**Sunday 21st June 2020** WORSHIP AT HOME: **Matthew 10.2/14-39**

Welcome to our act of Worship

Call to worship

1 O sing to the Lord a new song;
   sing to the Lord, all the earth.
2 Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
   tell of his salvation from day to day.
3 Declare his glory among the nations,
   his marvellous works among all the peoples. *Psalm 96*

**HYMN:** Praise, my soul, the king of heaven...

HP13, MP560, RS104, STF83

(Some of the hymn books widely used in the Wiltshire United Area)

*Prayers of Praise*

Lord God, our heavenly Father, we praise and adore you; we celebrate your mighty power and your love.

You have guided and preserved us in all our ways;

You are worthy of all praise and honour and love.

Your glory is beyond all thought; you are alpha and omega, the first and the last; you are beyond all letters and all words, beyond all that we can say or think.

Accept our praise and adoration, we pray, through the merits of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

*Prayer of Confession*

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Saviour Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. **Amen.**

**HYMN** Dear Lord and Father of mankind

HP673, MP111, RS492, STF495

The Ministry of the Word of God

Jeremiah 20.7-13;

Psalm 69.7-10,11-15,16-18;

Romans 6.1b-11;

**GOSPEL Matthew 10.24-39** with special emphasis on verses 29-31

**29Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. 30And even the hairs of your head are all counted. 31So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.**

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Reflection

“That’s a Class 43” so said the train manager on noticing the design on my facemask. A change in government rules now requires that you must wear a facemask on public transport. Having a certain fascination with trains mine depicts one – do you know what a class 43 is? l can forward pictures! *(I catch a train to get to the hospital where I currently serve two days a week as an NHS Chaplain).*

Our Gospel reading certainly does not mask the cost of discipleship. Whilst we need to contextualise words and imagery it starkly reminds that Christianity is no wishy-washy, take it or leave it faith. Faith is costly and demanding of commitment. It impacts on our thinking, being and doing – it challenges priorities and asks where our focus is. Yet even within graphic imagery that shocks and even offends, there are also images of divine love, especially in verses 29-31.

The ongoing pandemic which continues to decimate lives, which continues to spread fear, which continues to visibly alter daily livings can make it seem as though parts of the harshness of the Gospel is everyday reality. We ask – and rightly so, how can we hold, let alone demonstrate faith in the here and now!?

Each Sunday I go to Washington DC to the morning service at the National Cathedral. A few weeks back the preacher was Bishop Michael Curry, you’ll remember his stirring address at the Royal Wedding. Bishop Michael used a facemask as an illustration of what it means to be a follower of Christ. Facemasks are not the most pleasant of things to wear – but Bishop Michael reminded us of something - you wear it not to protect yourself but to protect others – it stops me spreading anything to you and vice-versa. It is a little inconvenient, but if we all wear one then we show we are seeking to protect each other and supremely we are demonstrating that we are making room for everyone. Now that is Christianity - because everyone matters, because everyone is loved by God. Said Jesus, **31So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows…”**

Prayer of Response

God of all power and love, we give thanks for your unfailing presence and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss. Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire. Revive us to live as Christ’s body in the world: a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbours, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit. Wherever and however we gather, unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Washington National Cathedral*

**HYMN** Father I place into your hands

HP, MP133, RS518, STF519

Our Prayers

Holy God you call us to love and serve you with our whole being, open our hearts in compassion as we pray for ourselves and all in need

We pray for your global Church. We recognise that we are all part of one body focused on bringing your image to bear in a world that has greatly distorted your image and what it means to be human.

O God our Creator, when you speak there is light and life, when you act there is love and justice.
Grant that your voice may be in the mouths of those in authority, and your actions may be present in the works of governments.

On this Father’s Day teach us and all people to respect everyone as your children, created in your image as a dream come true. Help us to honour the dignity of all people, to work out differences,
to pursue paths toward reconciliation, forgiveness, and the rebuilding of communities with hope.

Undergird our calling to love and care for the other as we pray for the health and wellbeing of children and adults alike around the world, especially for all affected by Covid 19. We earnestly pray for a vaccine. In the name of the one who showed compassion and healing we make our petitions.

**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.**

**HYMN** Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided

HP-, MP428, RS603, STF470

Blessing

May the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, rest upon you; may he give light to guide you, courage to support you, and love to unite you, now and evermore. Amen.

**Amen.**

Rev David Coppard Superintendent @ Wiltshire United Area

Bank Chaplain @ Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton

***Our churches may not be open, but the Church is alive.***

*This is service is offered to any and all, with love and prayers.*

**A Prayer from Christian Aid**

May your love that never fails

strengthen the weak

encourage the fearful

calm the anxious

heal the sick

through your church –

your washed hands

and feet on earth –

distant but still present

virtual but still connected

apart but still helping.

God in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Amen.

**GOSPEL Matthew 10.24-39**

**24 ‘A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; 25it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!**

**26 ‘So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. 27What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. 28Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.****29Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. 30And even the hairs of your head are all counted.****31So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.**

**32 ‘Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; 33but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.**

**34 ‘Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.
35 For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;
36 and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.
37Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; 38and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.**

The Gospel for Little People

Use the actions (see italics) to tell this story.

Jesus said, ‘Don’t be afraid! (*shake your head*)
It might be hard following me, but God cares for each one of you. (*hug yourself*)
God cares for every little sparrow, but you are more special to God than a whole flock of sparrows. (*lock your thumbs together and make a bird*)
You are so special that God knows how many hairs are on your head. (*run your fingers through your hair*)
Even when things are hard and tough, (*make a fist and bang it on the palm of the other hand*)
don’t be afraid.’ (*shake your head*)

Praying together

Invite the children to draw a happy face on one side of a paper plate and a sad face on the other. Show the happy faces, then pray together: Thank you, Jesus, that we can follow you. This makes us happy.
Then turn the plates over and pray:

Sometimes life can be hard and that makes us sad.

Turn the plates over to the happy side for a final time: But we know that however we feel, you value us. Amen.

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**Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven;** Tune same
To His feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Evermore His praises sing:
Praise Him, praise Him, alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favour
To our fathers in distress;
Praise Him still the same as ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise Him, praise Him, alleluia!
Glorious in His faithfulness.

Father like He tends and spares us,
Well our feeble frame He knows;
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Praise Him, praise Him, alleluia!
Widely yet His mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore Him,
Ye behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before Him;
Dwellers all in time and space,
Praise Him, praise Him, alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace.

**Dear Lord and Father of mankind,** Tune Repton
forgive our foolish ways!
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise;
in deeper reverence, praise.
In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word,
rise up and follow thee;
rise up and follow thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity
interpreted by love!
interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace;
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm;
O still, small voice of calm.

**Father, I place into Your hands,** Tune: Same
The things I cannot do.
Father, I place into Your hands
The things that I've been through.
Father, I place into Your hands
The way that I should go,
For I know I always can trust You.

Father, I place into Your hands
My friends and family.
Father, I place into Your hands
The things that trouble me.
Father, I place into Your hands
The person I would be,
For I know I always can trust You.

Father, we love to see Your face,
We love to hear Your voice.
Father, we love to sing Your praise
And in Your name rejoice.
Father, we love to walk with You
And in Your presence rest,
For we know we always can trust You.

Father, I want to be with You
And do the things You do.
Father, I want to speak the words
That You are speaking too.
Father, I want to love the ones
That You will draw to You,
For I know that I am one with You.

**Lord for the years:** Tune: Same

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive your people’s praise.

Lord, for our land in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world where men disown and doubt you,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without you:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us –
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

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