

**Bulletin for Sunday 27th June 2021**

Good Morning, Friends. I hope you've had a good week and welcome you all to worship together, wherever you may be.

Let's pause as we prepare to worship..... and then praise God as we sing:

Hymn:            New every morning is the love                            (R&S 536)

Prayer: Loving God, with us every morning and every night,  
we worship you this morning with friends, church family,  
and thousands around the globe, each one known to you.  
In awe at your creation, we reach out to you,  
seeking your grace, your healing,  
and your presence with us today.  
We ask your blessing on everything we do,  
and everything we give in your service,  
now and always.  
We ask it in Jesus' name.        Amen

followed by The Lord's Prayer

Reading:        Mark chapter 5 verses 21-44

Reflection:    Have you ever been in a crowd (maybe at a sports ground, a crowded tube station, or a concert) so big that you lost all sense (and all sight) of how many people were around you, and just felt hemmed in, only aware of the few people immediately pressing in on you?

There were lots of people surrounding Jesus, and each of them had their own agenda: their own needs, and their own hopes from this famous healer. But two of them were especially desperate, and the gospel writer wraps their particular stories around each other, so that we can understand them both better. Jairus was well known and important locally, a leader of the synagogue; but sickness and death are great equalisers. His daughter was dying, possibly even dead, and he had no hope, unless Jesus would come... The nameless woman was neither known nor respected in the community. She was an unclean, untouchable, outsider because of her medical condition. The crowd, each focussed on Jesus and their own needs, didn't see her; and she didn't want them to. But Jesus became aware of her, and gently but determinedly concerned for her. He stopped and gave her his full attention for those few minutes... the attention and time she needed. Then he moved on to heal Jairus' daughter, too, restoring her also to life.

The crowd didn't notice the woman because she was an outcast; and they thought Jairus' daughter was dead, so why would Jesus waste his time on her? They were only interested in their own needs, and how to get Jesus to help them. But Jesus, who was no respecter of social, cultural or religious barriers, just saw the deepest needs of people in pain, and responded to

them. May we, too, respond to all those who reach out in pain and in need, across boundaries of any sort.

Hymn:            There's a wideness in God's mercy            (R&S 353)

Prayer:            God of mercy and compassion,  
as we remember how Jesus healed all in need,  
we pray for those desperate for help today:  
the sick, the mentally ill, the homeless and the hungry.  
We hold before you the dying and those who grieve;  
and we ask for your blessing on all those  
dedicated to caring, to healing, to reaching out....  
We pray for our local communities,  
for the friends and family we love, and for ourselves.....  
God of mercy, hear our prayers, spoken and unspoken,  
in Jesus' name    Amen

Hymn:            For the healing of the nations            (R&S 620)

Blessing:        May we learn to see people with compassion,  
as God sees them;  
and may the blessing of God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
be with us and with all those we love  
now and always.    Amen

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In all our churches morning worship at 10.30am is now being held indoors. Please let your Church Secretary know you want to attend, and remember masks and social distancing; congregational singing isn't allowed, and services are short and well ventilated!

The evening 'Sunday at Six' service, with hymns, is on Zoom at 6pm. All welcome.

And the best chances to chat are at the 11.30am 'After Church Coffee' Zooms!

Anne Lewitt