



Dore Methodist Church

Weekly Update

25th June 2021.



Pause for thought and prayer – A shower of blessings.



Ezekiel 34:26-27

After a dry spell of weather, we have seen a few showers of rain this week, and if my dear dad was alive he would tell me “the garden needs it!” When the rain falls gently and steadily, it feeds thirsty plants and promotes healthy growth. Thinking of that concept, but relating it to faith, we read together this week these words from the book of Ezekiel: *“I will make them the region around my hill a blessing; and I will send down the showers in their season; they shall be showers of blessings The trees of the field shall yield their fruit...they shall know that I am their Lord.”*

We pray together: Lord and giver of life, your blessings fall like rain upon us and your care overshadows our lives. Bless our words and our thinking that we may speak of you, bless our eyes as we gaze upon the world and help us to see what needs to be done. Bless our ears, that we might hear the cries of the poor. May the Lord bless us and keep us and love us now and always.

Amen.

Worship.

We will meet again at church for worship next Sunday, 27th June at 10-30 a.m. Booking your seat in advance is still necessary.

For those unable to join us the Vine at Home material follows these notices.

Bible Month - Exploring together the Gospel of Mark

Bible month is a resource which helps churches each year to explore together one book of the Bible. This year the focus is on the Gospel of Mark. During the month of July Rev David Willie and Rev Gail Hunt will lead us through this Gospel in our Sunday morning worship. It is a book which is rich in theology and help us explore more deeply the context and application of these stores for our lives today.

During the month we are also encouraged to read the whole of the Gospel for ourselves, so please take time to do this in your own personal devotion time at home using the pattern below. If you would like a Bible Study booklet to aid you, these will be available at Church from July 4th (1per couple) If you are not attending Church at the moment, please contact Gail for a copy .

Week 1 - Mark 1:1 - 3:35
Week 2 - Mark 4:1 - 8: 21
Week 3 - Mark 8:22 - 10:52
Week 4 - Mark 4: 11:1 - 16:8

Some changes to our arrangements.

Due to holidays, there will be no Weekly Update produced on 9th July.
Any changes after 2nd July to seats booked for our service on Sunday 4th July or new bookings for seats at our service on Sunday 11th July should be given to Gail (telephone 236 0772) and not the Bailey's.

WEEKLY UPDATE AND BOOKINGS – Please send contributions for our Update or book your seat at worship by contacting the Baileys by Tuesday evening. (Tel 2351085 or email john.bailey23a@btinternet.com)

The Vine at Home 27th June 2021 - Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Call to worship

As we have gathered, Jesus is here.
As we have brought ourselves, the Spirit is amongst us.
As we have come to worship, God is in our midst.
Let us praise the Lord.

Amen.¹

Hymn: 57 STF – Let all the world in every corner sing;

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| <p>1 Let all the world in every corner sing:
my God and King!
The heavens are not too high,
his praise may thither fly;
the earth is not too low,
his praises there may grow.
Let all the world in every corner sing:
my God and King!</p> | <p>2 Let all the world in every corner sing:
my God and King!
The Church with psalms must shout,
no door can keep them out;
but above all, the heart
must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in every corner sing:
my God and King!</p> |
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George Herbert (1593-1633) Reproduced from
Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition, number 57

Opening Prayers

Loving God, we come to worship, desperate to receive from you through this act of worship.
With our burdens and pains we come and present ourselves, to simply touch your clothing and be changed.

Your Son made a way for those in pain and suffering, may this way be made clear for all.

¹ Call to Worship written by Tim Baker

So God, let this be a transformational day like it was for the women who clung onto your sons clothing!

In this time of worship, open our eyes to beauty, tune our ears to harmony.

The fragrance of your love permeating every moment.

The touch of your hand, the assurance of your presence guiding all we do.

Together, we want to experience you with elation the joy of your presence be here today.

So, come, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

We come with desperate hearts to receive and worship the Living and inclusive God.

Amen.²

Let us now say the Lord's Prayer

Readings: 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27 - David Mourns for Saul and Jonathan

1 After the death of Saul, when David had returned from defeating the Amalekites, David remained two days in Ziklag.

17 David intoned this lamentation over Saul and his son Jonathan. **18** (He ordered that The Song of the Bow^[a] be taught to the people of Judah; it is written in the Book of Jashar.) He said: **19** Your glory, O Israel, lies slain upon your high places! How the mighty have fallen!

20 Tell it not in Gath, proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon; or the daughters of the Philistines will rejoice, the daughters of the uncircumcised will exult.

21 You mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew or rain upon you, nor bounteous fields!^[b] For there the shield of the mighty was defiled, the shield of Saul, anointed with oil no more.

22 From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan did not turn back, nor the sword of Saul return empty.

23 Saul and Jonathan, beloved and lovely! In life and in death they were not divided; they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions.

24 O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you with crimson, in luxury, who put ornaments of gold on your apparel.

25 How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle! Jonathan lies slain upon your high places.

26 I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; greatly beloved were you to me; your love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women.

27 How the mighty have fallen, and the weapons of war perished!

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

7 Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you^[a]—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.^[b]

² Opening prayers written by Matthew Forsyth

8 I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. **9** For you know the generous act^[c] of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. **10** And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something— **11** now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. **12** For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. **13** I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between **14** your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. **15** As it is written,

“The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.”

Mark 5:21-43 – A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed

21 When Jesus had crossed again in the boat^[a] to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. **22** Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet **23** and begged him repeatedly, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.” **24** So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. **25** Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. **26** She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. **27** She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, **28** for she said, “If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.” **29** Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. **30** Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my clothes?” **31** And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, ‘Who touched me?’” **32** He looked all around to see who had done it. **33** But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. **34** He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

35 While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader’s house to say, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?” **36** But overhearing^[b] what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.” **37** He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. **38** When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. **39** When he had entered, he said to them, “Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.” **40** And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. **41** He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha cum,” which means, “Little girl, get up!” **42** And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. **43** He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Reflections on the reading

In the topsy-turvy values of the Kingdom of God, it is in giving away that we become rich, it is the poorest who go first, and it is those with the most material wealth who struggle to find their place...

We are all invited to tune into the topsy-turvy values of the Kingdom of God.

Who are we told isn't worth our time and attention and love? Who does society tell us we can ignore and overlook, but perhaps we are called to pay our attention to as they tremble? Who isn't boldly approaching us and asking for help, but is secretly nursing need and hope? Let's follow Jesus' example and give them our time and attention.

Second Corinthians gives us another way that these values might play out in our lives. This letter was to the early church - disciples figuring out their way, much like we are today. The challenge is to give, so that everything is held equally, so that there are no poor and no rich.

What does that look like for us today? How can we actually model that topsy-turvy value that means that in giving away we are made whole, that in becoming poor we become rich?

Let's pray:

God we pray that you stir us up to live by your values: Where the first are last;
Where we listen to the voiceless.

Help us to give time to those at the margins,

Remind us that it is in giving up that we are made whole.

Soften our hearts and our minds so that we might seek first your Kingdom. Amen.³

Prayers of intercession

Oh Lord, we know that you hear us when we cry out to you.

We know that each of your children is precious to you, and loved beyond measure.

Oh Lord, hear the prayers of your people

Hear us and set us free

Lord, we know that you hear the cries that must be made in silence,

Those who live in fear of an abuser,

Those who are persecuted for their faith,

Those who are lonely or isolated.

Oh Lord, hear the prayers of your people

Hear us and set us free.

Lord, we know that you hear the cries of those living in the midst of conflict

Those trying to protect their children in war-torn nations

Those whose domestic situation is marred by constant tension and fear

Those who work or live in hostile environments.

Oh Lord, hear the prayers of your people

Hear us and set us free.

Lord, we know that you hear the cries of the hungry and thirsty,

Those families who have to make the choice between heating the house and cooking a hot meal.

Those experiencing the worst effects of the climate crisis, and facing drought or crop failure.

³ Reflection written by Lucy Zwolinska

Oh Lord, hear the prayers of your people
Hear us and set us free.

Lord, we know that you hear the cries of those who spend their days putting on a brave face,
Those who hide their pain from others,
Those who feel the need to be strong for someone else.

Help us to stand alongside all who cry out for you
Not to speak for them, or to assume we understand, but to remind them they are not alone.

Help us to share a little of your love at the times when it's hard to feel your presence
In Jesus name, we pray,

Amen.⁴

Hymn: 706 STF – Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

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| <p>1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.
<i>Christ, be our light!</i>
<i>Shine in our hearts.</i>
<i>Shine through the darkness.</i>
<i>Christ, be our light!</i>
<i>Shine in your Church gathered today.</i></p> | <p>2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.</p> <p>3 Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.</p> |
| <p>4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.</p> | <p>5 Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.</p> |

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Blessing

Jesus the Christ is restoring the whole of creation,
Holding all things together.
Today, as we go from this place, we choose to play our part in that restoration.
And may the peace of God go with you, every single step of the way.

Amen.⁵

⁴ Prayers of intercession written by Emma Dobson

⁵ Additional prayers by Tim Baker

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