

Sunday Service 18th July 2021

Welcome Call to worship

God calls us from all around to worship. Whether rich or poor young or old. We are all invited. God calls all types of family, whether it be one or two or whatever number in our families we are all invited to worship with each other, each of us bringing our weaknesses and our strengths we come to worship together all of us invited by God, calling us to worship with him in our hearts. Amen

MP 660 The Lord's my shepherd. ("Brother James Air"). Found in CH4 16 Last two lines of every verse repeated.

Prayer and Lord's prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before you – in amazement at the beauty of your handiwork which surrounds us daily and the different colours which change in their given seasons. We see thousands of different flowers, trees, birds, animals. One or two of each kind would be wonderful but You Father have gone above and beyond and we delight in the bounty of your creation. Help us to see the worth of what we are surrounded by, not in monetary terms but in the goodness of your grace given to us so freely. Prompt us to look after all we have been given and to remind others of what is around them is to be looked after.

Loving God as we look back in time it is easy to forget how hard it was for Jesus to do his work here on Earth, yet you made it possible for him to pass to the disciples what they would have to do to continue Jesus's work so that we now know what we have to do in our lives. Paul tells us of the people of Ephesus who brought together two separate factions enabling them to come together as one people living in peace with one another. We ask forgiveness for any divisions we have caused and any wrongs we have done to others. Living Lord we thank you that you give us eyes and ears to see and hear the needs of our community around us, be with us as we live out in our daily lives the tasks involved, helping in any way we can. But also portraying the love in our hearts to do your work. we give you all the praise and glory. Amen

Lord's Prayer Our Father

MP 32 An army of ordinary people

Readings, OT. Psalm 23. NT. Ephesians, CH2 verses 11 – 22

Sermon

Martin Luther's speech was given on the 28th August 1963 on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington. What was the meaning of I have a dream? I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal." 1963 all these years ago and the country is still having problems with cultural differences. When I first was looking at this the words came into my head. I have a dream. Took me to check it up on google where I got them from. They came firstly from the speech and secondly, the much lesser, was from the Abba song. But back to Martin Luther. It would certainly be great to live in a world without racism and where terrorism is no longer around. And where the rest of our world lives in peace, no conflict within the Middle East. It would be super to open a newspaper or switch on the television and have no murders or theft or just anything that divides us in anyway, being reported. The coverage would be very short these days. And that is just in the adult population. There is so much affecting the children now, bullies at school, and broken relationships it can be quite a hard world they live in. Can we just dream that someday it will all be right and our dreams could come true. Has God failed in his plan to unite each of us to himself and to one another. Unfortunately; there are less and less people coming to church or even just believing in God. Paul prayed that the Ephesian Christians would know that power. God's power breaks those barriers of separation in death through our faith, we know we will join together again. And it's with that in mind that Paul starts v11 with the word,

'therefore'. Here's the reason, God has adopted us to be his family and it is through Jesus' death that it has been made possible for the church to be built up. We are all different but here in our congregational family we are united with each other and with God. But we are also united to everything and everybody around us. We are the church body of Christ. We have our differences but we always come together in peace as all we do is done through the peace of Christ in our hearts. Paul was addressing the Gentiles in the churches to whom he was writing. 'Gentiles' was a term to describe everyone who was not a Jew. Gentiles. It was meant to remind the Gentiles that the Jews were God's chosen people, not them. God is the source of light, life and love. He's the creator and sustainer of the universe. He is the Father who gives every spiritual blessing in Christ. Well when Paul says 'far away' in v13, they weren't just a few miles away; they were nowhere near to God. We can all be far away but we remember that it is through Jesus who bore the cross to take away all our sins that we can be reconciled and able to call God Our Father in the old testament Jews and Gentiles were separated the Jews would have nothing to do with the Gentiles in any shape or form but through Jesus they were brought together the barriers were broken down. The barrier was the law but Jesus removed that barrier. They are still Jew or Gentile but have been reconciled to live as a community together. That's why Paul could write in Galatians 3:28, 'There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus'. Peace can abound within the community Jesus preached to all not one side but to all as one. Paul is showing how God has brought about the unity. Jesus' death binds us together. All God's adopted children. The basis of our church today is built on the word of God from the Old testament looking for Christ to come, and from the New testament apostles looked back to Christ –therefore we have the sound basis of our church today. We are built on the solid rock of Christs teaching. We live in Christ through the Holy Spirit sent for us which was promised for us and through the Holy Spirit as God lives in us his plan he had for all of us is not a dream but a reality we can be reconciled to each other and have the peace of God in our hearts.

The second, I have a dream, I looked up was an Abbas song and some of the words just resonated with me. I will not sing it to you and I have shortened it but I Have a Dream, a song to sing to help me cope, with anything If you see the wonder, of a fairy tale. You can take the future, even if you fail I believe in angels. Something good in everything I see I believe in angels to help me through, reality and my destination, makes it worth the while 'pushing' through the darkness, still another mile When I know the time is right for me I'll cross the stream. The words can be changed from a dream to belief we can believe that God is with us we do not need to separate from each other or from God we just need to keep praying and continue to be the church. Which means a faithful commitment to our Christian family and a faithful obedience to our heavenly Father. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Gracious God let us take time out in our busy lives and pray for the world which is so, so, busy around us. We have so many irons in the fire that we forget to just stop and take a moment to put into perspective all the problems we see daily in the media. Lord help us to be like Jesus and stop and rest so that when we are rested we can go on to reach out to help others in their time of need. The world's needs are sometimes too much that we feel we cannot help but with you walking alongside us we may see the way forward to help in some small way to assist just like a pebble thrown into a pool small ripples yet wide reaching. May we use what skills we have to be on the side of justice and equality to bring a peace where people are suffering war. Assist us to speak out to politicians to act in the way that will change the wrongs being done. We pray for those who need our care, the lonely, people in distress, all who are unwell either at home or in hospital, we pray also for people waiting on results and are anxious, and the bereaved.

We will take a few moments and name those known to us in our hearts.

Lord teach us to help all who we can in these times. And being inspired by what you did let us live our lives giving and loving each other. Amen

MP 73. Christ is made the sure foundation**Benediction**

We leave this place as members of God's family, brothers and sisters through the blood of Jesus Christ. Together, we are being built into one church, one faith, one love, where God lives in us by the Spirit. So go out with joy and confidence to love and serve the world, may the grace, mercy and peace from God the father, spirit and son guide us this and every day. Amen