

## Morning Praise @ Home 13<sup>th</sup> February 2022

### Opening prayer

Blessed are you, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have blessed us with every spiritual blessing; enable us by your power to be true to our calling and live holy and blameless lives before you all our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen**

**Confession** Let us admit to God the sin which always confronts us.

**Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen** *cf Psalm 51*

**Absolution** May the Father of all mercies cleanse *us* from *our* sins, and restore *us* in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Bible Readings

**Jeremiah 17: 5 – 10**

**Luke 6: 17 – 26**

### Reflection from Ruth

This morning we hear Jesus say:

Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

Who would want to be poor or hungry or broken hearted?

The people Jesus was speaking to were poor, they were often hungry and they were frequently broken hearted.

They were occupied by a hostile Roman army, they grew their own crops, so if they failed they went hungry, and their children often died.

There are other types of poverty and hunger, spiritual poverty and hunger.

The first time I went to Africa I understood what it was to be poor but feel blessed.

People had nothing, yet were filled with the joy of the Lord.

The Kingdom of God is where there is justice, and no more suffering.

We are promised:

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.

The kingdom of God is not in heaven, it's here on earth.

Whenever people act selflessly, generously, lovingly, that's bringing the Kingdom.

If you are poor or hungry or weeping, know that you are so loved by God, especially blessed.

And for those of us who aren't any of these things, let's be the ones who help to bring the Kingdom of God to earth. **Amen**

### Affirmation of faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world? **We believe and trust in him. This is the faith of the Church.**

**This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

### **Prayers of intercession led by John**

Holy God, help us to hold high the standard of your teaching, even when it is hard to apply it to our modern way of life. May we strive to never lower your standards, or to change what you teach, but to pray diligently for a realistic understanding of what you want for us in every aspect of our lives.

#### **Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer**

Gracious God, we pray for your blessing to be upon this congregation, upon this church and upon our Diocese; and for your presence to be seen vividly in what we do and say each day.

We pray that your joy and your love will flow freely in and through us and that we might never be seen by those around us as falling short of the teachings of Jesus Christ our Lord.

We continue to pray for your loving direction and inspiration to all those who are working to find our new vicar. May the right person hear your voice and be guided to respond to the call.

#### **Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer**

Creator God, drive away despair from our politics, revive our dreams of justice and truth, and restore our passion for what is good and right.

Establish your just and gentle rule throughout the world especially where there is conflict; where peace seems so far away and so many have lost everything, even the faint hope of a peaceful future.

#### **Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer**

Father God, we pray for our Church communities, that each of us will make use of our individual talents enabling each church group to flourish as a witness to the "One Body" of the church.

As we approach the time of our Church's APCM, stir up the desire in all of us to serve where appropriate and to attend these important gatherings in order that your gospel may be effectively taken out into every part of our Parishes and beyond.

#### **Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer**

Loving God, we ask for your healing touch on all who are ill or suffering.

We especially pray for any we know who are experiencing emotional pain or are broken in spirit through personal or family problems.

#### **Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer**

Almighty God, give courage and faith to those who are bereaved, that by casting their cares on you they may find the strength to face the days ahead.

#### **Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer**

Eternal God, send us out into the world, renewed by our worship and strengthened by our fellowship, so that we may be a testament to the Gospel of your Son Jesus Christ and determined to bring healing and reconciliation to our wounded world.

**Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**

**The Lord's Prayer** As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

***Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen***

### **Closing prayer**

God give you grace to become the people He has called you to be,  
that you may live and work to his praise and glory,  
and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
be with us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen**