

Morning Worship, Sunday 2nd August 2020

Welcome to Morning Worship for the first Sunday in August.

Thank you to Kevin for his expertise with the beautiful slides, to Helen for playing for us to Jonathan for reading for us, and Martin for leading our prayers

From Psalm 145

The Lord is near to those who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him, faithfully.

Let us pray

Gracious God and Father, we gather to worship you, to celebrate your faithfulness and the richness of your promise to us.

We come as your people, in response to your call. You invite us to be here to share your blessings and the abundance of your grace.

We bring all that we are, all the past has made us and all that your future promises us.

May we at this time be aware of your presence. Help us to reflect, to rejoice and to be renewed for your service. Amen

PRAISE, MY SOUL, THE KING OF HEAVEN;

To His feet thy tribute bring.

Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,

Who like thee His praise should sing?

Praise Him! Praise Him!

Praise Him! Praise Him!

Praise the everlasting King!

Praise Him for His grace and favour

To our fathers in distress

Praise Him, still the same forever,

Slow to chide, and swift to bless.

Praise Him! Praise Him!

Praise Him! Praise Him!

Glorious in His faithfulness.

Father-like, He tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame He knows;
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Widely as His mercy flows.

Angels in the height, adore Him;
Ye behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before Him,
Dwellers all in time and space.
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise with us the God of grace!

We come to our time of quiet confession for the attitudes and actions that we each have that do not come from you and ask for forgiveness.

So we pray

We come with words, but words are not always enough. Change us from what we are to what you would have us be. Give us confidence and courage to find our security in you. Make us aware of our weaknesses and forgive us. As we trust in you to strengthen, redeem and sustain us. Amen

Our reading today is from Matthew's Gospel ch 14 vv 13-21 and comes from the NIV translation. It follows the death of John the Baptist

When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

As evening approached, the Disciples came to him and said, " This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so that they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food." Jesus replied, " They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

" We have here only 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish" they answered.
"Bring them here to me," he said and he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the 5 loaves and 2 fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the Disciples, and the Disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the Disciples picked up 12 basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about 5,000 men besides women and children.

A reflection on God's Word for us, today, from Bishop Steven

To lead us into prayer

**AS THE DEER pants for the water,
So my soul longs after You.
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship You.**

*You alone are my strength, my shield,
To You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship You.*

**I want You more than gold or silver,
Only You can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy-giver
And the apple of my eye.
You alone are my strength, my shield...**

**You're my Friend and You are my Brother,
Even though You are a King.
I love You more than any other,
So much more than anything.
You alone are my strength, my shield,**

Time for our prayers including

The Collect for today

Almighty Lord and everlasting God we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sins against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours, now and for ever. Amen

We affirm our faith using the young peoples' version from Iona

We believe in God, who made the sun and the sky,
the stars and the sea, who calls us to live responsibly.
We believe in Jesus Christ, who became human, healed the sick;
who talked to children, who made friends with sinners.
He burned brightly and offended many.
His journey was one of life and death and resurrection.
His light continues to shine in darkness.
We believe in the Holy Spirit who inspires the scriptures and whose breath
we breathe.
We believe that God calls us to be a community, committed to one another,
offering a welcome to everyone; old and young, rich and poor, strong and
weak. We believe that God calls us to be peacemakers; workers for justice;
brothers and sisters and a light for our world. Amen

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?

*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?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

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 be satisfied.
I will give my life to them
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

Closing prayer and blessing.

Just as those early followers of Jesus were fed and satisfied, some even healed, so we too have been blessed by being together in God's presence. Let us go out from here to share his love in our homes, amongst our families and communities and with all those whom we will meet in the days ahead.

So go now, redeemed in that love, renewed in your faith, restored in your strength and refreshed in your spirit. May we live and work for God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

In the name of Christ. Amen