

# Morning Service 6<sup>th</sup> September 11am Cudham Churchyard

*Please say the words in **bold***

*Welcome...Please take the notice sheet and order of service home with you....Today we think about the challenge of Jesus to follow him even if it means a change of direction.*

## The Greeting

Do you have a desire, a deep desire  
to worship and to know the Lord God,  
and to understand the values of the kingdom?  
Come, then, and worship – for Jesus says,  
where two or three are gathered in my name,  
I am there among them.

This is the day that the Lord has made.

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

This is the world that the Lord has made.

**Let us receive it with thanks, and respect it with care.**

## Opening Prayer

Lord God, you lovingly spoke all creation into existence  
And shaped each one of us within our mother's womb;

**As we gather outside to worship you today,**

**Fill our hearts with wonder and our mouths with praise**

**At the wildly wonderful world you have made.**

**In the name of Jesus, by whom and for whom all things were created.**

**Amen.**

**Opening Song – please remain seated and join in quietly!**

**FOR I'M BUILDING A PEOPLE OF POWER,**

And I'm making a people of praise  
That will move through this land by My Spirit,  
And will glorify My precious name.

Build Your church, Lord,  
Make us strong, Lord,  
Join our hearts, Lord, through Your Son.  
Make us one, Lord,  
In Your Body,  
In the kingdom of Your Son.

***We now spend time reflecting on our need to say sorry and to hear God forgive us.***

On the 6<sup>th</sup> day of creation God brought humankind into being – both male and female –  
Created in the image of God to look after the whole of creation,  
Filled with the breath of God's creative Spirit.

*(pause to listen to your own breathing)*

God saw everything that he had made.  
**And indeed, it was very good.**

But sin came into the world through humankind's disobedience, and we acknowledge our part of that in silence now.

Sometimes, Lord, I know I don't listen properly to you.  
I'm easily distracted.  
Or I listen, but still go my own way, putting myself first.  
**Forgiven by you, I can start anew.**

Sometimes, Lord, I don't trust you to meet my needs,  
to take care of me, to feed me with food both physical and spiritual.  
**Forgiven by you, I can start anew.**

Sometimes, Lord,  
I'm anything but prepared for my journey with you.  
**Forgiven by you, I can start anew.**

Sometimes, Lord, I look for my own ways out of a situation,  
instead of seeking and trusting you.  
**Forgiven by you, I can start anew. Amen.**

May the God of love  
bring us back to himself,  
forgive us our sins,  
and assure us of his eternal love  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **Bible Reading Matthew 18:15-20**

### **Talk**

I shouldn't be here right now. If you remember, last year during my sabbatical Helen and I began our pilgrimage walk from Cluny to Le Puy, and this September we were going to resume from Le Puy on the route to Compostella. That's not a good idea right now, as I'm sure you'll agree. During our recent holiday, we did revisit one part of last year's route we didn't quite walk fully, due to blisters and bad footwear. One day, just before Charlieu our pace had dropped to almost nothing, it was wet and horrible, and just after lunch we came across a shop. In the middle of nowhere, a really run-down ramshackle place, with what looked like second-hand shoes outside. Best thing seemed to be to walk quickly past, well as quick as we could. But just as we passed the shopkeeper came out, asked where we were going, and then advised to take the road, rather than up the hill we'd intended to, as due to recent bad weather it was slippery and dangerous. Should we take her advice or not? We did, and saved ourselves a lot of time and effort. How good are you at taking advice, being corrected, challenged, rebuked? If you're like me, probably not very well. And that's why today's reading is

a challenge. Why did Matthew the gospel writer include it? Because we need to hear it, I guess. As we resume church worship, we also recommit ourselves to what it means to be church – a family, a fellowship, not a club or individuals.

Three things to note

V15 – If a brother or sister sins against you, sort it out.

Look around you – we are brothers and sisters in Christ, not just individuals. Christ loves the person next to you just as he loves you. So take time to build relationships even when people do you wrong. Or maybe that should be especially if they do you wrong. Don't ignore it, or leave things as they are.

V16-17 – Tell it to the church. Now, let's be clear. As Jesus spoke these words there was no church as we understand it. What's going on here is the simple fact that to let things fester and grow can damage the fellowship we enjoy. And it's also true that sometimes we need others to help us see the truth of a situation. We might have got it wrong, and having others involved helps us see the wood for the trees.

V20 Where two or three come together in my name, there I am. Often people use this verse in relation to prayer, especially when only one other person turns up to a prayer meeting. Here we can see that's it's about agreement and harmony-this is where Christ lives – Jesus prayer to his Father in John 17 sees him asking that we as his people are one, just as Jesus and his father are one – why? So that the world might believe.

There are so many things in our present situation that make communication difficult. Not being able to meet face to face easily, meetings conducted via zoom which some can't join in with, those who are hard of hearing finding listening difficult due to face coverings. Even more reason then to listen again to Jesus call that as brothers and sisters in Christ working at building relationships is key to building the kingdom.

As we begin this new 'term' pray for one another, encourage one another, and at times challenge one another. Then Jesus promises to be with us. Amen.

## Song for reflection – *please join in quietly*

**BIND US TOGETHER, Lord,  
Bind us together  
With cords that cannot be broken.  
Bind us together, Lord,  
Bind us together,  
Bind us together with love.**

**There is only one God,  
There is only one King;  
There is only one Body,  
That is why we sing:**

**Made for the glory of God,  
Purchased by His precious Son;  
Born with the right to be clean,  
For Jesus the victory has won.**

**You are the family of God,  
You are the promise divine;  
You are God's chosen desire,  
You are the glorious new wine.**

## **The Creed**

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.**

## **The prayers, concluding with:**

Jesus taught us to call God our Father, so in faith and trust we pray:

**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.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

## **Closing prayer**

Being Christian, O God, is not just about 'me and you',  
not just about our conversations and our love.

**Help us to see those we meet beyond these doors  
in the way that you see them.**

**Help us to offer support from what we know of you.**

**Send us out from here to be a shining light for you,  
a guiding light for those in confusion, aloneness and darkness.**

**Amen.**

## **Closing song – *please join in quietly***

### **JESUS, STAND AMONG US**

**At the meeting of our lives;**

**Be our sweet agreement**

**At the meeting of our eyes.**

**O Jesus, we love You, so we gather here;**

**Join our hearts in unity and take away our fear.**

**So to You we're gathering**

**Out of each and every land;**

**Christ the love between us**

**At the joining of our hands.**

**O Jesus, we love You, so we gather here;**

**Join our hearts in unity and take away our fear.**

### **Blessing**

The power of God, displayed in creation,

Fill you with grace to serve God in his world;

The peace of God, breathing in every living thing,

Enable you to spread God's peace wherever you go;

The love of God, which fills the universe,

Flow through you that you might reflect his image,

And the blessing of God almighty,

The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

Go into God's world in peace to love and serve the Lord

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Feel free to stay around with your refreshments to chat at a social distance*

*We resume worship in church next Sunday morning and Sunday Club restarts too. Full details at [pcd.org.uk](http://pcd.org.uk)*