

Service At Home for Sunday 30 October 2022

(Prepared by Mrs Joan Gosling, Tavistock Circuit)

Great is He who's the King of Kings, and the Lord of Lords, He is wonderful.

Let us rejoice as we sing/read:

The King is among us, His Spirit is here,
Let's draw near and worship, Let songs fill the air.

He looks down upon us, Delight in His face,
Enjoying His children's love, Enthralled by our praise.

For each child is special, Accepted and loved,
A love gift from Jesus, To His Father above.

And now He is giving His gifts to us all,
For no one is worthless and each one is called.

The Spirit's anointing on all flesh comes down,
And we shall be channels for works of His own.

We come now believing Your promise of power,
For we are your people and this is the hour.

The King is among us, His Spirit is here,
Let's draw near and worship, let songs fill the air.

Let us pray together.

Loving Heavenly Father we join together to worship and praise you for the gift of life you have given us through Jesus Christ your precious Son, what an amazing gift, knowing that you would watch him die as a sacrifice for our sins. Thank you is never enough to express our heartfelt thanks, may we always remember the extent of your love for each one of us.

Please forgive the way our lives do not always portray our relationship with you as it should, offending you and others, and jog us into action to repent and rejoice in your forgiveness and grace, In Jesus name, **Amen**.

Please share with me in the Lord's Prayer.

Hymn

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;
Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me
Underneath me, all around me, is the current of Thy love;
Leading onward, leading homeward to my glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Spread His praise from shore to shore,
How He loveth, ever loveth, changeth never, nevermore;
How He watches o'er His loved ones, died to call them all His own;
How for them He intercedeth, watches over from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Love of every love the best:
'tis an ocean vast of blessings, 'tis a haven sweet of rest.
O the deep, deep love of Jesus! 'tis a heaven of heavens to me;
And it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to Thee.

Samuel Trevor Francis (1834-1925)

Our Readings: Luke 18: 35-43 & Luke 19: 1-10

Reflection: Come and See

I have incorporated these two passages as we see that there are two men with a longing to see. Firstly a blind beggar longing to see the world around him, and Zacchaeus who longs to see Jesus. We can also see Jesus always reaching out to people in need, as He journeys from place to place, always to seek and save the lost.

We see two lives transformed through an encounter with our Saviour.

The blind man is not named but could be Bartimaeus we see in Mark 10: 46-52. Life must have been really tough for him begging daily on the streets, hoping to receive enough to feed himself each day.

People so often despised or ridiculed him, all too often blaming sin from birth to beggars and people with debilitating conditions, when all they needed was loving support and understanding to cope with their lives day by day.

What a blessing that Jesus was approaching and entering Jericho that day.

The beggar could hear the crowds and the excitement buzzing around him and asked what was happening. "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by" came the reply.

He called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" even though the crowds tried to quieten him he continued to shout, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

How he longed to see.

Thankfully Jesus heard the cry of his heart and asked him what he wanted Jesus to do for him.

"Lord, I want to see." You can almost hear that heartfelt cry, just as Jesus did.

His faith in Jesus granted him his request. Set free to walk in the light of each new day.

What a Light he encountered, Jesus Christ the Light of the World, physically and inwardly he could see Jesus.

He certainly received far more than he expected, his life was transformed, a new beginning, following Jesus. Even the crowds rejoiced with him in praising God.

Jesus certainly came to open the eyes of the blind and to set captives free.

Now to Zacchaeus, a man wanting to see Jesus, not because he felt a need of him, but because of his shortness of stature. The crowds were heads above him, blocking his view as Jesus was entering Jericho. The only way to see was to climb the tree and be above them all.

Not that he was expecting to get the attention of Jesus.

How wonderful that Jesus sees our need before we are even aware of it. This day's encounter would change Zacchaeus's life.

Jesus even knew his name. Just as he knows ours.

Jesus looks up and says: "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your home today."

Wow what an awesome request. We see that Zacchaeus came down and welcomed Jesus gladly. So different from how others would greet him, just like today, tax collectors are usually very unpopular.

He may have been thinking if Jesus knew his name, He must surely know his lifestyle, not one he is proud of as he comes face to face with Jesus.

As a Tax Collector, he had not served his clients as honestly as he should. He knew this was the time to correct his ways and recompense all those he had cheated over the years, as someone I heard say once, 'Zacchaeus was outwardly rich but inwardly bankrupt.'

What a changed man he became because he came to see Jesus his life was transformed. Truly sorry for his past, he went beyond to recompense all those he had cheated, forgiven and saved through God's amazing grace.

Come and see, come and meet with the One who truly can give us the greatest gift ever known. Love beyond measure and life everlasting in and through the name of Jesus, who knows that

whatever our need, whatever we have done, nothing is too big or too small for the touch of our Lord's saving grace to transform our lives. Repent and believe in the One who came to seek and to save us all from our sin and set us free to live in a truly loving relationship with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us pray together for ourselves and others.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.

Loving heavenly Father we come before you now praying for a fresh touch of your Holy Spirit to draw us closer to you and to receive the corrections necessary to keep us in line with your teaching. Allowing the Truth of your Word to resonate deep within our hearts, to experience the freedom, joy, and peace it brings.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God save our gracious King. Lord Jesus, we pray that King Charles will find joy, strength and guidance in you as he serves our country, trusting in you to lead him forward. Please bless his marriage with Camilla, his Queen Consort.

Please comfort all the Royal family as they grieve the loss of their dear mother, our precious Queen Elizabeth 11, who lived and reigned in your guiding Light.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for all who have recently lost loved ones, for those in ill-health, may they each know the touch of your healing power, finding comfort and strength for each new day.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

At this time of the year when most of the harvest is safely gathered in, we ask your blessing on the farming and horticultural community who spend long hours to make a living and provide food for our tables, please Lord, be with those who are finding life tough, strengthen and encourage them in their daily need, reminding them that each one is special accepted and loved.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

As we move into our new Methodist year we ask your blessing and anointing on our Ministers, welcoming Rev. Chris Brown and his wife Alison and family in our midst and for all who have taken on new posts. may the joy of the Lord be their strength.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We offer all these prayers in Jesus' name, **Amen.**

Hymn

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! Still some in darkness lie:

In wealth of want, in sin they live and die.

Give us, Oh 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 with people long denied.
Live out your life as Christ, your Lord, shall choose,
Your ransomed powers for His sole glory use.
J.E. Seddon (1915-83)

To Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy---to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! **Amen.**