

Sunday 26th July 2020

Call to Worship.

God, your kingdom is... among us all in surprising places, hidden in the everyday, small but precious, above us and below us. Your kingdom is here and we gather as part of it to worship and adore you, The Kingdom of God is within us all. Found in the most surprising of places. Hidden in the everyday things of life. Small but very precious. Here and now. Let us worship God who reigns over the Kingdom. Amen.

MP 249 How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him

Verse 1 How lovely on the mountains are the feet of Him
who brings good news, good news proclaiming peace,
announcing news of happiness,
our God reigns, our God reigns!

Chorus *Our God reigns, our God reigns,
our God reigns, our God reigns!*

Verse 2 You watchmen lift your voices joyfully as one,
shout for your King, your King.

See eye to eye the Lord restoring Zion:
your God reigns, your God reigns!

Chorus *Your God reigns, your God reigns,
Your God reigns, your God reigns!*

Verse 3 Waste places of Jerusalem break forth with joy,
we are redeemed, redeemed.

The Lord has saved and comforted His people:
your God reigns, your God reigns!

Chorus *Your God reigns, your God reigns,
your God reigns, your God reigns!*

Verse 4 Ends of the earth, see the salvation of your God,
Jesus is Lord, is Lord.

Before the nations He has bared His holy arm:
Your God reigns, your God reigns!

Chorus *Your God reigns, your God reigns,
your God reigns, your God reigns!*

Prayer and Lord's prayer

Lord God, as we gather in your house, we thank you for your presence, here with us.

Thank you, Lord, that each one of us is unique, yet we share a common bond in you.

We come together as one body, but we all learn and experience things in different ways. We thank you for your amazing word that gives us so many pictures of your kingdom. Something for everyone, something to feed our hearts and minds. Be with us, Lord, and bless us richly as we call upon your name. O God, mere words cannot convey what a privilege it is to be heirs to your kingdom. As we explore your word today, help us to learn about new treasures as well as old. May we see the amazing things you can do in our lives. We are part of your kingdom, and we come to you in awe and wonder. Lord God, sometimes I feel so set in my ways. I'm not always ready to give something up to

gain the thing of value that you promise. I want to keep my treasures locked up in a storeroom, safe from prying eyes. Sometimes I just expect things on a plate. I'm not always ready to work for something that you call me to do. Sometimes I take my eyes off you and feel so lost. Bring me back, please, Lord. Forgive me, Lord, as I open my heart to you. Marvellous and mighty Lord, we are forever grateful for all the good gifts you give us, for eyes to see, for ears to hear, for a brain to understand and a heart to love. We praise you, Lord. Amen.

MP 454 Majesty, worship his majesty

Verse 1 Majesty, worship His majesty;
unto Jesus, be glory, honour and praise.
Majesty, kingdom authority flows from His throne
unto His own, His anthem raise.
So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus,
magnify, come glorify, Christ Jesus the King.
Majesty, worship His majesty,
Jesus who died, now glorified,
King of all kings.

Verse 2 Majesty, worship His majesty;
unto Jesus, be glory, honour and praise.
Majesty, kingdom authority flows from His throne,
unto His own, His anthem raise.

Chorus So exalt, lift up on high the Name of Jesus Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus the King Majesty, worship His majesty. Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all kings.

All age worship.

I want you to imagine that when you came into church this morning, you were asked to leave your personal belongings at the back of the church. Are you worried? Do you feel anxious? Do you feel that you are at a loss without them? My concern is, did I remember to switch my mobile phone off? Just so that I did not disturb anyone throughout the service. I know when I am out and about I really like to have my phone with me, as do most young people, not that I am saying I am young not at all. But I do feel something is not right if I don't have it with me. Quite silly really because we never used to carry a phone around. And never ever felt that something was missing. What does this worry about a phone say about me? Is it just a possession or is it more than that? Something else to think about. Just imagine that you have been told to leave your homes overnight due to an emergency. You can take only four personal items with you. What would you choose to take? What would you think was so precious that you could not possibly leave it in the house? Worth thinking about I will make this your homework to follow up on later. I will not ask questions but please think about it. Today we reflect on where our treasure is – do we put our faith in earthly things or in things that are eternal?

Let's pray. O God, you are the seed planter, fish netter, bread baker and pearl hunter. Make us into living parables, that we may become stewards of the world you have entrusted to our care. Thank you Lord, for giving us so many wonderful gifts and for calling us to share in your kingdom. Make us faithful stewards of what we have, giving to others a share in what you have given to us. .

MP 32 An army of ordinary people

1 An army of ordinary people, a kingdom where love is the key
a city, a light to the nations, heirs to the promise are we.
A people whose life is in Jesus, a nation together we stand;

only through grace are we worthy inheritors of the land.

*A new day is dawning, a new age to come,
when the children of promise shall flow together as one:
a truth long neglected, but the time has now come,
when the children of promise shall flow together as one.*

Readings [1 Kings 3:5-12](#)

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you." ⁶Solomon answered, "You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day. ⁷"Now, LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. ⁸Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. ⁹So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?" ¹⁰The LORD was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. ¹¹So God said to him, "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, ¹²I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be.

Prayers of intercession.

Loving God, you have come among us this day. Reign in us, and mould us, forgive us and heal us, bless us and enlighten us, that we may be renewed by your grace now and always. We pray for all Christian people that they may hold their faith dear and continue to love according to the Gospel. We pray for all people, everywhere, that they may open their hearts and mind to the good news of the Gospel. We pray for the leaders of the nations as they work for progress and prosperity, that they may not lose sight of the poor and their needs. We pray for the sick and for those in need that in their suffering they might find care and compassion from those around them. Loving God, we thank you that in your Son Jesus we have found the treasure which makes our life worthwhile. Keep us in your love and care, now and always, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven. Amen.

MP987 Here is love, vast as the ocean

Verse 1 Here is love, vast as the ocean, loving-kindness as the flood,
when the Prince of life, our ransom, shed for us His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember; who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten throughout heaven's eternal days.

2 On the mount of crucifixion fountains opened deep and wide;
through the floodgates of God's mercy flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love, like mighty rivers, poured incessant from above;
and heaven's peace and perfect justice kissed a guilty world in love.

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

³¹He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.' ³³He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three

measures of flour until all of it was leavened.' 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' ⁵²And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

Sermon

A minister died and was waiting in line at the Pearly Gates. Ahead of him was a guy who was dressed in sunglasses, a fancy bright shirt, leather jacket, and jeans. Saint Peter addressed this guy, "Who are you, so that I know whether or not to admit you to the kingdom of heaven?" The guy replied, "I'm Joe Wilson, taxi driver in Edinburgh." Saint Peter consulted his list. He smiled and said to the taxi driver, "Take this silk robe and gold staff and enter the kingdom of heaven." The taxi driver went into heaven with his silk robe and his gold staff, now it was the minister's turn. He stood tall and shouted, "I am James Young Minister of Saint John's for the last 43 years." Saint Peter consulted his list. He said to the minister, "Take this cotton robe and wooden staff and enter the kingdom of heaven."

"Just a minute," said the minister. "That man was a taxi driver and *he* gets a *silk* robe and *gold* staff. I get cotton and wood? How can that be?" "Up here, we work by results," said Saint Peter. "While you preached, people slept; while he drove, people prayed."

Please stay awake for the next few minutes! In the last few weeks we have been listening to the parables in Mathews gospel depending on how well you have listened is how much these parables can make a change in your hearts, they tell us about the Kingdom of God and how we should live our lives as the children of God. In Matthew's gospel, there is great importance set on hearing the Word of the Lord. When we listen to the parables we need to pay attention and let the words penetrate into our very being where they will prod us into doing the right thing which in turn will be seen by others and they will see us as we ought to be seen living the Christian life. They are as important today as they were 2000 years ago. we need to remember that Jesus is with us at all times, in a true and living faith. The parables we read today are all shortish and in twos. As both the mustard seed and the dough start off small they grow quite large. Very like what the kingdom would be like. Very humble to begin with but growing all the time with the immeasurable Love of God. And the life of the Messiah certainly started very humbly, but what an impact when it was finally realised who the baby Jesus had become. As with the found treasure. Not a lot of detail except that when it was found it delivered great joy to the finders and knowing it was worth the hard work previously done to have the reward of the treasure. Similarly with the finding of the perfect pearl, so cunningly held in the depths of the sea, but if the work of the diver is thorough, then the reward is tremendous and so precious is the worth of that pearl or more to the point the Recognition of the true worth being the kingdom of heaven. The last two parables tell us of the angels who will separate the righteous from the evil, throwing the evil into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. We today do not like to talk of God's judgement in case we frighten someone off the church life. But we still know that the weeds have to be weeded out. It's a part of living. And Jesus told the truth when necessary. But he also gave more insight into the life of joy, and plenty, and treasures in heaven if you only but listened. The disciples were asked do you understand? Do we understand what is required of us? We must be like the mustard seed and grow and enfold each one of us in the love of Jesus Christ and whoever has ears to hear let us be the ones to spread God's love so they may also find the hidden treasures of the Kingdom of Heaven. Amen

MP 379 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun

1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun doth his successive journeys run;
His Kingdom stretch from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.

2 To Him shall endless prayer be made, and princes throng to crown His head;
His name, like sweet perfume, shall rise with every morning sacrifice.

3 People and realms of every tongue dwell on His love with sweetest song;
and infant voices shall proclaim their early blessings on His name.

4 Blessings abound where'er He reigns; the prisoner leaps to lose his chains,
the weary find eternal rest, and all the sons of want are blest.

5 Let every creature rise and bring the highest honours to our King;
angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud 'Amen'.

Benediction

May the joy of the kingdom go with you. May the peace of the kingdom sustain you, and may you know the king of the kingdom, Jesus Christ, to be your friend and Saviour as you journey through this week. Amen.