

Worship at home – 25th October 2020

Key Scriptures: Matthew 22:34-40

Key Themes:

³⁷ Jesus answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the greatest and the most important commandment. ³⁹ The second most important commandment is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as you love yourself.’

Call to Worship:

Come. Love the Lord your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.

Hymn: Be Thou My Vision

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, and I thy true son;
be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
be thou my whole armor, 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 the first in my heart;
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

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

Irish, ca. 8th century; trans. Mary Byrne (1880-1931) versified, Eleanor Hull (1860-1935)

Prayers:

Let us thank God for each other as we share in worship, as we come to pray and praise. Let us thank God for the witness of Jesus and the gift of the Holy Spirit to inspire and move us.

We bring ourselves to a moment of quiet, to a place of peace, to this place of safety and welcome. We bring ourselves to cast off the cares of the world and for a time to reflect on you, Lord God, that our batteries may be recharged, our direction be refocused and our energy renewed; that we may let go of things that hamper us and be free to care gently for those we share time with. O God, we pray, renew us that we may renew others.

Amen

Prayer of Confession:

Holy Spirit of God,

May our confessions and grief for what we have done wrong, or what we have left undone, be taken from us.

May our burdens be lifted and our inner souls released to share afresh the love we have known in you.

Holt Spirit of God,

For give us and assure us that our sins are forgiven, that our lives are renewed, that we are loved, cherished and cared for.

Amen.

Psalm 1

True Happiness

1 Happy are those

who reject the advice of evil people,
who do not follow the example of sinners
or join those who have no use for God.

2 Instead, they find joy in obeying the Law of the LORD,
and they study it day and night.

3 They are like trees that grow beside a stream,
that bear fruit at the right time,
and whose leaves do not dry up.

They succeed in everything they do.

4 But evil people are not like this at all;
they are like straw that the wind blows away.

5 Sinners will be condemned by God
and kept apart from God's own people.

6 The righteous are guided and protected by the LORD,
but the evil are on the way to their doom.

Reflection:

- In this psalm the writer is urging readers to strive to good people.
- Those that grow as tall as the trees.
- Those who put their roots down deep into the soil.
- Those that drink from the stream that is God's word.

- Can we be like those people?
- Are we putting our roots deeper into the soil at is God?
- Are we drinking from the steady stream that is God's word?
- Can we be witnesses to God's love and constant encouragement as we grow deep in our relationship with him?
- If we do not feel this is us, why not, and what would help you go deeper with God?

Reading: **Matthew 22:34-46**

The Great Commandment

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they came together, ³⁵ and one of them, a teacher of the Law, tried to trap him with a question. ³⁶ "Teacher," he asked, "which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

³⁷ Jesus answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the greatest and the most important commandment. ³⁹ The second most important commandment is like it: 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself.' ⁴⁰ The whole Law of Moses and the teachings of the prophets depend on these two commandments."

The Question about the Messiah

⁴¹ When some Pharisees gathered together, Jesus asked them, ⁴² "What do you think about the Messiah? Whose descendant is he?"

"He is David's descendant," they answered.

⁴³ "Why, then," Jesus asked, "did the Spirit inspire David to call him 'Lord'? David said,

⁴⁴ 'The Lord said to my Lord:

Sit here at my right side

until I put your enemies under your feet.'

⁴⁵ If, then, David called him 'Lord,' how can the Messiah be David's descendant?"

⁴⁶ No one was able to give Jesus any answer, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Reflection:

- The commands to 'love the Lord your God' and to 'love your neighbour as yourself' are central to Judaism.
- Jesus confirms this.
- Those listening to Jesus would have known exactly what that meant, but what might it mean for us today.
- Well, if we are to put God first in our lives it will inevitably have a knock on effect.
- It will mean that like the Psalmist suggests, we drink from the stream of God and put down deeper roots into him.
- Therefore, we will grow closer to him, and take on more of his nature.
- If we were to do this it will have practical consequences.
- For we cannot love God unless we love others too.
- Loving God and caring for those people and things, like our planet, go hand in hand.
- If, every time we were considering how to treat others, we stopped to ask how we would want to be treated, the outcome might be very different.
- Today is also Bible Sunday.
- I found this poem and thought I would share it:

The Bible In 50 Words

God made
Adam bit
Noah arked
Abraham split
Jacob fooled
Joseph ruled
Bush talked
Pharaoh plagued
Sea divided
Tablets guided
Promise landed
Judges led
Saul freaked
David peeked
Kingdom divided
Prophets warned
People exiled
Hope rose
Jesus born
God walked
Anger crucified
Love rose
Spirit flamed
Word spread
God remained.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession:

Caring, loving God, you would never hurt us,

But other people do.

You would never abandon us,

But other people do.

You would never neglect us,

But other people do.

But...and it is a big But, God.

There are so many people who would never hurt us,

They love us and care for us.

There are so many people who stand by us, hold our hands and cry for us.

They love us and care for us.

There are so many people who stand would never neglect us, but are gentle, strong and caring.

They love us and care for us.

Lord God, we thank you for these people.

Help us to be like them.

We pray for those we know who are sick, lonely or in need of our prayers at this time, we think particularly of:

Paul Davies – Seaton

Pam Lucus – Seaton

Brain Margates – Dalwood

Mary Long - Axminster

Mary Berry – Dalwood.

Audrey Hicks – Axminster

Gill and Geoff Nicholas - Axminster

Amen

Hymn: Father, hear the prayer we offer

Father, hear the prayer we offer:

not for ease that prayer shall be,
but for strength, that we may ever
live our lives courageously.

Not for ever in green pastures
do we ask our way to be ;
but the steep and rugged pathway
may we tread rejoicingly.

Not forever by still waters
would we idly rest and stay;
but would smite the living fountains
from the rocks along our way.

Be our strength in hours of weakness,
in our wanderings be our Guide;

through endeavour, failure, danger,
Saviour, be thou at our side.

Blessing:

We go our separate ways, Lord - perhaps with smiles or frowns; with our hopes and with fears; with answers but also questions; maybe crying and with heavy hearts; or with anxieties, or relief. We go our separate ways, Lord but we never go alone. With thankful hearts, we share the journey of life with each other and with you. Be with us as we go.