



St Edmunds Taverham

with St Peter's Ringland

Service sheet for June 14th 2020

Welcome to our worship today. Wherever we are, whether with others or on our own, Christ welcomes each of us, his family, children of the same heavenly Father, joined in love and unity by the Holy Spirit.

Whatever our feelings and emotions are today, Christ welcomes us into the love of the Father, joined by the Spirit, who breathes life into us and our worship.

Let us pray.

Loving God you draw us into your presence. Thank you for your gracious love which holds us together as your family even though we can't meet together. Bind us together in that love and as we worship may we be aware of your presence with each of us and may we know the unity your Spirit brings. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

What has happened this week that has brought you joy and peace and shown you something of God's goodness and grace? Take some time to reflect on those things and on what they have meant to you. Name them before God who is the giver of all good things and give thanks.

Has there been anything this week that has been hard in some way that you need to speak to God about; something that has happened to you leaving you hurt or wounded? Perhaps there is something you need to ask God's healing and forgiveness for if perhaps you have hurt God or someone else. Allow God's words of love and peace to speak healing and cleansing into your life.

Our scripture reading today is Matthew chapter 9:35 - 10:23.

9:35-38 Then Jesus made a circuit of all the towns and villages. He taught in their meeting places, reported kingdom news, and healed their diseased bodies, healed their bruised and hurt lives. When he looked out over the crowds, his heart broke. So confused and aimless they were, like sheep with no shepherd. "What a huge harvest!" he said to his disciples. "How few workers! On your knees and pray for harvest hands!"

The Twelve Harvest Hands

10 1-4 The prayer was no sooner prayed than it was answered. Jesus called twelve of his followers and sent them into the ripe fields. He gave them power to kick out the evil spirits and to tenderly care for the bruised and hurt lives. This is the list of the twelve he sent:

Simon (they called him Peter, or "Rock"),

Andrew, his brother,

James, Zebedee's son,

John, his brother,

Philip,

Bartholomew,

Thomas,

Matthew, the tax man,

James, son of Alphaeus,

Thaddaeus,

Simon, the Canaanite,

Judas Iscariot (who later turned on him).

5-8 Jesus sent his twelve harvest hands out with this charge:

“Don't begin by traveling to some far-off place to convert unbelievers. And don't try to be dramatic by tackling some public enemy. Go to the lost, confused people right here in the neighborhood. Tell them that the kingdom is here. Bring health to the sick. Raise the dead. Touch the untouchables. Kick out the demons. You have been treated generously, so live generously.

9-10 “Don't think you have to put on a fund-raising campaign before you start. You don't need a lot of equipment. You are the equipment, and all you need to keep that going is three meals a day. Travel light.

11 “When you enter a town or village, don't insist on staying in a luxury inn. Get a modest place with some modest people, and be content there until you leave.

12-15 “When you knock on a door, be courteous in your greeting. If they welcome you, be gentle in your conversation. If they don't welcome you, quietly withdraw. Don't make a scene. Shrug your shoulders and be on your way. You can be sure that on Judgment Day they'll be mighty sorry—but it's no concern of yours now.

16 “Stay alert. This is hazardous work I'm assigning you. You're going to be like sheep running through a wolf pack, so don't call attention to yourselves. Be as cunning as a snake, inoffensive as a dove.

17-20 “Don't be naive. Some people will impugn your motives, others will smear your reputation—just because you believe in me. Don't be upset when they haul you before the civil authorities. Without knowing it, they've done you—and me—a favor, given you a platform for preaching the kingdom news! And don't worry about what you'll say or how you'll say it. The right words will be there; the Spirit of your Father will supply the words.

21-23 “When people realize it is the living God you are presenting and not some idol that makes them feel good, they are going to turn on you, even people in your own family. There is a great irony here: proclaiming so much love, experiencing so much hate! But don't quit. Don't cave in. It is all well worth it in the end. It is not success you are after in such times but survival. Be survivors! Before you've run out of options, the Son of Man will have arrived.

The Message (MSG)

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The prayer for this week.

God of truth,
help us to keep your law of love
and to walk in ways of wisdom,
that we may find true life
in Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.

A prayer of blessing

May the blessings of the dynamically unchanging Trinity be ours!
May the Father's enduring love accompany us in our lives;
may Jesus himself strengthen us to be co-builders of his Kingdom;
and may the Spirit indwell and inspire us on our journey.
Amen.