**Sunday 5th July 2020** WORSHIP AT HOME **Matthew 11.16-19,25-30**

Welcome to our act of Worship

Call to worship

Jesus said, ‘Come to me, all you that are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.’


A Gathering Prayer

We come before you,
with all our cares and worries,
laying them down before you.
We come before you,
setting aside this time to worship,
opening up ourselves to you.
We come before you,
in the expectation that you will take and transform us,
before we return to the world once again,
ready to face all that comes our way.
We trust in you and in your promises,
for you are gentle and humble in heart,
your yoke is easy and the burden you place upon us is light. And you grant us rest. **Amen.**

HYMN: Dear Lord and Father of mankind...

HP673, MP111, RS492, STF495

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

*Prayers of Praise*

God of peace, we adore you.

Still our busy-ness and make us listen.

Calm our anxieties and help us rest in you.

God of the past, we adore you. You inspired those who have gone before, sharing their sorrows and joys, and gave them courage.

God of the present we adore you. You have brought us together, though separate. Enfold us in your love, and inspire the worship we offer.

God of the future, we adore you. Take from us all that separates us from you. Enable us to journey in your way, so that at last we may take our place in your heavenly kingdom. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Prayer of Confession*

Merciful God, forgive us our sins,
for we are frail and weak.
We do what we know we should not do.
We fail to do those things that we ought to do.
We do not do that which is good for us.
And we do not understand our weakness.
But you, O God, know us all too well,
and you love us and forgive us.
Thanks be to you.

**Amen.**

HYMN Make me a channel of your peace

HP776, MP456, RS629 , STF707

Ministry of the Word of God

**GOSPEL Matthew 11.16-19,25-30; Zechariah 9.9-12; Romans 7.15-25a; Psalm 145.8-14**

With special focus on:

**28 ‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’**

This is the Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

Reflection

*I asked God for strength, that I might achieve.*

*I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.*

*I asked for health, that I might do greater things.*

*I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.*

*I asked for riches, that I might be happy.*

*I was given poverty, that I might be wise.*

*I asked for power that I might have the praise of all.*

*I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.*

*I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life.*

*I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.*

*I got nothing that I asked for but got everything I had hoped for.*

*Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.*

*I am, among all people, most richly blessed.*

(alleged  to have been found on a Confederate Soldier casualty at Devil's Den, Gettysburg)

Perhaps we especially need to hear Jesus’ promise again during this unsettling time.  It is a “heavy” time around the world, as the pandemic continues to take a huge toll in lives lost and economies severely weakened. Into the mire of where many find themselves, we hear those beautiful and poetic words offering solace.

Amidst the poetry we have to face reality and the Gospels: Jesus himself said that those who wished to follow him had to make sacrifices – family, possessions, even one’s own life. If we reflect that is exactly what earthly ministry cost Jesus!

A yoke was a familiar symbol of burden bearing, oppression, and subjugation. Yokes were laid on the necks and shoulders on prisoners of war and slaves as well as of oxen.  What we sometimes overlook is that the yoke was designed for two oxen. It was used to bring the strength of two animals together in order to pull a load that was impossible for one animal to pull on its own. The two animals on which the yoke was placed were different. One was always more experienced than the other. Thus, the second animal became somewhat of a learner. The experienced animal was schooled in the commands of the master. This animal provided the direction, leadership, help, and training for the other oxen.

Jesus was not trying to give people another load, or yoke, to carry. He simply was inviting them to get in His yoke. There, He would be the experienced, mature member of the team, and those who responded would be the rested and refreshed learners.

As we travel through this strange time and indeed journey through our lives we are not alone for Christ invites us to journey with him and He offers to share the load.

Prayer of Response

Jesus says, ‘Come to me you who are weary’ –
God, grant me the strength to keep going.
Jesus says, ‘Come to me you who are carrying heavy burdens’ –
God, grant me the courage to let go of all my worries.
Jesus says, ‘Come to me and learn from me’ –
God, grant me the faith to trust in you. **Amen.**

HYMN Just as I am without one plea

HP697, MP396, RS364, STF556

Our Prayers

We pray for those who are anxious about the future, those who are troubled and fearful, those who have difficult decisions to make.

We pray for the global church as we seek to minister in new ways during this time of pandemic, offering rest to the weary and solace to the distressed.

We pray for those who are ill or unhappy, those who face physical, mental, or emotional difficulties especially at this time.

We pray for medical staff and researchers – and for a vaccine for Covid19

We pray for those who have grown complacent, or uncaring, those have become overly self-centred.

We pray for Governments that they might be given wisdom and discernment.

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 All my hope on God is founded

HP63, MP16, RS586, STF455

Blessing

May the memory of God’s love enfold you.

May the assurance of Christ’s presence empower you.

May the joy the Holy Spirit enable you to glimpse heaven here and enter it at last. **Amen.**

Rev David Coppard Superintendent @ Wiltshire United Area

Bank Chaplain @ Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton

***Our churches may not be open, but the Church is alive.***

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

**Matthew 11.16-19,25-30**

**16 ‘But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another,
17 “We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
   we wailed, and you did not mourn.”
18For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, “He has a demon”; 19the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, “Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!” Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.’**

**25 At that time Jesus said, ‘I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; 26yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. 27All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.**

**28 ‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’**

Reading for Little People - explore being supported by Jesus.

**Mini Bible story with actions**

Jesus said, ‘Come to me, all of you
*Open arms.*
who are tired from carrying heavy loads,
*Mime carrying a heavy weight.*
and I will give you rest.
*Rest head on hands.*
Put down your load
*Mime putting down*.
and take mine instead,
*Mime picking up*.
because my load is easy to carry.’
*Skip*

**Dear Lord and Father of mankind, T Repton**
forgive our foolish ways;
reclothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word,
rise up and follow thee.

O sabbath rest by Galilee,
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm.

**Make me a** [**channel**](https://www.definitions.net/definition/channel) **of your peace**

Where [there](https://www.definitions.net/definition/there) is hatred, let me [bring](https://www.definitions.net/definition/bring) love

Where [there](https://www.definitions.net/definition/there) is injury, Your [pardon](https://www.definitions.net/definition/pardon) Lord

And [where](https://www.definitions.net/definition/where) there's doubt, true [faith](https://www.definitions.net/definition/faith) in You

Make me a [channel](https://www.definitions.net/definition/channel) of your peace

Where there's [despair](https://www.definitions.net/definition/despair) in life, let me [bring](https://www.definitions.net/definition/bring) hope

Where [there](https://www.definitions.net/definition/there) is darkness, only light

And [where](https://www.definitions.net/definition/where) there's [sadness](https://www.definitions.net/definition/sadness) ever joy

Oh, [Master](https://www.definitions.net/definition/Master) grant that I may [never](https://www.definitions.net/definition/never) seek

So much to be [consoled](https://www.definitions.net/definition/consoled) as to console

To be [understood](https://www.definitions.net/definition/understood) as to understand

Or to be [loved](https://www.definitions.net/definition/loved) as to love with all my soul

Make me a [channel](https://www.definitions.net/definition/channel) of your peace

It is in [pardoning](https://www.definitions.net/definition/pardoning) that we are pardoned

It is in [giving](https://www.definitions.net/definition/giving) to all folk that we receive

And in [dying](https://www.definitions.net/definition/dying) that we are born to [eternal](https://www.definitions.net/definition/eternal) life

**Just as I am, without one plea,** **T Saffron Walden**
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt;
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive;
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve,
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, of that free love
the breadth, length, depth, and height to prove,
here for a season, then above:
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

**All my hope on God is founded; T Michael**he doth still my trust renew,
me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown,
he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray our trust;
what with care and toil we fashion,
tower and temple fall to dust.
But God's power,
hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore
from his store
newborn worlds rise and adore.

Daily doth the almighty Giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand
at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.

Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ, his Son.
Christ doth call
one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.

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