

Morning Worship for 28th 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 God, we gather in response to your invitation; we gather together, welcomed by you. May the warmth of your welcome inspire and enhance the worship we offer to you. In Jesus' name. Amen

Hymn STF 124 (tune ii Ar Hyd Y Nos All through the night)

For the fruits of all creation, thanks be to God; for the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God; for the ploughing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping, future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour, God's will is done; in the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done; in our world-wide task of caring for the hungry and despairing, in the harvest we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God; for the good we all inherit, thanks be to God; for the wonders that surround us, for the truths that still confound us, most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God. *Fred Pratt Green (1903-200)*

Prayer: (from Roots) O God, your Spirit draws us into your presence, and so we come – drawn by love, upheld by grace – to encounter Jesus, our Saviour. We know him as our master. We know him as our friend. In him we see the Father, whose love sent Jesus to us. Spirit, Son and Father, we draw close in faith to offer our praise and worship. 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: Psalm 89 v.1-4 & 15-18 & Matthew 10 v.40-42 if you do not have a Bible to hand these are the last two verses of chapter 10 in Matthew's Gospel and bring to an end Jesus' "sending out" of the first disciples; who when they are welcomed will be received in the name of the one who sent them, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Reflection: It is a big challenge in these days of lockdown and social distancing to talk about welcome and the ministry of hospitality! One of the hardest things for me about being unable to be in church is not being able to welcome you all to the Lord's Supper or to engage in chat and coffee after the service. Human beings are all about being together in community, faith or otherwise. It is so hard to back away from folk when your natural instinct is to go towards them to embrace or shake hands particularly when that person is in very real need. The verses we shared this morning bring to a close

a long section of teaching about discipleship and mission in Matthew's Gospel. Jesus reiterates again that if people welcome and accept the disciples then they are also welcoming Jesus and God into their homes and lives, because the disciples go in the name of Jesus and the one who sent him. Even the smallest act of kindness is of God, a cup of water here, but we have seen over the last few weeks countless acts of kindness that have the love of God at their heart. So, those phone calls, cards, through the window conversations for us as Jesus's disciples in this season, are all because we want to pass on the love and compassion of God. The challenge for us all is how to be a welcoming church in this present age – in or outside the buildings we cherish. Much more reflection and prayer are needed before we can truly discern how God is leading us to do this. May God bless and encourage us in all these things. Amen.

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. Surround all who are grieving with your love and comfort at this most difficult time. Support key workers in their various roles and be with those struggling to keep their businesses open and trading. Draw near, O God of love, to those still in isolation who are lonely or bewildered. Uphold, those communities where there is division and conflict and all who experience any racism, prejudice, or abuse. Strengthen those who are the victims of crime, terror attack or natural disaster. We pray for our families and our dearest friends 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 welcome others into the community of the faithful. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers. Amen

Hymn: STF 663 I, the Lord of sea and sky, 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 borne my people's 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?

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 are satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? *Daniel L. Schutte (b.1947)*

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.**