

Bulletin for Sunday 8th August 2021

Good Morning, Friends.

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

Hymn: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation (R&S 74)

Prayer: Creator of all there is, and all there ever has been,
we cannot comprehend or contain you,
only regard you with awe, and praise you...
We are truly blessed that you provide all we need:
unconditional love and living bread for the journey.
We come to worship you, to be fed and to listen to you.
As we pause, turning our thoughts towards you,
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: 1 Kings ch.19 verses 4-8 and John ch. 6 verses 35 & 41-51

Reflection: Elijah has only just achieved a great and dramatic victory on Mount Carmel - the high point of his campaign against the worshippers - and prophets - of Baal; and yet, rather than enjoying his triumph, he is running for his life. He was demonstrating the justice and integrity of God, but in the process he made powerful enemies - and he knows it. Scared, alone and exhausted, physically and mentally, he can't see any future for himself, and he asks to be allowed to die. Then, tired out, he falls asleep.

But God hasn't given up on him yet. Notice that there is no demand that he wake; no call to him to get up and go on. God doesn't chastise or complain. Rather, Elijah is first quietly touched, and then fed. Not once, but twice he is gently cared for, provided with the nourishment he needs to reinvigorate him for the journey. And with this meal his journey changes. He was running away, with no particular destination. But after the bread from God, he is running to something. He not only has fresh energy - he also has fresh purpose. In wilderness and exhaustion, God has yet provided all that he needs.

Hymn: Will you come and follow me (R&S 558)

Prayer: God of compassion, as we try to follow you
we pray for your world and for all your children.
We hold before you those in positions of responsibility:
may they have wisdom and integrity.
We hold before you victims of war and conflict:
may they find places of safety and security.
We hold before you our own communities,
particularly those struggling with life, through
unemployment, homelessness, sickness or grief.
Help us to see others as you see them,
as your beloved children, all made in your image.
God of love, hear all our prayers,
spoken and unspoken. In Jesus' name. Amen

Hymn: O Breath of life, come sweeping through us (R&S 302)

Blessing: May the living bread give us strength for the journey;
and may the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with us and with all those we love
now and always. Amen

I'm very sorry to have to let you know that Mrs Jean Morrill, of Petworth, sadly died this week.
Please hold her family in your prayers.

We are aiming to open worship up gently and gradually, while keeping it as safe as possible. We
all have our part to play in keeping each other safe, so you are encouraged to continue to wear
masks, and to give everyone the space they need.

But remember, it is NOT POSSIBLE to make our churches completely risk-free!

The After Church Coffee Zooms have been discontinued; but the evening 'Sunday at Six' service,
with hymns, continues on Zoom at 6pm.

Anne Lewitt