



The Methodist Church

Ripon and Lower Dales Methodist Circuit

Sunday 30th October 2022

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

Call to worship (from Colossians 1 v 12)

Let us give joyful thanks to the Father, who has made us partakers in the inheritance of the saints in light.

StF 39

Angel voices ever singing

round thy throne of light,
angel-harps for ever ringing,
rest not day nor night;
thousands only live to bless thee
and confess thee
Lord of might.

Thou who art beyond the farthest
mortal eye can scan,
can it be that thou regardest
songs of sinful man?
Can we know that thou art near us,
and wilt hear us?
Yea, we can.

Lord, we know that thou rejoicest
o'er each work of thine;
thou didst ears and hands and voices
for thy praise design;
maker's art and music's measure
for thy pleasure
all combine.

In thy house, great God, we offer
of thine own to thee;
and for thine acceptance proffer
all unworthily
hearts and minds and hands and voices
in our choicest
psalmody.

Honour, glory, might, and merit
thine shall ever be,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
blessed Trinity.

Of the best that thou hast given
earth and heaven
render thee.

Words Francis Pott 1833 - 1901
Tune Edein Monk 1891 - 1900

Let us pray

Loving and living God, to you belong all the honour and glory. You alone are worthy of our adoration and so we offer you our praise.

You created the earth by your power, you save us in your mercy, and you renew us in your grace. To you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be all honour, glory and praise.

Silence

We know we also need to confess to you that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. We haven't loved our neighbours as we should, and we have let you down. We have not been good stewards of creation. We are truly sorry and ask your forgiveness.

Silence

We rejoice that once again we hear your word and know our sins are indeed forgiven.

So, we place this our act of worship into your hands.

Amen

Reading: Ephesians 1 v 11 - 23

In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

This is the word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Reflection

If you have been in the shops recently, you will have seen displays of Halloween products, some looking more scary than others. Whatever our views of Halloween, we all have to admit we live in scary times. From the harrowing images of the drought in Somalia, the flooding in Pakistan and the ongoing war in Ukraine, as well as many other places, we are faced with the real suffering of our brothers and sisters. None of us can fail to be affected by accounts of people in our own country who simply can't make ends meet and are facing impossible decisions about eating or heating. And of course, the rising cost of food, fuel and heating impinges on us all. As individuals, we may also be facing the challenges of loneliness, ill health or bereavement.

It is against this very real background, which at times can appear overwhelming and uncertain, that we can turn to God.

As Christians, we believe that Jesus is the light of the world, shining even in the darkest of situations. We also know that nothing can separate us from the love of God as shown in Jesus. To these truths, we hold fast. In our reading from Ephesians, we are reminded of the hope to which Christ calls us and the immeasurable greatness of his power. Christ has won for us a future inheritance.

Amazingly, we are no longer to be counted as sinners but rather as saints in the making! We are called to be Christ-like as we model ourselves on his life and example. Through our worship, reading of scripture, prayer and fellowship, we can tune our hearts and lives to the grace of God and know that we are held in his love.

We started our reflection by mentioning Halloween. Far more important for us, as Christians, are the feasts of All Saints and All Souls, when we can give thanks for the example of those who have run the race of life before us.

Some may be part of the history of the Christian Church, such as St Paul, St Peter and St Mary. For us in the north of England, there are the Northumbrian Saints, such as Aidan, Bede, Cuthbert and Hild. In Ripon, we have been invited to remember the life of another of these saints, St Wilfrid, one of the great leaders of the Christian Church in England. In 672AD he consecrated the Basilica and Crypt, on the site of what is now Ripon Cathedral. For the past 1350 years that site has been a centre of Christian worship, work and witness.

We may also wish to remember Christians who have made an impact on life, for good and for God, on the world stage, such as Mother Theresa, Desmond Tutu and so many others. Their story and example have inspired so many. This year saw the death of our much-loved Queen. Many tributes were paid to her life of devotion, duty and service. She used her very public platform and world audience to speak of her Christian faith and the strength it gave her.

The Feast of All Saints and All Souls are more personal than that as we also remember saints known to us, whose memories we cherish and whose love has made us the people we are today. These feast days give us the opportunity to stop and give thanks to God for people who inspired us by who they were: unsung heroes who made a difference to our lives and the lives of other individuals and communities. We also remember those family and friends who have travelled with us and whose grace and love have shaped us. These saints may not be remembered in stained glass but rather etched into our hearts and lives.

For this, we say thanks be to God.

Amen.

Let us pray

Collect for All Saints' Day

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the glorious pledge of our calling which you have given us in your saints; that, following their example and strengthened by their fellowship, we may run with perseverance the race that is set before us, and with them receive the unfading crown of glory.

Amen

StF 746

For all the saints who showed your love
in how they lived and where they moved,
for mindful women, caring men,
accept our gratitude again.

For all the saints who loved your name,
whose faith increased the Saviour's fame,
who sang your songs and shared your word,
accept our gratitude, good Lord.

For all the saints who named your will,
and saw your kingdom coming still
through selfless protest, prayer, and praise,
accept the gratitude we raise.

Bless all whose will or name or love
reflects the grace of heaven above.
Though unacclaimed by earthly powers,
your life through theirs has hallowed ours.

Words John L Bell b 1949 & Graham Maule b 1959
Music O waly waly arr Paul Leddington Wright b 1951

Prayers of intercession

Let us pray

God of the past, present and future, we bring to you our prayers for your world, other people and ourselves.

We pray for those parts of the world where people live in the darkness of war, persecution and strife and for those affected by flood and famine.

We lift before you aid and relief agencies who seek to bring relief and for leaders with the power to bring about change.

*Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer*

We pray for our own country at this time of transition and anxiety. We lift up before our leaders, both national and local, that they may seek justice and compassion.

*Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer*

We pray for all who are worried about the cost of living and ask your blessing upon those who respond to the local need via food banks and the provision of warm spaces.

*Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer*

We remember those known to us in any kind of need and name them in the quiet of our hearts.

*Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer*

We thank you for the saints in light who have travelled with us and give you thanks for their example and love.

*Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer*

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 this 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**

StF 459

Captain of Israel's host, and guide
of all who seek the land above,
beneath your shadow we abide,
the cloud of your protecting love;
Our strength, your grace; our rule, your word
Our end, the glory of the Lord.

By your unerring Spirit led,
we shall not in the desert stray;
we shall not full direction need,
nor miss our providential way;
as far from danger as from fear,
while love, almighty love, is near.

Charles Wesley 1707 - 1788

A Blessing

And the Blessing of God
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Grant you peace
Now and always.

Amen.

Thank you for joining with us for worship,

Keith and Lynda Phipps