

Tavistock Circuit 'At Home Service' 22nd January, 2023 – Prepared by Christine Jeffery.

Welcome in the Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Theme:- The early Ministry of Jesus

Hymn 673 StF:-

1. Will you come and follow Me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let My love be shown, will you let My Name be known,
Will you let My life be grown in you and you in Me?
2. Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let Me answer prayer in you and you in Me?
3. Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean in you and you in Me?
4. Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
Through My sight and touch and sound in you and you in Me?
5. Lord, Your summons echoes true when You but call My Name.
Let me turn and follow You and never be the same.
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in You and You in me.

Let us pray together – prayer of thanksgiving and confession:-

We want to thank You Father again and again for always being available through Your Holy Spirit to answer our every prayer, we couldn't manage without Your love and presence to carry us through every situation we meet in life. We are sorry for those times when perhaps we don't always live up to what we profess to be. Please forgive us and help us at this beginning of New Year to continue to serve You well. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer – in a modern version – Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your Name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil, for the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours, now and for ever. Amen

Reading:- Matthew 4 vs.12-25 – keep your Bibles with you

Reflection on the theme – The early Ministry of Jesus

Matthew 4 vs.12-17 (read these verses) – Jesus begins to preach – His message was for all – 'Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near'. This message is as powerful today as it was when Jesus first spoke it. We should all share it with others we know and live by it with God's help.

Matthew 4 vs.18-22 (read these verses) – Jesus calling His first disciples – This passage tells us that those He called immediately left the boat and their father and followed Jesus – what devotion to Jesus and His calling.

Matthew 4 vs.23-25 (read these verses) – Jesus starting His healing ministry for the sick. In verse 25 we read that large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed Him,. None of us are too young, or too old to make the decision to follow Jesus. Many Christian people will and can help us to learn more of Jesus. If YOU haven't yet made that decision, speak to someone who knows Jesus and can help you as soon as you can.

God bless you all. Amen.

Hymn 674 StF:-

1. Would I have answered when You called, 'Come follow, follow me'?
Would I at once have left behind both work and family?
Or would the old, familiar round have held me by its claim
And kept the spark within my heart from bursting into flame?

2. Would I have followed where You led through ancient Galilee,
On roads unknown, by ways untried, beyond security?
Or would I soon have hurried back where home and comfort drew,
Where truth You taught would not disturb the ordered world I knew?

3. Would I have matched my step with Yours when crowds cried, 'Crucify!',
When on a rocky hill I saw a cross against the sky?
Or would I too have slipped away and left You there alone,
A dying King with crown of thorns upon a terrible throne?

4. O Christ, I cannot search my heart through all its tangled ways,
Nor can I with a certain mind my steadfastness appraise.
I only pray that when You call, 'Come follow, follow Me!',
You'll give me strength beyond my own to follow faithfully.

Prayers of Intercession:-

Father, we thank You that whenever we need to pray, You are always available through Your Holy Spirit to listen to our need of help.

We cannot imagine what it was like for Your first disciples to leave everything and just follow You, but we know that You were guiding them every step of the way and we thank You today, at this moment, whenever we ask You for guidance for the next move in our lives, You are always there.

We are still going through difficult times, as we continue to pray for Your help for all people involved in the war in Ukraine and pray Lord that it will end soon.

We need Your help Lord in the NHS, which seems to be on a knife edge because of covid, flu and other illnesses. We pray for Your help and guidance for everyone involved in the work of the NHS. Please Father may Your healing hands be still known to have their ancient power to heal, to comfort and to bless according to the need.

Father, we also ask for Your help and guidance on all people having to leave their country because of threats and war.

We lift to You too Father, all those people who are dealing with transport strikes and finding going to work and other routines so difficult to manage.

We think of those who are trying to cope with rises in the cost of living and having to make decisions which necessities to go without.

We pray too for all those who are experiencing stress in many areas in their lives.

Thank You Father for all those people who help to alleviate the many problems and day to day needs for their input of time and gifts of money. Please show us Father what we can do to help and give us the strength to do this.

We ask these prayers in Your Name. Amen.

Hymn 676 StF:-

1. Christ, from whom all blessings flow,
perfecting the saints below,
hear us, who Thy nature share,
who Thy mystic body are.

2. Join us, in one spirit join,
let us still receive of Thine:
still for more on Thee we call,
Thou who fillest all in all.

3. Closer knit to Thee, our Head,
nourished, Lord, by Thee, and fed,
let us daily growth receive,
more in Jesus Christ believe.

4. Never from Thy service move,
needful to each other prove,
use the grace on each bestowed,
tempered by the art of God.

5. Love, like death, has all destroyed,
rendered all distinctions void:
names, and sects, and parties fall:
Thou, O Christ, art all in all.

Blessing:- Father we ask for Your continual love and guidance as we go forward one day at a time, remembering that You will never leave us or forsake us. Thank You Father. Amen.