

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE SHEET PROPER 12

July 26th, 2020

Words of Welcome

Lighting of the candle....

OPENING RESPONSES

A tiny seed planted can grow to a mighty tree.

In small numbers we worship today,

but as part of a mighty Church worldwide.

A tiny bit of yeast can make the loaf rise.

Tempted to feel small and alone,

we rise to worship, part of a greater whole.

Wondering at the worth

our presence and praise at home,

We worship today offering what combined treasures

we have.

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, as we gather in your house,
we thank you for your presence, here with us.
Thank you, Lord, that each one of us is unique,
yet we share a common bond in you.
We come together as one body,
but we all learn and experience things in different ways.
We thank you for your amazing word
that gives us so many pictures of your kingdom.
Something for everyone,
something to feed our hearts and minds.
Be with us, Lord,
and bless us richly as we call upon your name.
Amen

HYMN/ SONG: King of Glory

1 King of glory, King of peace,
I will love thee;
and that love may never cease
I will move thee.
Thou hast granted my request,
thou hast heard me;
thou didst note my working breast,

thou hast spared me.

2 Wherefore with my utmost art
I will sing thee,
and the cream of all my heart
I will bring thee.
Though my sins against me cried,
thou didst clear me;
and alone, when they replied,
thou didst hear me.

3 Seven whole days, not one in seven,
I will praise thee;
in my heart, though not in heaven,
I can raise thee.
Small it is, in this poor sort
to enrol thee:
e'en eternity's too short
to extol thee.

George Herbert (1593-1633)

CONFESSION

Secure in the knowledge that nothing in life or death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, we
penitently confess all that holds us back from living as
God's beloved children.

For all the times we have prioritised our own personal
empire-building over commitment to the equality,
generosity and compassion of God's kingdom.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Whenever we fail to challenge those who oppress,
impoverish, scorn or exploit others.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

For every action of ours that threatens the biodiversity
and viability of this earth.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

ABSOLUTION

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God,
We try and fix you and fasten you, but you will not be stayed.
You are love in motion:
Always breathing us into being,
Calling us to serve,
Sustaining us in the wilderness.
Come to us as the morning breaks.
Soften what has grown dry and brittle in our hearts
Until we worship with abandon,
For we pray in the name of the Son you sent
And through the Spirit that gives us life.
Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**For the word of God in Jesus,
For God's wisdom all around us,
For God's word and wisdom in us
Thanks be to God.**

BIBLE READINGS

New Testament reading: Romans 8:26-39

Paul teaches that the Spirit gives words when prayer is frozen and offers us ways of opening our hearts to that same Spirit's grace.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with

him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written,

'For your sake we are being killed all day long;

we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:31-33. 44-52

Jesus describes the kingdom of God as something unprepossessing – tiny, vulnerable and hidden – but which survives and flourishes to grow abundantly, bountifully.

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the

good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ

REFLECTION

RESPONSE: AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a loving God,
Whose Words sustains our lives
And the work of our hands in the world.
God is life.

We believe in God's Son amongst us,
Sowing the seed of life's renewal.
He lived with the poor to show the meaning of love.
Jesus Christ is Lord.

We believe in the Holy Spirit of Life,
Making us one with God,
Renewing our strength with her own
The Spirit is love.

RESPONSE: Intercessions

A MODERN VERSIO OF THE LORD'S PRAYER

God in heaven,
Your name is to be honoured.
May your new community of hope
Be realised on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today the essentials of life.
Release us from our wrongdoing
as we release those who wrong us.
Do not test us beyond our enduring;
Save us from all that is evil.
For you embrace justice, love and peace,
Now and to the end of time,
Amen.

PEACE

Through the love of Christ, we are commissioned as peacemakers, servants of God's holy kingdom.
The peace of the Lord be always with you...

And also with you.

We take a moment to write a peace greeting to one another whilst listening to the Iona chant: Peace be with you....

HYMN: Take this moment, sign and space

- 1 Take this moment, sign and space;
 take my friends around;
 here among us make the place
 where your love is found.
- 2 Take the time to call my name,
 take the time to mend
 who I am and what I've been,
 all I've failed to tend.
- 3 Take the tiredness of my days,
 take my past regret,
 letting your forgiveness touch
 all I can't forget.
- 4 Take the little child in me
 scared of growing old;
 help me here to find my worth
 made in Christ's own mould.
- 5 Take my talents, take my skills,
 take what's yet to be;
 let my life be yours, and yet
 let it still be me.

John L Bell (born 1949) and Graham Maule (1958-2019)
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9JP, Scotland. www.wildgoose.scot

A BLESSING

May the Father, who searches our hearts, fill us with divine love.

May Christ the firstborn Son confirm us in our adoption
as God's children.
May the Spirit, who helps us in our weakness, draw us
into the everlasting kingdom.
And the blessing of God almighty...

SENDING RESPONSES

Loving God,
teach us we are never so small,
so insignificant, as to be of low value to you.
Help us to know how precious we are.
As we go, cast us into the world; show us where to go
that we might meet the world's need, from the bounty
of gifts and talents, stored in the treasure chest of the
person you have made us to be.

Gathered and scattered,
God is with us.
In suffering and hope,
God is with us.
Now and always.
God is with us.

A PRAYER FOR THE COMING WEEK.

Spirit of Life,
we do not know how to pray as we ought.
Meet us in words written, in words spoken;
Intercede for us with sighs too deep for words,
Until we shine with the hope
that is hidden in our hearts,
For we pray in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

QUESTIONS AND THOUGHTS TO PONDER IN THE COMING WEEK.

These parables in our reading today, like many that are
attributed to Jesus, are ways by which Jesus uncovers
something of what the Kingdom of Heaven is like.
Jesus used the everyday things that people would have
known something about to give a word picture to stir
people's imaginations. However the images Jesus used
are perhaps not the most up-to-date for us today.

What words would you use to describe God's kingdom
(for instance, peaceful, loving, sharing, equal justice,
and so on)?

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like..." Describe an aspect of
God's Kingdom that means something for you or an
aspect that you think people would value hearing about
today.

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crafting this service

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