

Ripon and Lower Dales Circuit

Worship at Home

Week beginning Sunday 2nd August 2020

Welcome to worship with the Ripon and Lower Dales Methodist Circuit.

Wherever you may be, may you know the love of God enfold you and the Spirit of God lead you in this time of Worship.

Call to worship

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and the knowledge of the holy is understanding. Proverbs 9 v 10 KJV

StF N° 238

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee,
yet possessing every blessing
if our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us;
all our weakness thou dost know,
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
tempted, taunted, yet undaunted,
through the desert thou didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy:
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.

Words - James Edmeston (1791-1867)
Music – Mannheim by F Fillitz adapted Lowell Mason

Let us pray

A Prayer of Adoration

God of heaven and earth we praise you. You are the source of life and health. You formed the rivers and oceans and all that abides on dry land.

You have spoken and called men and women, children and young people to acknowledge your divine purpose to care for the earth and for one another.

You teach us the way of love divine, as seen in Jesus Christ, to love neighbour and stranger and to be our brothers and sisters' keepers throughout our days.

A Prayer of Confession

God of love forgive us when:
we failed to love our neighbour.
when we failed to love the stranger in our midst.
when we failed to love the refugee and asylum seeker.
when we failed to love our sisters and brothers.
Forgive us when we have failed to care for the earth, seas and skies.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of love, through Jesus Christ, you mediate your mercy to our hearts. Breathe your breath of compassion upon our lives so we may know your pardon. Enfold us by your Holy Spirit, with a virtual hug, to know your perfect peace; Through Jesus Christ our Saviour. 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 thus 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**

Reading: Genesis 32: 22 – 31

Jacob Wrestles at Peniel

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, 'Let me go, for the day is breaking.' But Jacob said, 'I will not let you go, unless you bless me.' So he said to him, 'What is your name?' And he said, 'Jacob.' Then the man said, 'You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed.' Then Jacob asked him, 'Please tell me your name.' But he said, 'Why is it that you ask my name?' And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, 'For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.' The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

This is the word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Food for Thought

Here in Genesis 32 Jacob is to be reconciled with Esau his elder twin brother. He had stolen his brother's birthright by deceiving his father Isaac by literally pulling the wool over his eyes! Fearful of the meeting he sends everyone and everything away. Thus, Jacob stands alone, devoid of family and possessions. That night God wrestles with Jacob. By morning he is given the name Israel because he has seen God face to face. The cost, his hip is put out of joint. He walks with a limp!

As we have wrestled with lockdown, during the past few months, like Jacob, we have found that God has blessed us. Time at home has given us the God given opportunity to re-evaluate our priorities and quality of life. There has been time to spring clean the house, clear out the garage and attend to the garden. There has been time in the garden to smell the flowers and for walks further afield to see the butterflies, hear the birds and watch the squirrel at play! For some it has meant shielding and for others the God given opportunity to read that 'big book' or undertake that project. Sadly, for some Covid-19 has robbed them of loved ones whilst others have wrestled in hospital, care home and at home with the virus and pulled through helped by key workers and friends.

Still for others, these past few months, have been time for thankfulness for health and wealth, for family, friends and neighbours because they have shopped for food and medicines and the essentials for everyday living. For others it has been a time to help strangers who have now become friends.

Now lockdown is being eased it's time to meet family and friends face to face. The new norm is like Jacob, walking with a limp, as we adjust to face coverings and to new ways in places such as shops and restaurants.

Our Circuit Churches remain closed, yet we have kept in touch through zoom meetings and printed service sheets plus phone calls and by snail mail bringing letters through the post!

Finally, as we have wrestled and struggled with lockdown may we rejoice in seeing people face to face. May we continue to be a source of blessing one to another and find God in the midst as we muddle through seeking to be reconciled to the new norm. There in the wrestling, like Jacob, we will find God.

Amen.

Listening God, you hear us when we cannot speak,
when despair and turmoil leave us faint and weak.
In love you call us back to you again
and your grace reminds us how you feel our pain.

Searching God, you find us when we go astray,
as self-centred living takes us from your way.
In love you seek us, what we've lost,
and your tears remind us what forgiveness cost.

Suffering God, you lift us from our deepest grief,
when emotion blinds us to our own belief.
In love you touch us with your nail torn hand
and your wounds remind us why you understand.

Risen God, you show us love too strong for death,
evil deeds defeated by your living breath.
In love you teach us never to despair,
your new life reminds us, hope is always there.

Words - Marjorie Dobson b. 1940
Music Noel Nouvelt Arr Geoffrey Laycock b.1927

Prayers of intercession

As we come to God in prayer, let us remember the words of the Psalmist who reminds us that God is all we need, that he is near and that the future is in his hands.

So, let us pray.

Loving and gracious God, we pray for all for whom the future is scary and unknown, remembering especially those with particular needs

- people worried about their own health or the health of those they love
- everyone who has been affected by Covid-19
- the bereaved
- the increasing numbers who are anxious about their jobs or financial security
- those who are scared as we come out of lockdown

Reassure them all of your constant loving presence and help us all to know that you hold the future in your hands.

Loving and gracious God, we pray for all for whom the future involves change

We pray especially for Helen and Fred as they prepare to move to Leicester and for Ian and Lis as they get ready to move here to Ripon.

Finally, we pray for ourselves, our family, friends and church fellowship, laying before you any for whom we are concerned and also the discussions and questions about the right way forward as a church.

As we place ourselves and our loved ones into your care, we rejoice that you give us all we need today, just as you have in the past and will do in the future,

Amen

StF N° 545

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
be all else but naught to me, save that thou
art;
be thou my best thought in the day and the
night,
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my
light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;
be thou my great Father, thy child let me be;
be thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the
fight;
be thou my whole armour, be thou my true
might;
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong
tower:
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of
my power.

Riches I heed not, nor earth's empty praise:
be thou mine inheritance now and always;
be thou and thou only the first in my heart:
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright
Sun,
O grant me its joys after victory is won;
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

Words Irish 8th century trans. Mary Elizabeth Byrne
Music – SlaneTraditional Irish

A Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and
be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up the light of his countenance
upon you and fill your hearts with love, joy
and peace.

The blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy
Spirit be upon you and those whom you love,
on earth and in heaven.

Amen