



St Edmund's Taverham with St Peter's Ringland

Worship for Sunday 30th August 2020

Our gathering songs for this week (written by John Daniels)

As we are gathered, Jesus is here
One with each other, Jesus is here
Joined by the Spirit, washed in His blood
Part of the body, the Church of God
As we are gathered, Jesus is here
One with each other, Jesus is here

Come, now is the time to worship
Come, now is the time to give your heart
Come, just as you are to worship
Come, just as you are before your God, come

One day every tongue will confess you are God
One day every knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains
For those who gladly choose you now

Willingly we choose to surrender our lives
Willingly our knees will bow
With all our heart, soul, mind and strength
We gladly choose You now.

As we gather this morning we are mindful of our church family and also of those who are suffering around the world. We hold each other in the Light of Christ, particularly remembering those whose lives have been affected by war and unrest, the hurricane in America, and, of course, Covid 19, and those whom we know personally for whom life is difficult at the moment.

Call to Worship

(based on Matthew 16:24-2.)

We come to worship this morning in different places.
O God, do not be far from us.

We come to worship this morning for different reasons.
O God, do not be far from us.

We experience the presence of the Spirit in different ways.
O God, do not be far from us.

We hear Jesus' words with different ears.
O God, do not be far from us.

"Deny yourselves."
O God, do not be far from us.

"Take up your cross."
O God, do not be far from us.

"Follow me."
O God,
we thank you for drawing near to us
wherever we are. Amen.

~ written by Joanna Harader, and posted on Spacious Faith.
<http://spaciousfaith.com/>

Song (Turn your eyes upon Jesus written by Helen Howarth Lemmel):

O soul, are you weary and troubled?
No light in the darkness you see?
There's light for a look at the Saviour
And life more abundant and free!

Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in His wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace

Through death into life everlasting
He passed, and we follow Him there
Over us sin no more hath dominion

For more than conquerors are we!

His Word shall not fail you, He promised
Believe Him, and all will be well
Then go to a world that is dying
His perfect salvation to tell!

Keep your eyes upon Jesus
Let no other one take His place,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace.

Our reading today is from Matthew's gospel chapter 16 verses 21 - end. (GNT)

Jesus Speaks about His Suffering and Death.

21 From that time on Jesus began to say plainly to his disciples, "I must go to Jerusalem and suffer much from the elders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the Law. I will be put to death, but three days later I will be raised to life."

22 Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "God forbid it, Lord!" he said. "That must never happen to you!"

23 Jesus turned around and said to Peter, "Get away from me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my way, because these thoughts of yours don't come from God, but from human nature."

24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you want to come with me, you must forget yourself, carry your cross, and follow me. 25 For if you want to save your own life, you will lose it; but if you lose your life for my sake, you will find it. 26 Will you gain anything if you win the whole world but lose your life? Of course not! There is nothing you can give to regain your life. 27 For the Son of Man is about to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and then he will reward each one according to his deeds. 28 I assure you that there are some here who will not die until they have seen the Son of Man come as King."

You may like to spend some time reflecting on the words of this passage. What questions does it bring to mind? As you read Jesus' words about following him and the call to, 'take up your cross,' how do you respond to this?

You may like to read Rev Paul's thoughts in the St Eds newsheet or as the thought for the week (30th August) on St Peter's website.

Let us pray.

God of constant mercy,
who sent your Son to save us:
remind us of your goodness,
increase your grace within us,
that our thankfulness may grow,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Song (Every Promise written by Stuart Townsend)

From the breaking of the dawn, to the setting of the sun
I will stand on every promise of Your word
Words of power, strong to save, that will never pass away
I will stand on every promise of Your word
For Your covenant is sure, and on this I am secure
I can stand on every promise of Your word

When I stumble and I sin, condemnation pressing in
I will stand on every promise of Your word
You are faithful to forgive, that in freedom I might live
So I stand on every promise of Your word
Guilt to innocence restored, you remember sins no more
So I'll stand on every promise of Your word

When I'm faced with anguished choice, I will listen for Your voice
And I'll stand on every promise of Your word
Through this dark and troubled land, You will guide me with your hand
As I stand on every promise of Your word
And you've promised to complete, every work begun in me
So I'll stand on every promise of Your word

Hope that lifts me from despair, love that casts out every fear
As I stand on every promise of Your word
Not forsaken, not alone, for the Comforter has come
And I stand on every promise of Your word
Grace sufficient, grace for me grace for all who will believe
We will stand on every promise of Your word

Jesus calls us to take our cross and follow him.
Let's do this, inspired by the extravagant love of God.
Let's live generously, with open hands,
loving one another as if our lives depended on it.
Let's be good stewards of the gifts we have received,
so that God may be glorified in all that we say and do.

And may the abundant love of God surround you,
may the extravagant grace of Jesus Christ sustain you,
and may the constant presence of the Holy Spirit
inspire and encourage you in every good deed and word. Amen.