



**Ripon and Lower Dales Circuit**

**Worship at Home**

**Brought today by Deacon Nigel Perrott**

**Week beginning Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

**Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.**

I was told once that when we sit to sing our soul sits too. I am not too sure what I think of that, and in the times we find ourselves we are unable to stand and sing in our buildings, we are unable to stand and pray.

So this morning I encourage you as you sit and read at home, allow your soul to stand!

To worship, to pray and give thanks to our Almighty God, our creator, the immortal the invisible and loving God. This almighty God who loved us enough to send his son, so that whoever believes in him would not perish but have eternal life. That is something to celebrate that is something that makes can help our souls stand in worship.

**An Opening Prayer**

Loving God

You are indeed the great, the mighty and the awesome God.

God beyond, generous in love and kindness and possessing all.

You are the God who saves and shields us Lord you are the one whose power renews life beyond death

your unending mercy stretches beyond our understanding

You Lord, support the falling, and heal the sick.

You free the prisoners and keep faith with those who sleep in the dust.

You are our almighty God who performs such mighty deeds

Grace and truth surrounds your presence.

Speak to us today, as we come into your presence, as we give thanks for the gift of your spirit, and the love and saving grace of Jesus Christ our Saviour

In his precious name we pray

Amen.

**A prayer of confession written by Martin Luther King Junior.**

Thou Eternal God, out of whose absolute power and infinite intelligence the whole universe has come into being, we humbly confess that we have not loved thee with our hearts, souls and minds, and we have not loved our neighbours as Christ loved us. We have all too often lived by our own selfish impulses rather than by the life of sacrificial love as revealed by Christ. We often give in order to receive. We love our friends and hate our enemies. We go the first mile but dare not travel the second. We forgive but dare not forget.

And so as we look within ourselves, we are confronted with the appalling fact that the history of our lives is the history of an eternal revolt against you .But thou, O God, have mercy upon us. Forgive us for what we could have been but failed to be. Give us the intelligence to know your will. Give us the courage to do your will. Give us the devotion to love your will.

In the name and spirit of Jesus, we pray.

**Amen.**

*We celebrate our forgiveness:*

**God did not send Christ into the world to condemn the world, but to be its Savior**

**we can trust God's word.**

**We are a forgiven people.**

**Thanks be to God!**

## The Lord's Prayer

### Modern Form

Our Father, who is in heaven,  
Hallowed be your name:  
Your kingdom come;  
Your will be done;  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our sins,  
As we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
are yours,  
now and for ever **Amen.**

### STF 78- Give thanks with a grateful heart.

Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy One ;  
give thanks because he's given  
Jesus Christ, his Son.  
Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy One ;  
give thanks because he's given  
Jesus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say, 'I am strong,'  
let the poor say, 'I am rich,'  
because of what the Lord has done for  
us ;  
And now let the weak say, 'I am strong,'  
let the poor say, 'I am rich,'  
because of what the Lord has done for  
us ;

Give thanks.

Henry Smith (b. 1952)

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**Reading:** Isaiah 61/ Mathew 16:24-28

### Message

#### "The cost of the cross"

This little passage is going to help me to talk  
a little about my journey over the last few

years, in fact over many years that have  
culminated in my ordination just two weeks  
ago.

It's all about the cross, I now wear the badge  
that was presented to me at my Ordination. It  
is a sign and a symbol of my membership to  
the religious that I belong to. For many  
reasons it is incredibly special and will be  
treasured.

Prior to Ordination I went on a retreat with my  
fellow Ordinands, a time of prayer and  
preparation before that special time. As part  
of our time we were asked to go and see the  
Warden for some private prayer and  
conversation. During this time we were asked  
"What will receiving the cross mean to you?"  
This of course is a huge question, and I want  
share something of my thoughts with you.

My cross is silver, it has a value and the  
Order has presented it to me as a gift. With  
every gift there is a cost, sometimes it is not a  
financial one. For me, there has been a cost  
to many things in order that I receive it. There  
was a cost to my work life, to my marriage, to  
my family. I had to live away when I studied  
at college, I had to dedicate many hours to  
study. I had to be examined and tested! God  
called me to this ministry and though a  
blessing it can be costly.

However, the costs I am talking of our  
personal to me, the cross, as we all know  
represents a much larger cost, the cost of life.  
It was out of a rather uncostly piece of timber  
that a cross would be made, a cross on which  
the ultimate cost would be made. Jesus died  
so that we may have life. This message is the  
backbone of our Christian faith, it is what  
makes us Christians.

To some extent it is a simple message, but  
on another level it is has huge impacts on  
how we are to live as followers of Christ.  
There is a cost. The cross is a sign of hope,  
BUT also a sign of sacrifice. John the Baptist  
announced in the desert, "*Behold the Lamb of  
God, who comes to take away the sin of the  
world!*" taking away the sins of the world were  
going to incur a cost.

When we pick up our cross we will lose  
something, that something may be very  
different for all of us.

One of my colleagues from another circuit  
was ordained recently. Originally from India,  
he explained what becoming a Christian

meant for him. He was ostracized, and became a second class citizen and persecuted for his faith.

So when we hear Jesus say “If anyone would follow me, they should deny themselves, and take up their cross and follow” ...For my friend, it really was being prepared to lose your life!

Thankfully for us, we are not going to lose our life for our faith, unlike my friend we are not going to have flee our country.

There are however, other costs that we need to incur. Sometimes the costs are more subtle. We have our personal costs but we also have a cost as church. Sometimes there is a need to change things and that can be uncomfortable, there is a cost.

As we have journeyed through the last 18 months we have endured many things but have managed to adapt and do things differently. There is much debate surrounding what and how we need to move forward into new things. Some of the changes needed will bring a cost. Not just financial costs but personal ones too.

As we start to move forward there are many decisions that we will have to make. As we begin to regroup and look to the future, we look forward with hope.

This is not about doom and gloom, Jesus did not die on the cross and that was the end! God brought him back to life!, and he rose again. The cross is a sign of sacrifice but also a sign of hope.

We are reminded in Isaiah 61, that God anoints us to do his work, we have a part to play, but we are not alone, and God is with us. We are also reminded in book of Philippians Chapter 4 verse 14...“*We can do all things in Christ who strengthens us*”.

As we start to do things differently, as we begin to move forward we are reminded that the spirit of the sovereign Lord is with us. We can indeed do all things in Christ who strengthens us. When we pick up our cross we find Jesus.

Amen

## **STF 406-Have you heard God's voice**

1 Have you heard God's voice ; has your heart been stirred ?  
Are you still prepared to follow ?  
Have you made a choice to remain and serve, though the way be rough and narrow ?

*Will you walk the path that will cost you much and embrace the pain and sorrow ?  
Will you trust in One who entrusts to you the disciples of tomorrow ?*

2 Will you use your voice ; will you not sit down when the multitudes are silent ?  
Will you make a choice to stand your ground when the crowds are turning violent ?

3 In your city streets will you be God's heart ?  
Will you listen to the voiceless ?  
Will you stop and eat, and when friendships start, will you share your faith with the faithless ?

4 Will you watch the news with the eyes of faith and believe it could be different ?  
Will you share your views using words of grace ? Will you leave a thoughtful imprint ?

*We will walk the path that will cost us much and embrace the pain and sorrow.  
We will trust in One who entrusts to us the disciples of tomorrow.*

Jacqueline G. Jones

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## **Prayers of intercession**

In a week where we have seen racism and bigotry raise its ugly head again, we pray against all those who would seek to harm others through words and deeds that bring hurt and dismay. We pray that they see the errors that they are making and seek to change. We pray they realise that their actions do not bring love to those they hurt or glory to you. Lord we thank you that we are all created in your image, and you love and care for each and every one of us. For those who have themselves are the target of hurtful actions, may they know the

love and care that we would want to convey on them. Lord of Justice, bring peace and justice.

We remember also today the violence that has again erupted in South Africa, we pray for peace and calm, and for those in power to act with justice, wisdom and calm.

We remember all those who Maun, those caring for loved ones, and those who in silence, deal with physical and mental health problems.

We continue to pray for an end in this pandemic. We especially remember those around the world, for who, a vaccination is a distant hope.

In this moment we bring our own prayers to you....

Here at home, we pray for our church in our community. We pray that as we venture out from isolation we can be a church for all. That our ministry and mission can be seen and felt in all areas of our communities.

Lord we thank you that you are a God who hears our prayers and we bring them to you in the name of Jesus our Lord and saviour

**Amen.**

## **Closing Hymn**

### **STF 94- To God be the glory**

1 To God be the glory, great things he has done ! So loved he the world that he gave us his Son, who yielded his life in atonement for sin, and opened the life-gate that all may go in :

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!*

*Let the earth hear his voice!*

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!*

*Let the people rejoice!*

*O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son; and give him the glory — great things he has done!*

2 O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood, to every believer the promise of God

And every offender who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives :

3 Great things he has taught us, great things he has done, and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son ; but purer, and higher, and greater will be our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see :

Frances Jane van Alstyne, (Fanny Crosby) (1820–1915)

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## **A blessing**

The Guarding of the God of life be on you

The guarding loving Christ be on you

The guarding of the Holy Spirit be on you

Every night of your lives

To aid you and enfold you

Each day and night of your lives

**Amen**