passcode: 349551

Hyperlink:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84766419168?pwd=V3Rub09TektCUVQrREZlZmxiUkNDdz09>

If you want someone or something prayed for at any time, please contact myself or Elizabeth, or pop a request in the box in Weedon church porch. They will be kept confidential.

If you need any help with logging on, please ring Elizabeth (07977 134545) or myself, and we will do our very best to help.

Prayer pointers:

- For caring and kindness, not indifference or cruelty
- For all those in the 'caring professions' that they get time to rest
- For responsibility and care in this country, as it eases restrictions
- For those people who feel nobody cares
- For those affected by the flooding in Europe
- For responsibility to grow towards our beautiful God-created world
- The Church of England prayer for all affected by coronavirus:

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

P.S. (Positive Soulfood):



Keep well, keep others well, keep praying

Revd Barbara Gallagher 01327 340585 barbarajg@btopenworld.com