



## **Worship at Home Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Sept**

**Hello I am Jan Goodall a local preacher in the Ripon and lower dales circuit.**

We are thinking about childlike faith, and I am beginning with the first verse from a Charles Wesley hymn No 661

Give me the faith which can remove and sink the mountain to the plain; give me the childlike praying love, which longs to build thy house again; thy love, let it my heart o'erpower, and all my simple soul devour.

### **Hymn 103**

1 God is Love: let heaven adore him;  
God is Love: let earth rejoice;  
let creation sing before him,  
and exalt him with one voice.

He who laid the earth's foundation,  
he who spread the heavens above,  
he who breathes through all creation,  
he is Love, eternal Love.

2 God is Love: and he enfolding  
all the world in one embrace;  
with unfailing grasp is holding  
every child of every race.  
And when human hearts are breaking  
under sorrow's iron rod,  
then they find that selfsame aching  
deep within the heart of God.

3 God is Love: and though with blindness  
sin afflicts each human soul,  
God's eternal loving-kindness  
holds and guides and keeps us whole.  
Sin and death and hell shall never  
o'er us final triumph gain;  
God is Love, so Love for ever  
o'er the universe must reign.



### **A prayer of thanksgiving**

For the rich diversity of the world, we give you thanks, O God.

For the different people, personalities and cultures around,

we give you thanks, O God.

For your call to care for both this world and for one another,

we give you thanks, O God.

We rejoice in all that, in your name, brings us together.

We rejoice in the love, *your* love that binds us to one another

in community and in you.

May we celebrate all that we have and are, and as your one people

may we point to the one, true and living God.

**Amen.**

### **Reading**

**Philippians 2 v3-11. Having the same attitude as Christ**

<sup>3</sup> Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

<sup>5</sup> You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

<sup>6</sup> Though he was God,<sup>[a]</sup>

he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.

<sup>7</sup> Instead, he gave up his divine privileges<sup>[b]</sup>;

he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being.

When he appeared in human form,<sup>[d]</sup>

<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honour

and gave him the name above all other names,

<sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup> and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

## **Mark 9 v30-37. Jesus Again Predicts His Death**

<sup>30</sup> Leaving that region, they travelled through Galilee. Jesus didn't want anyone to know he was there, <sup>31</sup>for he wanted to spend more time with his disciples and teach them. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of his enemies. He will be killed, but three days later he will rise from the dead." <sup>32</sup>They didn't understand what he was saying, however, and they were afraid to ask him what he meant.

### **The Greatest in the Kingdom**

<sup>33</sup> After they arrived at Capernaum and settled in a house, Jesus asked his disciples, "What were you discussing out on the road?" <sup>34</sup> But they didn't answer, because they had been arguing about which of them was the greatest. <sup>35</sup> He sat down, called the twelve disciples over to him, and said, "Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else." <sup>36</sup> Then he put a little child among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup> "Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf<sup>[h]</sup> welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not only me but also my Father who sent me."

## **Talk**

### **Intro**

Jesus has now begun His last journey to Jerusalem; so it is important He spends as much time with His disciples as possible to prepare them for what He knows is to come.

They know Jesus is the Messiah, He does amazing things, they have seen Him transfigured and glorious. But what has all that to do with being crucified and rising from the dead?

They dare not ask Jesus.

To understand the idea of a suffering Messiah was beyond their comprehension.

There are still Christians today who suggest if only we had more faith, we would escape suffering. That is not the way of this world we live in.

Back to those disciples. They fall back on what they have been taught about the Messiah traditionally. Jesus will be king of a political kingdom, they would get the top jobs, and so there is a lot of bickering over who gets what. The disciples are like children arguing over who gets the biggest slice of cake. They knew they were being silly, because they would not talk to Jesus about it.

This must have been a very sad time for Jesus. He is willingly going to Jerusalem to offer his life for us and His special followers are arguing among themselves about position and power. Perhaps Judas believed that by betraying Jesus, he would make Jesus use force against His enemies.

### **A Child.**

After they arrive in Capernaum and are settled in their house there, Jesus sits down to teach them, and turns their world upside down. Anyone who would be first in God's Kingdom, must be a servant of all.

As Jesus' followers we must serve and give our lives for others; this is not being servile, but living God's love and grace.

And Jesus calls in a child and stands him at His right hand! A child, children in that time were at the bottom of the pecking order, and I doubt this one was squeaky clean and in his best tunic. The disciples would not have a bigger shock until on the night before he died, Jesus Himself took up the duties of a slave and washed their feet, to again teach them this lesson of service.

### **Humility**

Jesus has put the lowest of the low in the place of honour to show the disciples and us that we as kingdom people must cultivate childlike qualities, childlike, not childish. Innocence, simplicity and humility, a child is after all totally

dependant on others, simply living and enjoying each new experience.

As Paul said:-

<sup>3</sup> Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.

Jesus is saying that if we welcome the poor, the refugee, the homeless, people with no power or influence at all then we are welcoming Jesus Himself and more than that we are welcoming God.

We are living by Kingdom values, as Jesus did when He humbled Himself becoming fully human in obedience to God and dying a criminal's death to save us.

### **Us**

Jesus says, "Welcome the child" into our lives – accept being vulnerable and therefore dependent on God.

Children are much more open to new ideas, possibilities and opportunities.

They are flexible, so we must guard against becoming more rigid and inflexible as we get older; looking back, not forward to welcome Jesus and the Kingdom he heralds.

And as God's adopted children let's take ourselves less seriously. If we fail to have an open and childlike attitude, then we can never appreciate Jesus' message. Access to the Kingdom of God required a willingness to see miracles with childlike eyes. The desire and willingness to share the good news of the Kingdom requires further childlike qualities, enthusiasm and joy.

This is for us a time of uncertainty; it's a difficult, dangerous and wonderful world we live in. Can we really face it with childlike trust and joy?

Yes we can because our trust is in Jesus who walks before us and we have the strength of the Holy Spirit always.

### **Archbishop Desmond Tutu**

"Discovering more joy, does not, I'm sorry to say, save us from the inevitability of hardship and heartache. In fact we may cry more easily, but we will laugh more easily too. Perhaps we are just more alive. Yet as we discover more joy, we can face suffering in a way that ennoble rather than embitters. We have hardship without becoming hard. We have heartbreak without being broken."

We are kingdom people.

### **Prayer of St Francis.**

Take from us, O God, the complexity of desires and thoughts that belong to this world.

Give us again the heart of a child, that in simple love we may hear Your voice;

And the trust of a child, that hearing, we may come to You. Amen.



### **A Prayer of Confession**

Forgive us, God, it's just the way we are...

We are fooled by fancy appearance and miss you, the simple soul by our side.

We are dazzled by the dramatic entrance and ignore you, the constant child by our side.

We are bewitched by the powerful presentation and abandon you, the faithful friend by our side.

Open our eyes; clear our thinking; help us to learn wisdom

and in humble honesty to be glad you are by our side.

In mercy You hear us, Lord, in grace You respond.

With joy You receive us, with love You forgive.

Thank You for Your endless patience and kindness. Amen.

## Hymn 272

From heaven you came helpless babe  
Entered our world, your glory veiled  
Not to be served but to serve  
And give Your life that we might live

*This is our God, The Servant King  
He calls us now to follow Him  
To bring our lives as a daily offering  
Of worship to The Servant King*

There in the garden of tears  
My heavy load he chose to bear  
His heart with sorrow was torn  
'Yet not My will but Yours,' He said

Come see His hands and His feet  
The scars that speak of sacrifice  
Hands that flung stars into space  
To cruel nails surrendered

So let us learn how to serve  
And in our lives enthrone Him  
Each other's needs to prefer  
For it is Christ we're serving

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### **A prayer of praise and thanksgiving**

Praise be to the child in you, Lord Jesus;  
to the baby of Bethlehem who lives in you still.  
We praise you for your childlike wonder at  
creation,  
your love of sparrows and lilies of the field.  
We praise you for your joy in company, in  
laughter and love.  
We give thanks for your love of your Father,  
for the total trust and obedience that we should  
all have.  
Lord Jesus, bring out the child in each one of us,  
and set that child in the midst of our adult  
complexity. **Amen.**

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### **Prayer of Intercession.**

Creator God, we bring You the broken places  
and people of our world.  
So many situations and lives where hope has  
been crushed  
And the future looks irretrievably bleak:

Countries and communities battered by natural  
disaster, scarred by division,  
Racked by poverty and injustice;  
Individuals numbed by bereavement, brought  
low by illness, injury or disease,  
Shattered by the breakdown of relationships or  
the collapse of dreams.

Circle them with Your love and, in Your mercy,  
bring new beginnings, fresh vision-  
The courage to look forward again  
And to rebuild, not only bricks and mortar, but  
also broken lives-  
Restoring faith, rekindling hope, reviving hearts  
and minds,  
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name  
Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth  
as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

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 ever. Amen.

**Hymn 526**

Lord of all hopefulness,  
Lord of all joy,  
Whose trust, ever child-like,  
No cares could destroy,  
Be there at our waking,  
And give us, we pray,  
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord,  
At the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
Whose strong hands were skilled  
At the plane and the lathe,  
Be there at our labours,  
And give us, we pray,  
Your strength in our hearts, Lord,  
At the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
Your hands swift to welcome,  
Your arms to embrace,  
Be there at our homing,  
And give us, we pray,  
Your love in our hearts, Lord,  
At the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,  
Be there at our sleeping, and give us we pray,  
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

**A sending out prayer**

Fire our hearts with the warmth of Your love, fan the flames of enthusiasm to serve You,  
Let us burn with joy from being one with You.

**Grace**

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us  
all evermore. Amen