



St Edmund's Taverham with St Peter's Ringland

Worship for Sunday 20th September 2020

Welcome to our worship this week. It is good to be able to praise God together wherever we are, to come before God in prayer, to sing our praises and to hear words from the bible, and to ask the Holy Spirit to speak to us.

Our gathering songs.

Who is there like You? (words by Stuart Townend)

Who is there like You?
And who else would give their life for me?
Even suffering in my place
And who could repay You?
All of creation looks to You
And You provide for all You have made

So I'm lifting up my hands
Lifting up my voice
Lifting up Your name
And in Your grace I rest
For Your love has come to me
And set me free
And I'm trusting in Your word
Trusting in Your cross
Trusting in Your blood
And all Your faithfulness
For Your power at work in me
Is changing me.

None but Jesus (words by Brooke Ligertwood)

In the quiet, in the stillness
I know that you are God
In the secret of your presence
I know there I am restored
When you call I won't refuse
Each new day, again I'll choose

There is no one else for me
None but Jesus
Crucified to set me free
Now I live to bring Him praise

In the chaos, in confusion
I know you're sovereign still
In the moment of my weakness
You give me grace to do your will
When you call I won't delay
This my song through all my days

There is no one else for me
None but Jesus
Crucified to set me free
Now I live to bring Him praise

All my delight is in you Lord
All of my hope
All of my strength
All my delight is in you Lord
Forevermore

Welcome

We are here
in the name of Jesus Christ,
to worship the God who gave us life
and who sustains our every breath,
and to praise the Spirit
who enlivens our hearts
and enlightens our minds.

Great is our God and deserves our greatest praise,
God is awesome beyond all our imagining.
Each generation shall pass on the good news to the next,
and shall publicly celebrate God's saving actions.

~ written by Bruce Prewer, and posted on Bruce Prewer's Home Page.
<http://www.bruceprewer.com/DocC/C62sun32.htm>

Song (written by Stuart Townsend)

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My comforter, my all in all
Here, in the love of Christ, I stand

In Christ alone, who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones he came to save
'Til on that cross, as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin, on him, was laid
Here, in the death of Christ, I live

There in the ground, his body lay
Light of the world, by darkness, slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave, he rose again
And as he stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am his and he is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Could ever pluck me from his hand
'Til he returns or calls me home
Here, in the power of Christ, I stand.

Our scripture reading this week is from Matthew's gospel chapter 20:1-16

The Workers in the Vineyard

“The Kingdom of heaven is like this. Once there was a man who went out early in the morning to hire some men to work in his vineyard. 2 He agreed to pay them the regular wage, a silver coin a day, and sent them to work in his vineyard. 3 He went out again to the marketplace at nine o'clock and saw some men standing there doing nothing, 4 so he told them, ‘You also go and work in the vineyard, and I will pay you a fair wage.’

5 So they went. Then at twelve o'clock and again at three o'clock he did the same thing. 6 It was nearly five o'clock when he went to the marketplace and saw some other men still standing there. ‘Why are you wasting the whole day here doing nothing?’ he asked them. 7 ‘No one hired us,’ they answered. ‘Well, then, you go and work in the vineyard,’ he told them.

8 “When evening came, the owner told his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with those who were hired last and ending with those who were hired first.’ 9 The men who had begun to work at five o'clock were paid a silver coin each. 10 So when the men who were the first to be hired came to be paid, they thought they would get more; but they too were given a silver coin each. 11 They took their money and started grumbling against the employer. 12 ‘These men who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘while we put up with a whole day's work in the hot sun—yet you paid them the same as you paid us!’

13 ‘Listen, friend,’ the owner answered one of them, ‘I have not cheated you. After all, you agreed to do a day's work for one silver coin. 14 Now take your pay and go home. I want to give this man who was hired last as much as I gave you. 15 Don't I have the right to do as I wish with my own money? Or are you jealous because I am generous?’”

16 And Jesus concluded, “So those who are last will be first, and those who are first will be last.”

You may like to spend some time reflecting on this passage. How do you feel. As you read these words? What does Jesus show us about the Father? Do you learn something about yourself and about God?

You may like to read Rev Paul's thoughts in the St Ed's newsheet or the St Peter's webpage.

Let us pray.

Lord God,
defend your Church from all false teaching
and give to your people knowledge of your truth,
that we may enjoy eternal life
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer.

Song (Love each other written by Graham Kendrick)

All the room was hushed and still
And when the bowl was filled
He stooped to wash their feet
And when it was complete
He said, this is what I'm asking you to do
This is why I'm kneeling here beside you
This is what I want My church to be
This is what I want the world to see
Who it is you follow

Chorus

Love each other, one another,
Love each other in the way that I have loved you
walk together, and whatever
Comes love each other in the
Way that I have loved you

Verse 2

Let the room be hushed and still
Let us go to where He kneels
And join Him as He serves
And learn His ways of love
He said, this is what I'm asking you to do
This is why I'm kneeling here beside you
This is what I want My church to be
This is what I want the world to see
Who it is you follow.

Blessing

based on Exodus 16:2-15, Matthew 20:1-16)

Go out from here
as workers in God's upside-down kingdom,
where the last are first and the first are last,
where needs are met in miraculous ways,
and there is grace enough for all!
And may the blessing of God Earth -maker, Pain-bearer and Life-giver,
bless us each and everyday as we live to love and serve God and one another.
Amen.

The Lord bless you and keep you
Make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you
The Lord turn His face toward you
And give you peace