**Sunday September 27th 2020** WORSHIP AT HOME: **GOSPEL Matthew 21.23-32**

Welcome to our act of Worship

Call to worship *from Philippians 2*

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
**6 who, though he was in the form of God,  
   did not regard equality with God  
   as something to be exploited,  
7 but emptied himself,  
   taking the form of a slave,  
   being born in human likeness.**  
 And being found in human form,  
8   he humbled himself  
   and became obedient to the point of death—  
   even death on a cross.

9 **Therefore God also highly exalted him  
   and gave him the name  
   that is above every name,  
10 so that at the name of Jesus  
   every knee should bend,  
   in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
11 and every tongue should confess  
   that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
   to the glory of God the Father.**

HYMN

**Christ triumphant, ever reigning, *T Guiting Power***  
Saviour, Master, King!  
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,  
hear us as we sing:  
 *Yours the glory and the crown,  
 the high renown, the eternal name.*

Word incarnate, truth revealing,  
Son of Man on earth!  
power and majesty concealing  
by your humble birth:

Suffering servant, scorned, ill - treated,  
victim crucified!  
death is through the cross defeated,  
sinners justified:

Priestly king, enthroned for ever  
high in heaven above!  
sin and death and hell shall never  
stifle hymns of love:

So, our hearts and voices raising  
through the ages long,  
ceaselessly upon you gazing,  
this shall be our song:

HP, MP77, RS, STF319

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

*Prayers of Praise*

*Bidding:* Living God we worship you.

*Response:*  **We adore you.**

We adore you, living God, Creator, Father and Lord.

You are mighty, powerful and great,

And in you is all authority.

We adore you, Jesus Christ, Saviour, Redeemer and Friend.

You are gracious, kind and compassionate, and you have all authority.

We adore you, Holy Spirit, Enable, Comforter and Guide. You are the giver and renewer of life, and through you comes our authority.

**Amen.**

*Prayer of Confession*

Merciful God, forgive us:  
for times when we have denied your authority,  
and gone our own way;  
for times when we have tried to be someone we are not,  
and hidden your image within us;  
for times when we have not been true to you,  
or to the gospel values you have entrusted to us.  
Merciful God, forgive us, renew us, restore us,  
that we may be what you have made us,  
go where you will guide us,  
and do as you would have us do.  
In the name of Jesus.  
**Amen.**

HYMN

**I, the Lord of sea and sky,  *T Hear I am Lord***  
I have heard My people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin,  
My hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear My light to them?  
Whom shall I send?  
  
Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if You lead me.  
I will hold Your people in my heart  
I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have born my peoples pain.  
I have wept for love of them, They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak My word to them,  
  
Whom shall I send?  
  
Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if You lead me.  
I will hold Your people in my heart.  
  
I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them,  
My hand will save  
Finest bread I will provide,  
Till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give My life to them,  
Whom shall I send?  
  
Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if You lead me.  
I will hold Your people in my heart

HP-, MP857, RS- , STF552

Ministry of the Word of God

RCL Proper 21 Year A

Ezekiel 18.1-4,25-32; Psalm 25.1-9; Philippians 2.1-13; **GOSPEL Matthew 21.23-32**

**23 When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said,** **‘By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?’ 24Jesus said to them, ‘I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. 25Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?’ And they argued with one another, ‘If we say, “From heaven”, he will say to us, “Why then did you not believe him?” 26But if we say, “Of human origin”, we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.’ 27So they answered Jesus, ‘We do not know.’ And he said to them, ‘Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.**

**28 ‘What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, “Son, go and work in the vineyard today.” 29He answered, “I will not”; but later he changed his mind and went. 30The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, “I go, sir”; but he did not go. 31Which of the two did the will of his father?’ They said, ‘The first.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. 32For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.**

This is the Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

Reflection

**‘By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?’ v23**

Prayer of Response

May the mind of Christ our Savour, live in me from day to day, by his love and power controlling all I do or say. **Amen.**

HYMN

**May the mind of Christ, my Saviour, *T St Leonards***  
live in me from day to day,   
by his love and power controlling   
all I do and say.

May the Word of God dwell richly   
in my heart from hour to hour,   
so that all may see I triumph   
only through his power.

May the peace of God my Father   
rule my life in everything,   
that I may be calm to comfort   
sick and sorrowing.

May the love of Jesus fill me   
as the waters fill the sea;   
him exalting, self abasing:   
this is victory.

May I run the race before me,  
strong and brave to face the foe,  
looking only unto Jesus  
as I onward go.

HP739, MP463, RS-, STF504

Our Prayers

With the continued threat of Covid-19 and the escalation of restrictions this week, our prayers focus on those in authority who have to make difficult decisions.

*Response:*Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**At this time we pray for all in positions of authority; for political leaders, the police, the courts and all justice agencies: that they may be strong in leadership, and just and honest in serving their communities…  
  
We pray for decision-makers; those who work for hospital trusts, social services departments and benefits offices: that they may have wisdom, knowledge and compassion for those whose lives are in their hands…   
  
We pray for faith leaders especially in relation to Covid; that they may have vision, insight and discernment in leadership and give guidance, wisdom and reassurance at this time ….

We pray for those with authority in schools and colleges; for head teachers and principals, governors and teachers: that they may have gentleness, faithfulness and self-control, and work with patience and kindness, particularly with students who are stressed or scared...  
  
In the name of God who made all that is, and to whom we ascribe all power and authority, now and always, do we make these our prayers. **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

**At the name of Jesus *T Camberwell***  
every knee shall bow,  
every tongue confess him  
King of Glory now.  
'Tis the Father's pleasure  
we should call him Lord,  
who from the beginning  
was the mighty Word:  
  
Humbled for a season,  
to receive a name  
from the lips of sinners  
unto whom he came,  
faithfully he bore it  
spotless to the last,  
brought it back victorious  
when from death he passed.  
  
Bore it up triumphant  
with its human light,  
through all ranks of creatures  
to the central height,  
to the throne of Godhead,  
to the Father's breast;  
filled it with the glory  
of that perfect rest.  
  
In your hearts enthrone him;  
there let him subdue  
all that is not holy,  
all that is not true:  
crown him as your captain  
in temptation's hour;  
let his will enfold you  
in its light and power.

For this same Lord Jesus  
shall return again,  
with his Father's glory,  
with his angel train;  
for all wreaths of empire  
meet upon his brow,  
and our hearts confess him  
King of Glory now.

HP74, MP41, RS261, STF317

Blessing

Blessing and honour and thanksgiving and praise, more than we can utter, more than we can conceive, be yours, O holy and glorious Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, by all angels, all people, all creatures, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Jesus’ Parable from today’s Gospel with actions for Little People

**Which son did what his father wanted?**

Jesus said, ‘A man asked his son to help him on the farm.  
*Hold out hands.*  
The son said, ‘No’,  
*Shake head.*  
so the man went to ask his other son.  
*Hold out hands.*  
The other son said, ‘Yes’,  
*Nod head.*  
but he went back to bed.  
*Mime sleeping.*  
Then the first son changed his mind  
*Jump up.*  
and he went to help.’  
*Mime digging.*

Rev David Coppard Superintendent @ Wiltshire United Area

Bank Chaplain @ Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton

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

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

CCL LICENCE

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