

Bulletin for Sunday

14th June 2020

Dear Friends

Good Morning to you all!

Let's begin this morning by reading Psalm 100 ... and then pausing for a moment to let it sink in... before we sing:

Hymn: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation (Rejoice & Sing 74)

Prayer: Praise to the Lord!
Gracious God, we worship you alone yet with others -
those known to us and others unknown, all around the globe.
Time and space are no obstacle to your Spirit,
so gather us together, with all our differences,
our strengths and weaknesses, our needs and our hopes.....
Come close to us as we worship.....
Speak to us through words... and silences.... Amen

followed by The Lord's Prayer

Reading: Matthew chapter 9 verse 35 to chapter 10 verse 8

Reflection: I don't know about you, but when I was in school an awful lot of the teaching seemed to consist of being told things which we had to write down word for words and go away and learn. There was no sense of copying our teachers' actions or following in their footsteps. I suppose if we had, we would all have become teachers, which wasn't really the idea!

Here, however, we see Jesus teaching by example. The disciples learned just by being with him and gradually coming to understand what he was about - his values, his aims, his priorities - and how he went about achieving them. They realised that he was proclaiming the good news - that the kingdom of heaven had come near - and that at the same time he was demonstrating that it was true, by healing all sorts of illnesses - literally by making people better.

And then - it feels almost suddenly - he was sending them out to do the same thing. This rather motley band, different from each other in character, in training and in origins, going out into the unknown and trying to respond to the needs of the people and communities they found themselves in; trying, in their own way, to reflect the love of God as they had seen Jesus do.

For us, too, it is true that the kingdom has come near. And that we are called to make that clear to those around us, in word and in action. Recently things have changed so much and so fast that we feel ourselves in alien territory, much as the disciples did; but God is always there before us, leading us to the needs and the opportunities. Amen

Hymn: The Church is wherever God's people are praising (R&S 583)

Prayer: God of compassion
you call us to service, in the footsteps of Christ.
We hold before you the pain and need of the people around us -
the anger at injustice; the fear of the future;
the search for healing and for hope....
Show us how to use the gifts and talents you have given us -
how to be fully ourselves and also committed to serve others.
We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen

Hymn: The kingdom of God is justice and joy (R&S 200)

May we follow Jesus and learn from him
how to serve and to share the good news;
and may the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with us and with all those we love
this week and every week. Amen

There is a beautiful song by John Bell which is not in our hymnbook, but would be worth learning if you don't know it. For those able to do so, search 'Take this moment - John Bell' on YouTube.

Some of you might not realise that Don puts on the Trinity website links to suggested online videos of many of the hymns in these services, especially those less well known. Incidentally, you may find that most versions of 'The Church is wherever' have more verses than our hymnbook does; they all seem good, so I'm not sure why!

Please hold in your prayers Iris who is rather poorly in hospital - and all her family.

And please let me know of any news or prayer requests.
Every blessing for the week ahead.

Anne Lewitt