

South Leicestershire Group United Reformed Church



¹⁶ The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents.¹⁷ In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸ But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

Matthew 25:16-18

15th November 2020

24th Sunday After Pentecost

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

Call to Worship

Come all you who are prepared,

Come all you who are ready,

Come and use your gifts and talents

To Praise the Lord your God

Come and Worship!

<https://youtu.be/GRQoeitN5nA>

<https://youtu.be/fD8pxDgTZZU>

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The Cross stands empty in the sky:
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.

Not throned afar, remotely high,
untouched, unmoved by human pains,
but daily, in the midst of life,
our Saviour in the Godhead reigns.

In every insult, rift and war
where colour, scorn or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives where even hope has died.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love and praise!

Prayers of Approach

Almighty and Loving God,

We give you thanks and praise; we raise our voices in prayer, hymns and Psalms. We glorify you, we worship you, we give thanks for your enduring mercy. We are aware that we sometimes fail you when we forget how to live in the way your Son Jesus Christ taught us.

We forget caution when we leap to the wrong conclusion about someone's actions and we convict them without a moment's thought. When we are too quick to judge without knowing all the facts and we speak out of turn.

We are hasty to act without knowing the whole truth, Forgive us Lord for our hastiness, for our condemning judgments, and our ignorance. Guide us in your wisdom, help us to discern the truth and grant to us salvation from all our sinfulness, Amen.

Friends, Jesus said 'Your sins are forgiven'.

Let us always give thanks
and let us be determined not to sin again.

AMEN.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

¹ Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ² For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴ But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵ for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶ So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷ for those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Matthew 214-30

¹⁴ "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵ to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶ The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷ In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸ But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹ After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

'²² And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.'²³ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

²⁴ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed;²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶ But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.'

For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,¹⁰ who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. 1 Thess. 5:9

I'm sure that we have all heard the words 'Ready, steady, Go! At the start of a race or a task to be done, if you are a runner you may want to pace yourself and just on the final bend put in a blistering final hundred yards to take the prize. The man in the parable gives tasks to the three servants each according to his ability, the first servant is obviously gifted, as is the second, but the third servant may not be the one for the task in hand, it may be looking after the livestock is more his forte or even keeping the place clean, rather than being a speculator of wealth, he looks after the money the best way that he can, he hides it! After all what is they say when you invest 'the value of your investment can fall as well as rise', not a very good prospect if you don't know where to invest your loot.

Perhaps the man half suspects that it is wise not to give this servant too much responsibility. Time passes and the unfortunate servant is cast aside having no worth to his Master. If the servant had just tried, the man would have made a job for him, but he didn't try. Jesus is making the point that whoever we are, we can at least work at our faith, it is no good proclaiming to be a Christian and then not doing anything else. This text is useful for any Minister wishing to encourage people to use their gifts and talents to the Glory of God, especially if there is a specific task in mind. Sometimes we are not sure why God calls us to do specific tasks and we may get overwhelmed by the scale of the task ahead. I was challenged and I responded to the challenge, I may never know if I ever achieved what was being put before me, but at least I know that I have tried.

In his letter to the Thessalonians Paul outlines when the Lord comes, it will be suddenly and without warning, scary stuff indeed. At the time Paul was writing about 'the end times', these were expected to be very imminent, here we are over 2000 years later, and they are still imminent, it could happen at any time, are we ready? The prophet Zephaniah gave a very graphic prophecy of what the Day of the Lord would be like. We can see what will happen to those who don't take God seriously. Time and time again the prophets have railed against those who do not take God's message and act on it seriously, the Covenant made with God had been forgotten and it may be that Zephaniah was listened to by King Josiah, who made extensive reforms when he discovered the scrolls hidden in the Temple.

I hope that we are ready, or as ready as we ever will be. Jesus in his talks with his disciples and followers and even to the Scribes and Pharisees is trying to say salvation is within everyone's grasp,

it could happen at any time. Paul reassures the Thessalonians that they will gain salvation because they know Jesus and they do not live like those who are ignorant of the Love of God, but that they are ready and waiting for the day when the God will call time and we will all be saved.

Let us not be like the lazy servant, but let us be keen and ready. Let us be the best disciples that we can be, using all our gifts and talents to the glory of God, Amen.

Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet, and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure-store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-79)
Rejoice & Sing 371

<https://youtu.be/sss-g50Dw1Q>

Offertory

We recognise that we have many gifts given to us each and every day, we bring some back to God now so that his church in this place can survive to be a beacon of hope and a witness to the love of God.

Please keep giving to your respective churches, contact your church treasurer if you need any assistance.

We ask God's blessing upon the gifts we bring, we also ask God's blessing on us too, may God bless our understanding of our responsibilities as disciples so that we can be the best disciples and good neighbours to those within our local community, Amen.

Invitation to Holy Communion

Everything is prepared, there is an open invitation, so come to this the Lord's Table, come in your strength, come in your weakness, come if you want to know Jesus, come and be refreshed, come and be with Jesus, Come....

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 you are with us in all that we go through, you invite us to this table to dwell with you and join those whom you love, sustain us through the power of your Holy Spirit and grant to us the gifts and talents to share your love in the world, 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'

Prayer of Thanksgiving - We say together

We thank you loving God for this time of Communion, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ our Lord and our Saviour, help us through your Holy Spirit to tell others of your love for them, thank you in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

We pray for those who are not well, Rosina Greaves as she undergoes chemotherapy, Tony Hudson, Katy Scott, Jane Smith, Jean Atkinson, Paula. (And for all their families supporting them) We pray for those who are at home still shielding from the virus; Hetty; Pauline Pagett; Eileen (whetstone). We pray for Sue McKinley and Dave. We pray for Linda Fisher and Grace Fisher as they cope with medical issues. We pray for Shirley Padley in recovering in the Launde Care home. We continue to pray for Les Gill as he recovers from a surgical procedure. We continue to support those who are grieving, David Todd and family; Marion and family; Gill and Mark Standley; Tim and Peter Sketchley; Terry and Marie and Family. Sally Scott.

We continue to pray for Dave, Ann Craighead and all family, on the death of Liz Dellow. (Ann's sister-in-law). We pray for Ian and Vladlina both tested +ve for Covid 19. We pray for the communities which our churches serve: Oadby; Wigston Magna; South Wigston; Whetstone Lane and Eyres Monsell. We continue to pray for our Brothers and Sisters at Abbot's Road URC, the other half of the South and East Leicestershire Area.

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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever, Amen.

We continue to pray for Dave, Ann Craighead and all family, on the death of Liz Dellow. (Ann's sister-in-law)

We continue to pray for Linda Fisher who is n LRI having tests after a collapse in the street. We also remember her Mum, Grace who is concerned at the moment.

We pray for the communities which our churches serve:
Oadby; Wigston; South Wigston; Whetstone; Saffron Lane and Eyres
Monsell.

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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the
kingdom, the power and the glory,
forever and ever, Amen.

At the name of Jesus
every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him
King of glory now.

'Tis the Father's pleasure
we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning
was the mighty Word.

<https://youtu.be/OI2rKRCWmO>

U
Humbled for a season,
to receive a Name
from the lips of sinners
unto whom he came,
he became a witness,
faithful to the last,
and returned victorious,
when from death he passed.

In your hearts enthrone him;
there let him make new
all that is not holy,
all that is not true.
He is God the saviour
He is Christ the Lord,
ever to be worshipped,
trusted and adored.

When this same Lord Jesus
shall appear again
in his Father's glory,
there with him to reign,
then may we adore him,
all before him bow,
as our hearts confess him
King of glory now.

Caroline Maria Noel. (1817-77)*
Rejoice & Sing 261

Go out into the world, filled with the Grace of
God,
Go out into the world surrounded by the love of
Jesus,
Go out into the world empowered by the Holy
Spirit,
Protect the weak,
Look after the needy,
And free the oppressed,

Go with God's blessing to love and to serve,
Amen.

Acknowledgements:

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Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. <https://youtu.be/fD8pxDgTZZU>

Take my life, and let it be <https://youtu.be/sss-g50Dw1Q>

At the name of Jesus <https://youtu.be/OI2rKRCWmOU>

Liturgy and Prayers Richard Eastman

A free devotional booklet for personal use at home CCL 543786



HANDS



FACE



SPACE



HANDS



FACE



SPACE