

KSAT Worship Service on Sunday – 14th June 2020.

THEME – ‘Call to Action’

Welcome to worship. Thanks to Wilf Capstick for the reflection and John and Cath Thwaites for hymns, and to all of you for sharing in worship with us. Stephen.

Call to worship

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
Worship the LORD with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs.
Know that the LORD is God. It is He who made us, and we are His;
we are His people, the sheep of His pasture.
Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise;
give thanks to Him and praise His name.
For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations. (*Psalm 100*)

Prayer

Loving Lord, Your grace draws us to your presence; Your peace unites us in your love;
Your hope inspires us to praise Your glory. May our worship be worthy of You. **Amen.**

Hymn MP 302– I want to walk with Jesus Christ

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nB9tJGdIMwQ>

I want to walk with Jesus Christ, all the days I live of this life on earth;
to give to Him complete control of body and of soul.

*Follow Him, follow Him, yield your life to Him -He has conquered death, He is King of kings;
Accept the joy which He gives to those who yield their lives to Him.*

I want to learn to speak to Him, to pray to Him, confess my sin,
To open my life and let Him in, for joy will then be mine.

I want to learn to speak of Him –my life must show that He lives in me;
My deeds, my thoughts, my words must speak all of His love for me.

I want to learn to read His word, for this is how I know the way
To live my life as pleases Him, in holiness and joy.

O Holy Spirit of the Lord, enter now into this heart of mine;
Take full control of my selfish will and make me wholly Thine!
(C. Simmonds)

Prayers

A prayer of praise and thanksgiving

Creator God, we come before You with gladness and thanksgiving.
We praise Your goodness; we praise Your faithfulness; we praise Your tenderness.
We are Yours and we worship You. We bless Your name for ever. **Amen.**

A prayer of confession

Lord, You have called us to the privilege of service, but we have failed to serve.
You have given us the blessing of peace, but we have chosen discord.
You have loved as a shepherd tends his sheep, but we have strayed from Your way.
Forgive us, and show us the path of obedience and faithfulness that Your Son trod.
In his name, we pray. **Amen.**

‘If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness’ (1 John 1v9).

Gracious God, we thank you; fill us afresh to love and serve You now and always. **Amen,**

Lord’s Prayer

Reading:

Romans 5 v 1-8

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Hymn - Heart for the Harvest <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbZhhEPW4fI>

Jesus saw the multitudes as sheep without a guide.
He was moved with compassion and said the fields are white.
The harvest is plenteous, but the labourers are few,
Lord send forth Your labourers that have a broken heart like You.

*We need a heart for the harvest, a burden for the lost.
A passion to reach the world by lifting up the cross.
Christ said the fields are white, white unto harvest.
Lord give us a heart, a heart for the harvest.*

If we could only see the world through Jesus eyes,
The lives we touch each day are those for whom Christ died.
If we could only love the way that Jesus loved.
And be the faithful servants of the Father above.

They that sow in tears shall surely come again.
They that come rejoicing bringing in the sheaves.

The fields are white, the labourers are few. The fields are white (Lord give us a heart)
The labourers are few (Lord we need your heart)

The fields are white (Lord give us a heart). The labourers are few (Lord we need your heart)
(Jonathan Hudson)

Reading

Matthew 9v35 – 10v8

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the Harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.

Jesus called His twelve disciples to Him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him. These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, proclaim this message: 'The Kingdom of Heaven has come near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

Reflection

"Well" I don't think they'd be my first choice!! So diverse, unpredictable, and many from the working classes! Yet, these were the ones He chose - that 'new kid on the bloc' Rabbi from Galilee!

Yes and what a way to call them! Busy with their father and work-mates on the seashore mending nets! Smelly!! You can say that again. Smelly, ohh no, don't go there! Then there was the tax collector, the Zealot, and the doubting twin! A motley crew!

Yet, together, they followed Jesus for those three short years and what a journey it was. People healed from all the ailments under the sun, the blind seeing again, lepers made clean, yes, and (shh) even the dead brought back to life. Oh and, dare I say it, the cages of those domineering Pharisees given a real good rattling!

Well so it was, and to the disciples who came through it all, Jesus commissioned them to tell the whole world THE GOOD NEWS of the Kingdom – *'Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore **go and make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*' (Matt 28:19-20).

Wow and wow again – bring it on!!

In today's reading from Matthew we get a glimpse of what was needed – *'Then Jesus said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field."* (v37-38) – and, let's face it, this is what God still needs today – workers in His Harvest Field – all across this hurting and broken world. Yes and this is the same world that God still loves, and gave His life for – *'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that **whoever** believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life'* (John 3 v16).

The incredible message is that He is still calling fishermen and farmers (!), as well as all who will give an ear to the Stranger from Galilee. Let's look for a moment at that Stranger as He sits at the well at Sychar, with the Samaritan woman (John 4). John spends 42 verses recounting this amazing conversation – and its incredible outcome over the space of only two days – *'Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in Him'* (v39).

The words of Jesus in John 4:35-38 reflect our Matthew reading – *'Don't you have a saying, "It's still four months until harvest"? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus the saying "One sows and another reaps" is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labour.'* These words of Jesus to His disciples are timeless and relevant for all following Jesus today. It is a calling of immediate importance and it is still as relevant to us, as it was to those 12 disciples, with all their failings and shortcomings.

Quite a number of years ago I recall one special Sunday morning. I was looking over our stock, in a leisurely way, and taking in the beauty of God's creation from the high point on our farm where I was standing. That morning, I believe, God revealed a fuller picture to me of the human harvest-fields, through the many different shapes, colours and conditions of the area across our valley. The health and beauty of many of those fields spoke to me of the good soil in the story of the sower that Jesus told, but some of the other fields on view were crying out for attention. Need I say it, this is true of many people today and they are even closer than we often realise.

I hear many saying? What can I do about it? We can follow our Lord's words to his disciples, 'Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest field.' (Matt 9v38) How often we fail to receive because we do not ask. Jesus promises, 'Ask and it **will** be given to you; seek and you **will** find; knock and the door **will** be opened to you' (Luke 11v9).

I guess we are **all** capable of seeking God in prayer and it has never been more important than in the already white fields of the harvest today! As we pray, we need to be prepared to be the answer to our own prayers – to be prepared to go out into the harvest fields ourselves!

Now in closing, we turn over to the opening verse of Matthew 10 – 'He called ... and gave them authority...' and we see that the One who calls also equips, and as the apostle Paul reminds us, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness' (2 Corinthians 12v9). Hallelujah - God's Grace is sufficient for us all and for all we are called to. God Bless.

Response – Take time to sit and listen to 'The Stranger from Galilee' – thanking God for the wonder of His love and considering your response to the last verse – 'He bids you to go and the story tell' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ztsgE4Z4yYU>

In fancy I stood by the shore, one day, of the beautiful murm'ring sea;
I saw the great crowds as they thronged the way of the Stranger of Galilee;
I saw how the man who was blind from birth, in a moment was made to see;
The lame was made whole by the matchless skill of the Stranger of Galilee.

*And I felt I could love Him forever, so gracious and tender was He!
I claimed Him that day as my Saviour, this Stranger of Galilee.*

His look of compassion, His words of love, they shall never forgotten be;
When sin-sick and helpless He saw me there, this Stranger of Galilee;
He showed me His hand and His riven side, and He whispered, "It was for thee!"
My burden fell off at the pierced feet of the Stranger from Galilee.

I heard Him speak peace to the angry waves, of that turbulent, raging sea;
And lo! at His word are the waters stilled, this Stranger of Galilee;
A peaceful, a quiet, and holy calm, now and ever abides with me;
He holdeth my life in His mighty hands, this Stranger of Galilee.

Come, ye who are driven and tempest-tossed, and His gracious salvation see;
He'll quiet life's storms with His "Peace, be still!", this Stranger of Galilee;
He bids me to go and the story tell – what He ever to you will be,
If only you let Him with you abide, this Stranger of Galilee.

*Oh, my friend, won't you love Him forever? So gracious and tender is He!
Accept Him today as your Saviour, this Stranger of Galilee.*
(Lelia Morris)

HymnMP 229 - Here I Am, Wholly Available

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIDSZptcry8>

Here I am, wholly available; as for me, I will serve the Lord

The fields are white unto harvest, but oh, the labourers are so few
So Lord, I give myself to help the reaping, to gather precious souls unto You

The time is right in the nation for works of power and authority
God's looking for a people who are willing to be counted in His glorious victory

As salt are we ready to savour? In darkness are we ready to be light?
God's seeking out a very special people to manifest His truth and His might

(Chris Bowater)

Prayers of Intercession

In Acts 4:29-31 we find the disciples praying that they might preach the Word with great boldness and that the Lord would reach out to touch people and situations.

The room where they prayed *'was shaken ... they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.'*

Lord God, we still ourselves in Your presence, humbled by Your holiness yet aware of Your power, Your grace, Your love and Your compassion.

We praise and thank You for answered prayers & continue to pray 'Thy Kingdom come!' – that we might be renewed in our faith and proclaim Your Gospel with boldness in these difficult days. We pray for those who need to know Your healing, cleansing and life-changing love; those who need to repent and turn to Christ Jesus.

Lord in Your mercy. Hear our prayer.

In this week, when we have seen the peaceful protests for equality & justice subverted by violence, let us pray for powerful, peaceful protest that will speak to our society and leaders about the fear, prejudice and injustice that many experience. In Christ Jesus, every life matters! Let us all walk & pray together that Your Kingdom will come.

Lord in Your mercy. Hear our prayer.

We pray for the many suffering across the world from Coronavirus and its effects – especially where poverty, & little or no health-care, adds to the anguish. We remember others who are ill, those waiting for treatment & those struggling with diagnoses. We pray for the bereaved; for our health & care workers especially child carers. We pray for society to be filled with compassion for the homeless, marginalised and the refugee. May we not just pray but be stirred to action.

Lord in Your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Lord, hear our prayer for ourselves, the church fellowships and our communities – praying that You will 'shake' us and the nations, filling us afresh with the Holy Spirit to boldly go into fields, where the labourers are few, but which are ready for harvest! We pray to You, Lord Jesus, to send more labourers! Father, fill us with Your love; Jesus, deepen our discipleship; Spirit empower us to share the Gospel boldly.

Lord in Your mercy. Hear our prayer. Amen

Hymn MP 178– Go forth and tell <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XNyDd9gtuk0>

Go forth and tell! O church of God, awake! God's saving news to all the nations take;
Proclaim Christ Jesus, Saviour, Lord, and King, that all the world His worthy praise may sing.

Go forth and tell! God's love embraces all; He will in grace respond to all who call:
How shall they call if they have never heard the gracious invitation of His word?

Go forth and tell men still in darkness lie; in wealth or want, in sin they live and die:
Give us, O Lord, concern of heart and mind, a love like Yours which cares for all mankind.

Go forth and tell! The doors are open wide: share God's good gifts let no one be denied;
Live out your life as Christ your Lord shall choose, your ransomed powers for His sole glory use.

Go forth and tell! O Church of God, arise! Go in the strength which Christ your Lord supplies;
Go till all nations His great name adore and serve Him, Lord and King for evermore.

(James Seddon) **Final Prayer**

Go to serve; go to love; go to bring healing; go to bring peace;
Go in the strength of the Father; go in the power of Jesus; go united by the Spirit.
Go – and know his grace. **Amen.**

The Grace

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