**Morning Worship for 14th June 2020 at 10.30am**

Good morning everyone and welcome to worship in these extraordinary times when we are the church but are not in church.

Remember that God is present with us as we gather in his name, and that wherever we are, we are the body of Christ.

**Opening Prayer:-** ( *from Roots)*

Loving Lord, your grace draws us to your presence; your peace unites us in your love; your hope inspires us to praise your glory. May our worship be worthy of you. Amen.

**Hymn STF 526** Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy, whose trust ever childlike, 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 kindliness, 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. *Jan Struther (Joyce Placzek)(1901-1953)*

**Prayer:** (from Roots) We come before you, gracious God, just as we are. We come with our weaknesses and our vulnerabilities. We come with our fears and apprehensions. We come with faith and doubt. We come to offer and receive. We come to you, the king of love – in the name of your Son, and in the power of your Spirit. Forgive us for what is past and protect us from all that is to come. Amen

**We say the Lord’s Prayer together…..**

**Bible Readings for today: Matthew 9 v.35 – 10 v.10** if you do not have Bible to hand this is the section of Matthew’s Gospel entitled “The workers are few”.

Jesus has been preaching, teaching and healing from village to village. Everywhere he goes he sees people in need and “has compassion for them because they were……like sheep without a shepherd.” (v.36) He then sends out the twelve to “the lost sheep of Israel” with the authority to drive out evil spirits and heal the sick.

**Reflection:** Every month on day 4 in our prayer handbook we pray Elaine Lindridge’s prayer for more Harvest hands. Elaine spoke about her work at Flourish last autumn and indeed many pray the prayer every Monday at 10am. It is based on part of today’s reading which contains the words: -

“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.” Jesus is about to send the twelve disciples out on their first attempt at ministry, after he has been filled with compassion for great crowds of people in need. These are ordinary men called from their everyday livelihoods, fishermen and tax collectors. They were chosen by Jesus, called by name and trained for this enormous task by spending time with Jesus and hearing his teaching. Their message as they go is that “The Kingdom of heaven is near.” They are full of the Holy Spirit enabling them to do the job Jesus commissions them to do, as are we. And we, like them, see an ocean of need before us, particularly in these dark times. The task is still ours to do, and God strengthens us in the doing of it. Jesus tells the disciples to “proclaim the good news” so I invite you, using the blank card you have to write something that is Good News about following Jesus. Then if you wish you could send it to a friend or family member. Now let us join in prayer: - By your power and grace, Lord, strengthen me that I may live as a faithful servant of Jesus Christ. Increase in me your gifts of grace and fill me with your Holy Spirit. Amen *(activity and prayer from Roots)*

**Prayers of Intercession:** O God of healing love, we pray for all those still battling Covid 19 and those who are taking care of them. We pray for all who are bereaved and grieving the loss of a loved one. We pray for all key workers in their various roles. We pray for those still in isolation who are lonely or bewildered. We pray for all who experience racism and prejudice of all kinds and pray that peace would come to all communities ripped apart by hatred and fear. We pray that we would be strengthened to speak out against any kind of injustice we encounter. We pray for our families and our dearest friends, whom we miss profoundly and for our church family with whom we are joined in worship and prayer. Give us courage Lord to be your disciples in this season and to spread your love in word and acts of kindness.

Strengthen us Lord for the task. Amen

**Hymn: STF 664 (tune Angel Voices STF 39)**

Lord you call us to your service, each in our own way. Some to caring, loving, healing; some to preach and pray; some to work with quiet learning, truth discerning, day by day.

Seeing life from your perspective makes your challenge plain, as your heart is grieving over those who live in pain. Teach us how, by our compassion, you may fashion hope again.

Lord, we set our human limits on the work we do. Send us your directing Spirit, pour your power through, that we may be free in living and in giving all for you. *Marjorie Dobson (b.1940)*

**Blessing:** The Blessing of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, be with us now and always. Amen

**Please consider this my “virtual” handshake and please stay safe and well.**

**If you are in need of anything, please call me on 01765 698288.**

**Next week we further explore what it means to be a disciple and you will need a plain piece of paper and a pen.**