

Sunday 5 July 2020

Richard Lloyd

Welcome:

Welcome to morning worship on July 5 2020. To our friends in Apperknowle, Coal Aston or St Pauls, and anybody else joining us; welcome.

We're doing things differently because of the current situation, so we hope you will listen for the Lord wherever you may be and wherever you are watching this.

Let us join in our first hymn

Hymn: STF 368 When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries

When morning gilds the skies
my heart awaking cries:
'May Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer,
to Jesus I repair:
'May Jesus Christ be praised!

Does sadness fill my mind
A solace here I find,
'May Jesus Christ be praised!
Whenever thoughts are near,
these words will calm my fear:
'May Jesus Christ be praised!

To God, the Word, on high,
the host of angels cry,
'May Jesus Christ be praised!

Let mortals, too, upraise
their voice in hymns of praise,
'May Jesus Christ be praised!

Let earth's wide circle round
in joyful notes resound:
'May Jesus Christ be praised!
Let air, and sea, and sky,
from depth to height, reply:
'May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this while life is mine
my song of love divine:
'May Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this the eternal song,
through all the ages long:
'May Jesus Christ be praised!

Prayers of confession.

Let us come in prayer:

Servant Lord. Grant us the opportunity and will to serve you day by day. May all that we do, and how we bear each other's burdens, be our offering of love and service.

Lord we come this morning with our thoughts upon our minds; with difficulties in our own lives and with the situations we live and work; and the troubles of the nations. Help us to lay them aside to consider your love for the people involved in those situations – no matter whether they acknowledge you or not. Allow us to open out hearts to you and to listen to your presence with us; that we may come to you with a weight lifted from our hearts; by sending your beloved Son to that cross for us – to remove that sin we had weighing us down.

Lord help us to know your presence. Help us to understand and consider your world and your responses you'd have to situations. Help us to be your representatives in your love, and the awareness of your son; having surrounded himself on behalf of us to clear our lives of sin. Lord come work through us and make us useful for your love your kingdom your people on this world that we could make them aware of the situation of your love for all.

Let us join in the family 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: STF 531 What a friend we have in Jesus

What a Friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Saviour, still our refuge,
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.

Bible Reading: Matthew 11: 16-19 & 25-30
Good News Bible

¹⁶“Now, to what can I compare the people of this day? They are like children sitting in the marketplace. One group shouts to the other, ¹⁷“We played wedding music for you, but you wouldn't dance! We sang funeral songs, but you wouldn't cry!” ¹⁸When John came, he fasted and drank no wine, and everyone said, ‘He has a demon in him!’ ¹⁹When the Son of Man came, he ate and drank, and everyone said, ‘Look at this man! He is a glutton and wine drinker, a friend of tax collectors and other outcasts!’ God's wisdom, however, is shown to be true by its results.”

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “Father, Lord of heaven and earth! I thank you because you have shown to the unlearned what you have hidden from the wise and learned. ²⁶Yes, Father, this was how you were pleased to have it happen.

²⁷ “My Father has given me all things. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ “Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke and put it on you, and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in spirit; and you will find rest. ³⁰For the yoke I will give you is easy, and the load I will put on you is light.”

Sermon

Today for our passage we're looking at the bible reading you've heard. But what does it mean to us? The first three verses are actually describing two opposite ends of John the Baptist had come. He didn't do the normal thing. He lived in the wilderness but people didn't seem to like him and they complained, but yet here is Jesus who talks to people, who interacts with people, who looks to reach out to people rather than just sitting and talking. He's a friend of somebody who is a glutton, a drunkard; a friend of tax collectors – and I suppose we can all correspond with that!

And sinners – that’s all of us. But God will be proved right by his actions. Jesus then talks to us. He describes a situation that he has come to. He describes people who perhaps believe they know it all. They have tried to not consider the whole picture, but his response is “come, come to me as children. My father wishes to do this. He wishes to welcome you all into his kingdom through me.” In these difficult times we’re all struggling with differing aspects – perhaps myself. Since lockdown began I’ve been stuck at home and many people are having to do the same. But God says “Come to me. All you are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” I suppose in the middle of this pandemic there are many who are looking for respite from it for something to be considered. Something else to actually change the impact. Jesus says “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” He doesn’t say that he will take everything from us so we don’t have to worry, but he says he will lessen the load. He will help us with the situation. He will give us something in order to assist us. He will guide us. But more than anything he will love us. His Father says come through Jesus the Son. Let us all respond how we may.

Prayers of Intercession

Let us all come to our prayers of intercession.

Dear Lord, you showed yourself in Christ our humble saviour to be a servant God and you call us to be a servant people. Servant to the whole world. Lord, show us how we can serve your world. In Christ you showed yourself, servant God, to those in need. You fed those hungry in body and soul, and you taught your followers to do the same.

Lord teach us how we can serve the needy.

In Christ you showed yourself, servant God, to the ill and distressed. You gave healing and comfort, and you have given the spirit of healing love to your followers. Lord, show us how we can serve the sick and sorrowful.

In Christ, you showed yourself to be a servant God. You were a messenger of truth and hope, preaching to all who needed good news, and by your spirit you founded the Church so the gospel might be passed on for all time. Lord, show us how we can serve those who seek after truth and meaning.

In Christ you showed yourself as servant God even to those whom respectable society rejected. You are friend to tax collectors. You touched and healed the lepers and insane and you told your followers that what they do for the least of human kind they do for you. Lord, show us how to serve those outcast by society.

In Christ you showed yourself to be a servant God. You took up the cross of suffering to show us there is no limit to your love, and you called for your followers to be ready to do the same. Lord, show us how we can give of ourselves in order to serve others and to serve you.

Lord we know in this difficult situation people are affected in many ways. Some are hungry because of a lack of income because of the current situation. Some need some hope to hold on to. To consider. Help people to become aware of your presence. To provide for those who need it. Help us to help in provision of whatever sort we can in order to help people in your name. Through Christ Jesus, our servant brother and Lord, Amen

Let us join in our next hymn

Hymn: STF 545 Be thou my vision O lord of my heart

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art.
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;

be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;
be thou my great Father, thy child let me be;
be thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

Be Thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower:
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise:
be thou mine inheritance now and always;
be thou and thou only first in my heart:
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, though heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys after victory is won;
Grant Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

“Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls; for my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Go out into the world knowing that Jesus is the answer. That he will help you. He will assist you and he will guide you.

Amen.