

South Leicestershire Group United Reformed Church



²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. Matthew 18:22

15th Sunday after Pentecost
13th September 2020

This presentation is a free resource for personal use SW CCL 543786

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come to worship God,
Come with all your insecurities,
Come in all your frailty,
Come and discover God's love for you,
Come.

Gathering Prayer

We gather from different strands of life,
We gather as one people,
United in Jesus Christ
to praise and glorify our God,
Let us worship God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Amen

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
hold me with thy powerful hand:
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore;
feed me now and evermore.

Open thou the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth
flow;
let the fiery, cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and
shield; (rpt last line)

When I tread the verge of
Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's
destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of
praises,
I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.

William Williams, Pantycelyn
(1717-91) v. 1 tr. Peter Williams (1722-
96) altd. vv. 2-3 tr. William Williams (or
John Williams, 1754-1828) altd. Tune –
Cwm Rhondda extended Rejoice & Sing
345

Psalm (1-7), 8-13

¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

² Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits--

³ who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

⁴ who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

⁵ who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

⁶ The LORD works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

⁷ He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

⁸ The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹ He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.

¹⁰ He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.

¹³ As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.

We worship you, we praise you, we adore you,
Loving and merciful God,
You give so much to us each and every day,
For that we are grateful

But it appears that our gratitude is not always constant,
We are hit and miss in our discipleship,

We judge events and people without careful thought;

We are careless in our speech and have offended brothers and sisters
without taking care of what we say;

There are things that we might have done out of spite that have
hurt the feelings of others, in short Lord,
We have been careless in our discipleship.

FORGIVE US LORD.

'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.' Jn 3:16

So sisters and brothers we rest in the knowledge that we are forgiven, but it is up to us not to sin again.

Let us be determined to be better disciples,

In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Romans 14:1-12 Paul reminds us of our accountability.

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it in HONOUR of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in HONOUR of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in HONOUR of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

¹¹ For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

¹² So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Jesus illustrates the consequences of not being gracious.

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?"

²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves.

²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave!

I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you? ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. Matthew 18:22

As we continue in this lectionary series, we can see that community cohesion was an important concept to Paul. He knew what would tear a community apart, squabbles about eating meat or vegetables, judging people who do the opposite to you, (you of course are always right). How might that affect us these days? Who is doing the flowers? Are they the right flowers? Or a more theological argument would be 'We do not baptise infants because they do not understand what it's all about? Some would see these issues as petty but to some they are the 'be all end all', only their view is right and only they can make decisions on the community's behalf. Paul is bothered that all these petty squabbles of things that are really not the most important things to focus on are put into some form of perspective, the one reason that any of us are here is Jesus Christ, if we hadn't known Jesus Christ and been part of this faith community would we have know of one another or do our social circles swirl in different directions, would our paths have crossed?

I wonder what the disciples' reaction was to those words. Which disciples do these voices belong to?

Voice 1 I thought I had the answer perfect but I still managed to get it wrong, apparently.

Voice 2 I couldn't believe what Jesus was saying

Voice 3 Actually, I understood perfectly, if I could be accepted as a disciple despite all the things I had done against the people

Voice 4 & 5 We would have just been so angry at the man we would find it hard until we had calmed down a bit.

I don't think that we know enough about the rest of the disciples, but it was clear that this story was illustrating how to diffuse wrongs within a band of people. If you can forgive other people for their faults won't God forgive you for yours?

God knows we are not perfect as human beings, we get riled and angry and often blinded by the red mist of indignation, but if we are a Christian Community, those human traits should be kept in check. Homework read the Book of Proverbs, filled with good advice, 'a soft answer turneth away wrath', there are many other pithy sayings such as that one.

Being a Christian disciple needs that determination to be better than our human nature, it is a struggle but one that will bring us untold benefits, not least in the moment you will feel, I want to say better than all the rest, I mean to say 'Comfortable in your discipleship', knowing that despite our human nature we can still win through. May God bless us as we wrangle with the challenges of discipleship. Amen.

Offertory

We ask God's blessings on all the gifts we bring before him now. We ask that these gifts be used to glorify God, Amen

Bread of the world in mercy broken,
Wine of the soul, in mercy shed,
By whom the words of life were spoken,
And in whose death our sins are dead;

Look on the heart by sorrow broken,
Look on the tears by sinners shed;
And be your feast to us the token
That by your grace our souls are fed.

Reginald Heber (1783-1826) altd. R & S 443

Communion

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks and praise

Loving God that in all times and places you have sustained us through the power of your Holy Spirit; You call us to follow you, and to be agents of change, help us to accept each other as brothers and sisters in Christ, therefore with all your people in heaven and on earth we sing the triumphant hymn of glory:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Let us proclaim the mystery of Faith

Christ has died

Christ has Risen

Christ will come again

Lift up the Bread and wine and say:

Loving God bless these ordinary things
so that they become extraordinary for us today.

Let your Holy Spirit inhabit us and these gifts of bread and wine
(Put the wine down and Take up the bread)

Saying:

as we remember that on the night when Jesus was betrayed, he
took a loaf of Bread, gave thanks for it, Blessed it, Broke it, and
gave it to his disciples saying:

'Take, Eat, This is my body given for you, do this to remember me'

Eat the bread

Pick up the wine

After supper Jesus picked up the cup and said to them

'This is my blood of the new Covenant, shed for you and for many for
the remission of sins. Drink this to remember me'

Drink, then say 'Amen'

We say together

We thank you loving God that you have accepted us as your own. Through you Holy Spirit empower us to do your will in the world, Amen

Prayers of Intercession: We pray for the actions that we are being asked to do to prevent the spread of Covid 19. We pray for those who have been affected in anyway by the devastating illnesses caused by the virus. We pray for all who work on Covid designated wards in our hospitals. We give thanks for those who are engineering a vaccine and we ask that scientists throughout the world will share their knowledge so that we can fight off this virus. We pray for those who are not so well at this time. We pray for Cano's continuing recovery, we pray for Jasu and all the family as they support him as he improves.

We pray for Katie, for all her relatives as they support her through a challenging illness.

We pray for all who grieve at this time, Terry, Marie, and family; Tim and Peter as they grieve for Norman.

We pray for Paula, to give her the necessary strength to cope with all that has happened in the last two years or so.

We pray for all who are battling diabetes

We pray for the family of the young man who died in South Wigston.

We pray for all victims of violent crime, especially those who have been victims of Knife crime.

WE pray for all those who are known to us and are not well at this time.

We give thanks for the induction of Reverend Martin Ferris as the Resource Minister for the South and East area of Leicestershire.

We welcome Charlotte Ferris as she supports Martin.

You shall go out with joy
and be led forth with peace,
and the mountains and the hills
shall break forth in singing.
There'll be shouts of joy,
and the trees of the field
shall clap, shall clap their hands;
and the trees of the field shall clap their hands,
and the trees of the field shall clap their hands,
and the trees of the field shall clap their hands,
and you'll go out with joy.

Based on Isaiah 55:12

Stuart Dauermann (1944-).

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Songs of Fellowship 640 Mission Praise 796(281) Rejoice & Sing 415

<https://youtu.be/unWnWSgoSt0>

We Close with the Grace

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Love of God
and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all, for evermore, Amen.

Reminder – contact details for the minister
richard.eastman163@gmail.com

01162714751 Mon-Thurs. Sat 9:00-5:00pm

Friday answerphone service only

Pastoral Emergencies anytime

Acknowledgements

Title picture RCL Art Vanderbilt University

Guide me Thou great redeemer R&S 345 youtube

<https://youtu.be/4seEaQCFImw>

Bread of the world in mercy broken. R&S 443 <https://youtu.be/8382PrTBOVY>

You shall go out with joy R&S 415 <https://youtu.be/unWnWSgoSt0>

Prayers and Liturgy R. Eastman

Some prayers based on prayers from rootsontheweb