**Sunday** WORSHIP AT HOME June 6th 2021

Welcome to our act of Worship

Prayer of Approach

**God, who has made all the peoples of the earth,
you know who we are.
You know our strengths and our weaknesses,
the powers that tie us down,
and the limits of our endurance.
We come to you with our fears and our hopes,
trusting that your love is stronger than evil.
Give us the courage that comes from knowing we belong to you.
Help us to overcome our anxieties and weaknesses
and be made new in your love.
In the name of Jesus
whose power is made known in our weakness.
Amen.**

Call to worship Psalm 130v5

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
   and in his word I hope;

HYMN *T Hanover*

**O worship the King**,
all glorious above!
O gratefully sing
his power and his love!
Our shield and defender,
the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendour,
and girded with praise.

O tell of his might!
O sing of his grace!
Whose robe is the light,
whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath
the deep thunderclouds form,
and dark is his path
on the wings of the storm.

The earth, with its store
of wonders untold,
Almighty, thy power
hath founded of old,
hath 'stablished it fast
by a changeless decree,
and round it hath cast,
like a mantle, the sea.

Thy bountiful care,
what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air;
it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills,
it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distills
in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust,
and feeble as frail,
in thee do we trust,
nor find thee to fail;
thy mercies, how tender!
How firm to the end!
Our Maker, Defender,
Redeemer, and Friend!

O measureless Might,
ineffable Love,
while angels delight
to worship thee above,
the humbler creation,
though feeble their lays,
with true adoration
shall all sing thy praise.

HP28, MP528, RS47, STF113

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

*Prayers of Praise*

God of all the world,
we praise you for calling us,
for choosing us even though we are imperfect,
for trusting us even though we make mistakes,
for not giving up on us even when we give up on ourselves,
for offering so much more – even when we would settle for less.
God of all the world,
for drawing us into a deeper relationship with you and with one another, we praise you –
individually and together, we praise you. **Amen.**

*Prayer of Confession*

God of truth and mercy,
where we break down – **you build up;**
where we damage – **you repair;**where we blaspheme – **you bless;**
where we isolate – **you include;**where we go wrong – **you put us right;**
where we confess – **you forgive;**
where we begin again – **you are with us.**
In Jesus’ name. **Amen**

HYMN *T Living Lord*

Lord Jesus Christ,

You Have Come To Us
You Are One With Us, Mary’s Son.
Cleansing Our Souls From All Their Sin
Pouring Your Love And Goodness In

Jesus Our Love For You We Sing,
Living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ

Now And Every Day
Teach Us How To Pray, Son Of God.
You Have Commanded Us To Do
This In Remembrance Lord Of You

Into Our Lives, Your Power Breaks Through,
Living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ,

I Would Come To You
Live My Life For You, Son Of God.
All Your Commands I Know Are True,
Your Many Gifts Will Make Me New,

Into My Life, Your Power Breaks Through,
Living Lord.

HP617, MP435, RS373, STF712

Ministry of the Word of God

Lectionary Bible readings for RCL Proper 5 Year B

Genesis 3.8-15; Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 4.13-5.1; **Mark 3.20-35**

**20and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. 21When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, ‘He has gone out of his mind.****’ 22And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, ‘He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.’ 23And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, ‘How can Satan cast out Satan? 24If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. 25And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. 26And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. 27But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.**

**28 ‘Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; 29but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin’— 30for they had said, ‘He has an unclean spirit.’**

**31 Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. 32A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, ‘Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.’ 33And he replied, ‘Who are my mother and my brothers?’ 34And looking at those who sat around him, he said, ‘Here are my mother and my brothers! 35Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.’**

This is the Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

Reflection

“You cannot be serious”, remember John McEnroe’s 1981 famous on-court Wimbledon meltdown at umpire Edward James?

Remember an occasion when someone said similar to you? Perhaps about who you had fallen in love with, about a job change, where you wanted to live… “You cannot be serious” finds echoes in many places within our lives including our hopes and dreams – and the words can hurt! Thirty plus years ago on announcing I was going into full time ministry within the Church my then work colleagues were scathing in their distain.

“You cannot be serious” Last March when I felt that my Ordination vows expected me to be directly involved in the pastoral care of people suffering and dying with Covid, brought affirmation but also condemnation from … clergy!

“You cannot be serious” **22And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, ‘He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.’** If we had started reading earlier, we would have heard of what had been going on in Jesus’ ministry: he healed Peter’s mother-in-law, cleansed a leper, caused a paralytic to walk and restored those whose minds were unbalanced. The religious authorities have declared that which is holy, sacred, and beautiful to be unclean, dirty, and bereft of God. Their accusations say more about themselves than Jesus.

“You cannot be serious” how can the religious great and good get it so wrong - accusing him of allegiance to Beelzebul, the ruler of demons? For the scribes Jesus was taboo because he did not fit into their categories of how a person of God should act.

Now before we start being smug pointing the accusing finger, we would do well to bluntly ask ourselves, do we consciously or otherwise try to pin God down to our definitions and expectations? Do we think we know the workings of God’s mind, or that we somehow are party to “inside information”? It might be 70 years since JB Philips wrote his book, “Your God is too small” but it still holds weight. Look at the following caption – which view is you? Which view is your church?



This reading should challenge us in many ways, not least will we allow God to be God? Will we allow God to surprise? Will we allow God to change our minds even on those things we may think central, or will we look Jesus in the eye and say, “You cannot be serious!”

Christ is Lord, stronger than anything that fragments. He binds the forces that divide, heals the wounds that separate, and refashions lifes into a new whole... but only if we allow him. And … on that … I am most truly serious!

Prayer of Response:

Loving God,
you sent your Son into your world
to gather us all up into your kingdom.
Be with us, that we may respond to your call to do the same. **Amen**

HYMN T Coverdale

**There’s a wideness in God’s mercy,**
like the wideness of the sea.
There’s a kindness in God’s justice,
which is more than liberty.

There is plentiful redemption

In the blood that has been shed;

There is joy for all the members

In the sorrows of the Head.

There is grace enough for thousands

Of new world as great as this;

There is room for fresh creations

In that upper home of bliss.

For the love of God is broader

That the measures of the mind;

And the heart of the Eternal

Is most wonderfully kind.

But we make God’s love too narrow
by false limits of our own,
and we magnify its strictness
with a zeal God will not own.

If our love were but more simple,
we should rest upon God’s word,
and our lives would be illumined
by the presence of our Lord.

HP230, MP683, RS353, STF416

Our Prayers

God of all people and all places,
we pray for the interpreters and others from Afghanistan who will soon be leaving the UK,
that they will be welcomed and valued and drawn into the communities around them. **As we pray for them, Lord help us to support them in Jesus’ name.**

We pray for those who fear being evicted in the next days and weeks,
for those struggling to pay their mortgages,
for those living in hostels and temporary accommodation… **As we pray for them, Lord help us to support them in Jesus’ name.**

We pray for those who are worried that, if restrictions aren't lifted as planned,
they will lose their livelihoods, their health, their future... **As we pray for them, Lord help us to support them in Jesus’ name.**

We pray for children and young people worried about exams, about their futures,
and for those excluded from, and all who struggle with, school. **As we pray for them, Lord help us to support them in Jesus’ name.**

We entrust to you loving God our communities,
and communities around the world that are in turmoil.
We pray for our families,
and the families of all those who have died suddenly and violently.
We pray for our church in this place,
and in places where there is division and danger.

**God of our brokenness, unite us.
Bring healing where there is hatred,
trust where there is fear,
and comfort where there is grief –
in Jesus’ name. 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 *T Evelyns*

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.

Humbled for a season
To receive a name
From the lips of sinners
Unto whom he came,
Faithfully he bore it
Spotless to the last,
Brought it back victorious,
When from death he passed;

Bore it up triumphant,
With its human light,
Through all ranks of creatures,
To the central height,
To the throne of Godhead,
To the Father's breast,
Filled it with the glory
Of that perfect rest.

In your hearts enthrone him;
There let him subdue,
All that is not holy,
All that is not true:
Crown him as your captain
In temptation’s hour;
Let his will enfold you
In its light and power.

For this same Lord Jesus
Shall return again,
With his Father's glory
O'er the earth to reign;
For all wreaths of empire
Meet upon his brow,
And our hearts confess him
King of glory now.

HP74, MP41, RS261, STF317

Blessing

Loving God,
you sent your Son into your world
to gather us all up into your kingdom.
Be with us, as we hear and respond to your call to do the same. **Amen.**

And the rich blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us this day and forever. **Amen.**

**Song for Little People** tune**:***Hickory, dickory dock*

We have a friend we can trust,
who shows us that faith is a must.
When things get tough, and life feels rough,
walk even closer to God.

Rev David Coppard Superintendent @ Wiltshire United Area

Team Chaplain @ Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton

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

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

CCL LICENCE

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