**Sunday 14th June 2020** WORSHIP AT HOME: **Matthew 9.35-10.8**

Welcome to our act of Worship

Call to worship *(Psalm 100)*

1 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
2   Worship the Lord with gladness;
   come into his presence with singing.

3 Know that the Lord is God.
   It is he that made us, and we are his;
   we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
   and his courts with praise.
   Give thanks to him, bless his name.

5 For the Lord is good;
   his steadfast love endures for ever,
   and his faithfulness to all generations.

**HYMN**: With gladness we worship...

HP19, MP, RS, STF17

(Some of the hymn books widely used in the Wiltshire United Area)

*Prayers of Praise*

Eternal God, the vast universe declares your glory;

The hosts of heaven worship your majesty;

The whole earth exalts your holy Name.

We, your people, pause in the midst of life’s bustle;

We are still and know you to be God;

We worship and adore you that we may declare your glory;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Prayer of Confession*

Lord, you have called us to the privilege of service,
but we have failed to serve.
You have given us the blessing of peace,
but we have chosen discord.
You have loved as a shepherd tends his sheep,
but we have strayed from your way.
Forgive us, and show us the path of obedience and faithfulness
that your Son trod.
In his name, we pray.
**Amen**.

**HYMN** The kingdom of God is justice and joy

HP139, MP651, RS200, STF255

The Ministry of the Word of God:

Exodus 19.2-8a; Psalm 100; Romans 5.1-8;

**GOSPEL Matthew 9.35-10.8 with special focus on:**

**Matthew 9:35-38:**

**The Harvest Is Great, the Labourers Few**

**35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. 36When he saw the crowds,** **he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; 38therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.’**

This is the Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

Reflection

Times change but people still have needs. We look at our society feel like Jesus “**he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd”.** As the Black Lives Matter campaign visibly demonstrates, the issues and needs go deep, far deeper than the additional stresses everyone is currently feeling due to the pandemic.

Let us be realistic there is a huge crowd of *harassed and helpless* who are floundering in the mire of upset, troubles and disasters. People of all ages who are hurting spiritually, emotionally, physically, and who need someone who will take time to feel their pain, understand what is happening in their lives and offer them love and a helping hand.

Our reading gives great reassurance that our Saviour walks besides us through every trial and danger and will lead us to safety. But not just us, but **ALL** people.

One of the many questions echoing in my mind since the appalling murder of George Floyd, “Is it really that hard to show compassion, empathy, demonstrate decency?” Our Gospel reading challenges us to be the Christ presence in the here and now of where we find ourselves, to get involved and be the difference to those in need!

We may ask, "But I can’t do that! I’m just an ordinary sort of person!” Or “What good can I do?” In response remember those Jesus called to follow him, not the great and famous, but ordinary people – just like us! We are contemporary disciples! Perhaps he sees in us more potential than we believe in ourselves. Perhaps he can take the experiences that we have had in life and use those to help others. Perhaps he wants us to learn to lean on him and let the Holy Spirit use us to help the *harassed and helpless.*

For Personal Reflection

There is an old Christian tradition that God sends each person into this world with a special message to deliver, with a special song to sing for others, with a special act of love to bestow.  No one else can speak my message, or sing my song, or offer my act of love.  These are entrusted only to me.

*John Powell, Through Seasons of the Heart.*

A prayer of Response for all ages together based on aspects of today’s Gospel reading:

Jesus sent the disciples:
to proclaim the gospel; (*cup hands around mouth*)
to cure the sick; (*mime putting on a bandage*)
to raise the dead; (*make an upward gesture with hands*)
to welcome the outcasts. (*gesture ‘come closer’*)
Jesus calls us to do the same. **Jesus, help us to be your disciples.**  **Amen.**

**HYMN** Go, tell it oer the mountain

HP135, MP-, RS164, STF -

Our Prayers

Response: **Holy Father, protect them in your name.**

We pray for those who live in places of war and violence, those who are refugees and homeless.

We pray for those feeling sad and unsure of their future amidst the pandemic, for those who have lost their jobs and their purpose in life:

We pray for those who are vulnerable,
those with few resources and great needs,
those reliant on others for their day-to-day necessities:

We pray for all those fearful of, affected by, or bereaved because of Covid-19. We pray for those working for a vaccine:

We pray for leaders in government, and in church,
those who influence the lives and the thinking of many:

We pray for all those close to us,
all whom we carry in our hearts, all who are special to us, both on earth and in heaven.

**Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**HYMN** Ye servants of God your master proclaim

HP278, MP784, RS293, STF340

Blessing

May God give you the grace never to sell yourself short. Grace to do something big or good. Grace to remember the world is too dangerous now for anything but truth and too small for anything but love. **Amen.**

*Washington National Cathedral*

Rev David Coppard Superintendent @ Wiltshire United Area

Bank Chaplain @ Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton

***Our church building may not be open, but the Church is active.***

*This is service is offered to any and all, with love and prayers.*

Christ has no body
now on earth but yours;
No hands but yours;
No feet but yours;
Yours are the eyes,
Through which is to look out
Christ’s compassion to the world;
Yours are the feet
with which he is to go about
doing good;
Yours are the hands which

he is to bless now.

St Teresa of Ávila 1515 1582

**GOSPEL Matthew 9.35-10.8**

**35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. 36When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; 38therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.’**

**10Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. 2These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; 3Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; 4Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.**

**5 These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: ‘Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, 6but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7As you go, proclaim the good news, “The kingdom of heaven has come near.” 8Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.**

**With gladness we worship,**  *Tune Datchet*
rejoice as we sing,
Free hearts and free voices,
how blessèd to bring!
The old thankful story
shall seek Thine abode,
Thou King of all glory,
most bountiful God!

Renewed by Thy Spirit,
redeemed by Thy Son,
Thy children would bless Thee
for all Thou hast done:
O Father, returning
to love and to light,
Our spirits are yearning
to praise Thee aright.

Thy right would we give Thee,
true homage Thy due,
And honour eternal,
the universe through:
With all Thy creation,
earth, heaven and sea,
In one acclamation
we glorify Thee.

We join with the angels,
and so there is giv’n,
From earth, Alleluia,
in answer to Heav’n.
Amen! Be Thou glorious
below and above,
Redeeming, victorious,
and infinite Love!

*The kingdom of God is justice and joy;*

*Tunes:* [*Tetherdown*](https://hymnary.org/tune/tetherdown_barnes)*,* [*Hanover (Croft)*](https://hymnary.org/tune/hanover_croft)

**The kingdom of God is justice and joy;**

for Jesus restores

what sin would destroy.

God's power and glory

in Jesus we know

and here and hereafter

the kingdom shall grow.

The kingdom of God

is mercy and grace;

the captives are freed,

the sinners find place,

the outcast are welcomed

God's banquet to share;

and hope is awakened

in place of despair.

The kingdom of God

is challenge and choice:

believe the good news,

repent and rejoice!

His love for us sinners

brought Christ to his cross:

our crisis of judgement

for gain or for loss.

God's kingdom is come,

the gift and the goal;

in Jesus begun,

in heaven made whole.

The heirs of the kingdom

shall answer his call

and all things cry 'Glory!'

to God all in all.

**Tertherdown**

*Go tell it o’er the mountain (North American Spiritual) Tune: Go tell it*

**Go, tell it o’er the mountain**
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus is His name.

He possessed no riches,
No home to lay his head;
He saw the needs of others
And cared for them instead

He reached out and touched them,
The blind, the deaf, the lame;
He spoke and listened gladly
To anyone who came.

Some turned away in anger,
With hatred in the eye;
They tried him and condemned him,
Then led Him out to die.

'Father, now forgive them'
Those were the words He said.
In three more days He was alive
And risen from the dead.

He still comes to people,
His life moves through the lands;
He uses us for speaking,
He touches with our hands.

*You servants of God, your Master proclaim,*

*Tune Laudate Dominum*

**You servants of God, your Master proclaim,**

and publish abroad his wonderful name;
the name all-victorious of Jesus extol;
his kingdom is glorious and rules over all.

God ruleth on high, almighty to save;
and still he is nigh, his presence we have;
the great congregation his triumph shall sing,
ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.

"Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!"
let all cry aloud, and honour the Son;
the praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.

Then let us adore and give him his right:
all glory and power, all wisdom and might,
all honour and blessing with angels above
and thanks never ceasing for infinite love.

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