**Sunday 26th July 2020** WORSHIP AT HOME: Trinity Sunday **Matthew 13.31-33,44-52**

Welcome to our act of Worship. Theme: Secrets of the Kingdom of God.



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Call to worship

**44 ‘The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in their joy goes and sells all they have and buys that field…”**

Opening Responses:

The Kingdom of God is… **found in the most surprising of places.**

The Kingdom of God is… **hidden in the everyday things of life.**

The Kingdom of God is… **small but very precious.**

The Kingdom of God is.. **within us all.**

The Kingdom of God is… **here and now.**

**Let us worship God who reigns over the Kingdom.**

HYMN: God is love, let heaven adore him...

HP36, MP187, RS405, STF103

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

*Prayers of Praise and Confession*

**Gracious, Loving God,**

**We come this day to worship and praise Your holy name.**

**We gather with thanksgiving on our lips and love in our hearts to sing to Your glory; to be touched and inspired by Your word; to dwell in Your presence in unity.**

**Lord, forgive the times when we choose not to look… Not to look out for those in need. Not to look for glimpses of Your glory. Not to look for opportunities to share Your good news with others. Forgive us, Lord.**

*Pause*

**Open our eyes to You, O God… May Your Holy Spirit reinvigorate us. May we rub our eyes and focus on what You call us to do this day and every day. Open our eyes, open our hearts, open our mouths and open our minds we pray. Amen.**

*Church of Scotland*

HYMN The kingdom of God is justice and joy

HP139, MP651, RS255 , STF409

Ministry of the Word of God

1 Kings 3.5-12; Psalm 119.129-136; Romans 8.26-39; **GOSPEL Matthew 13.31-33,44-52** with special emphasis on: **44 ‘The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in their joy goes and sells all they have and buys that field.,,”**

This is the Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

Reflection

During seven very fulfilling years as Minister in Bournemouth, I got into running marathons and used to train running along the promenade at 6am in all weathers! Despite the hour beach-combers would with metal detectors would be scanning the sand. Within our Gospel reading of “mini-parables,” we hear about someone who finds such a fabulous hoard of treasure that they sell everything they have simply to buy that field. Jesus is talking about experiencing the wonder, joy, of discovering God not distant and far removed but, personal, alive in your heart, mind and soul. Discovering faith is about ecstasy. To know the God of galaxies and spaces loves and knows you personally, that is treasure!

Charles Wesley put it like this, *“My God, I am thine, what a comfort divine, what a blessing to know that my Jesus is mine … my heart it doth dance at the sound of his name.”*

But what a place to choose to set his story, in a field! Having a border collie, I have trudged through a fair few in all weathers! They can be lovely but then there can be the mud, the brambles/stinging nettles … and all the rest! The setting reminds that we experience God in unexpected places. Jacob found him in his dreams, Moses in a burning bush, Elijah searched for God in a whirlwind but found him in a whisper. Mary Magdalene looked for him in a tomb but found him standing behind her. God seems to be discovered in unexpected places.  Brother Lawrence, the seventeenth century saint, spent much of his working life in the monastery kitchen amidst the dirty dishes and said, “I felt Jesus Christ as close to me in the kitchen as ever I did at the blessed sacrament.”

Perhaps a field is actually a good place to reflect on meeting God, let us be brutally honest how often do our lives feel mired, muddy, unkempt, we can feel soiled by our past failures. Yet still we find God … or perhaps we should more importantly remember that is how God finds us … but does not dismiss us but welcomes us home with arms opened wide. There is such treasure in the Kingdom of God! **44 ‘The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in their joy goes and sells all they have and buys that field…”**

Prayer of Response

God’s kingdom within me.
God’s kingdom around me.
God’s kingdom alive in those I meet.
God’s kingdom for me.
God’s kingdom about me.
God’s kingdom in action.
God’s kingdom for all.
**Amen.**

HYMN My Jesus, my Saviour…

HP-, MP1003, RS-, STF363

*Little people may prefer*

HP 572: Think of a world without any flowers

Our Prayers

God of heaven in ordinary,
we pray for those searching
for the precious treasure of purpose in their lives…
We pray for those searching for peace…
We pray for those longing for reconciliation…
We pray for those yearning for freedom…
We pray for those aching for forgiveness…
We pray for those who need acceptance...
We pray for the sick who need healing...
We pray for those longing for comfort...
To you, Lord of love, we entrust our prayers.
**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 Love divine, all loves excelling

HP267, MP499, RS663, STF503

Blessing

Take the smallest seed and produce life. Add yeast to the bread of life and it will grow. Find the hidden treasure in your life, invest all you have in living for God. Cast wide your net and haul in the catch. All these blessings and more are yours from God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, there for you today and always **Amen.**

*Church of Scotland*

Rev David Coppard Superintendent @ Wiltshire United Area

Bank Chaplain @ Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton

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

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

Something to reflect on:

*“There is all the difference in the world between treasure and money.”*Roderick Townley, [The Great Good Thing](https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/2745)

**Matthew 13.31-33,44-52**

**31 He put before them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; 32it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.’**

**33 He told them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.’**

**44 ‘The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in their joy goes and sells all they have and buys that field.**

**45 ‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; 46on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.**

**47 ‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; 48when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. 49So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous 50and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**

**51 ‘Have you understood all this?’ They answered, ‘Yes.’ 52And he said to them, ‘Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.’**

**The Gospel for Little People**

**Storytelling**

Encourage the children to crouch down as you begin each parable, and then to grow and reach up high.

**Jesus told a story:**

**‘Here is a tiny seed. It may be very small but if it is planted in a field, amazing things will happen. The seed will grow and grow into a huge tree – so big that birds will come and make their home in the branches.’**

**Here is a tiny piece of yeast. It is put into the bread mix and kneaded into the dough. When it is left in the warm it will grow and grow and the dough will rise. Then the dough will be ready to be baked into bread.**

**God’s kingdom is like the seed and God’s kingdom is like the yeast. It will grow and grow and grow.’**

**Play and Pray**

*Use a pot of bubbles and encourage everyone to blow big bubbles.* **Praise God that the kingdom of heaven grows and grows. Amen.**

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God is love, let heaven adore him; T Abbots Leigh
God is love, let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him
and exalt him with one voice.
God who laid the earth’s foundation,
God who spread the heav’ns above,
God who breathes through all creation:
God is love, eternal love.

God is love; and love enfolds us,
all the world in one embrace;
with unfailing grasp God holds us,
ev’ry child of ev’ry race.
And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow’s iron rod,
then we find that selfsame aching
deep within the heart of God.

God is love; and though with blindness
sin afflicts all human life,
God’s eternal loving-kindness
guides us through our earthly strife.
Sin and death and hell shall never
o’er us final triumph gain:
God is love, so love forever
o’er the universe must reign.

**The kingdom of God; T** [**Laudate Dominum**](https://hymnary.org/tune/laudate_dominum_parry)

is justice and joy

for Jesus restores

what sin would destroy.

God's power and glory

in Jesus we know

and here and hereafter

the kingdom shall grow.

The kingdom of God

is mercy and grace;

the captives are freed,

the sinners find place,

the outcast are welcomed

God's banquet to share;

and hope is awakened

in place of despair.

The kingdom of God

is challenge and choice:

believe the good news,

repent and rejoice!

His love for us sinners

brought Christ to his cross:

our crisis of judgement

for gain or for loss.

God's kingdom is come,

the gift and the goal;

in Jesus begun,

in heaven made whole.

The heirs of the kingdom

shall answer his call

and all things cry 'Glory!'

to God all in all.

**My Jesus, My Saviour**
Lord there is none like You
All of my days, I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love
My Comfort, My Shelter
Tower of refuge and strength
Let every breath, all that I am
Never cease to worship You.

*Shout to the Lord, all the earth
Let us sing. Power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands
Forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand
Nothing compares to the*

*promise I have in you.*

**Think Of A World Without Any Flowers,**
Think Of A World Without Any Trees,
Think Of A Sky Without Any Sunshine,
Think Of The Air Without Any Breeze.
We Thank You, Lord, For Flowers And Trees And Sunshine,
We Thank You, Lord, And Praise Your Holy Name.

Think Of The World Without Any Animals,
Think Of A Field Without Any Herd,
Think Of A Stream Without Any Fishes,
Think Of A Dawn Without Any Bird.
We Thank You, Lord, For All Your Living Creatures,
We Thank You, Lord, And Praise Your Holy Name.

Think Of A World Without Any People,
Think Of A Street With No-One Living There,
Think Of A Town Without Any Houses,
No-One To Love And Nobody To Care.
We Thank You, Lord, For Families And Friendships,
We Thank You, Lord, And Praise Your Holy Name.

**Love divine, all loves excelling, T Blanwern**
Joy of Heav’n to earth come down;
Fix in us thy humble dwelling;
All thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love

Finish, then, Thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in Heav’n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

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