

SUNDAY 17 OCTOBER 2021



CALL TO WORSHIP - Psalm 67 1. *May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us* 2. *so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.* 3. *May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you.*

Prayer of Approach

Sunday 17 October 2021 "Songs of Praise"

Heavenly Father, teacher of life's lessons to we All praise and glory, honour and power be to Your name, God Almighty. You are holy and majestic in Your person and in Your ways. High and lifted up, nothing escapes Your view. Jesus taught us that You even know when a sparrow falls from a tree.

You tend to the flowers of the field as if each one was irreplaceable. How much more are we, all humankind, the work of Your hands and the apple of Your eye.

Such a reminder is staggering, difficult for us to comprehend, especially when we know ourselves to be far from perfect. Yet, because of Christ, You look past our faults to our potential.

You show mercy rather than condemn us, You express interest in what we can be rather than what we have been, You grant grace upon grace.

We pray that You will speak to us clearly today as we read, sing and reflect upon each passage from the Bible. As we put fresh faith in Your plan and purpose, as we again take on trust the promises of Christ. Hear us as together we pray the words of Your Son, our Saviour: Our Father...

REFLECTION

We talk a great deal about joined things in the life of faith. Life and death. First and Last. Body and soul. Water and Spirit. Bread and wine. Salt and light. Our last Songs of Praise was about LIGHT, today is about SALT

Jesus was the one who lived, who died, He leads us through our life and death, and back into new life by his grace.

WE are the ones who have the privilege of telling his story, through both our words and our actions, and how his story is woven into our own lives.

SALT - What is the spiritual meaning of salt in the Bible?

The Bible contains numerous references to salt. In various contexts, it is used, to signify permanence, loyalty, durability, fidelity, usefulness, value, and purification. "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again"

Jesus meant that the people he was addressing - fishermen, shepherds, labourers, were all worthy.

Salt was highly prized as a preservative of food - so precious that it was used as money. Salt is still valuable today but not in the same way as in the time of Jesus. More than once Jesus spoke of salt in relationship to people—their character and influence. But when He makes this reference it's to salt losing its saltiness. But when Jesus spoke of believers as the salt of the earth He meant it as a good thing.

SALT - has three primary uses that made it valuable to flavour, preserve, and purify. Due to The Pandemic, we may have lost our saltiness!! What can we do? If you don't want to lose your saltiness, influence others for good, do what is right, true and pursue purity of heart and mind.

REDEFINING THE NATURE OF GOD'S KINGDOM - Salt loses its potency when diluted in water or mixed with impure elements. Jesus said we are to be influencers for the good of others. We can be encouragers, thoughtful, caring, and compassionate towards others. We do it with Jesus help as the next song says.

Bible Readings

Matthew 5: 13-18, 13

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

14 "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Closing Prayer

Lord, how wonderful it is for us to share the pleasure such good news brings to those directly involved. We pray for our congregation and our community.

In the silence of this space, we bring to You our own needs and those of others.

Lord, in Your love for all humankind, reach out to everyone who needs a deep touch from Your healing hand this day.

Hear and answer us according to Your mercy, Heavenly Father, glorify Your name in our midst that all may know You are the LORD and that nothing is impossible for You.

In Jesus' name, we pray. - **AMEN**

Hymn / Song

1. **Great is Thy Faithfulness**
2. **Harvest Rock and Roll**
3. **We Plough the Fields and Scatter**
4. **Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart**
5. **When I to Cross, Psalm 139**
6. **Bringing in the Sheaves**

When I to cross Psalm 139 v 4

How precious are Your thoughts to me
How countless, Lord, they are
More than the shores have grains of sand
More than the skies have stars
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AW6AQe4KL3c>

BLESSING - The Blessing of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all now and evermore. Amen