

Sunday 17th March 2024 – Lifeshapes – Semi Circle

Welcome

Call to Worship

Song – CH4 716 Come and find the quiet centre (*tune Jesus calls us here to meet him*) 3x verses

(A&M #450/CH4 510)

Bible 1 – Mark 1:12–13 [NIV]

Bible 2 – Mark 1:35–39 [NIV]

Bible 3 - Mark 6:30–32 [NIV]

Song – CH4 557 O Love that wilt not let me go 4x verses (A&M #752)

Prayer

All Age Talk

Song – CH4 493 It's me, it's me O Lord

Reflection

Offering – CH4 550 As the deer pants for the water 3x verses (SofF #27/A&M #592)

Prayer for the offering

Prayer for others and Lord's prayer

Song – CH4 512 To God be the glory, great things he has done! 3x verses (A&M #818)

Benediction

Grace

Note:

A&M: Hymn book Ancient and Modern on the hymnal

SofF: Songs of Fellowship

Bible 1

Mark 1:12-13 [NIV]

¹² At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, ¹³ and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

Bible 2

Mark 1:35-39 [NIV]

Jesus Prays in a Solitary Place

³⁵ Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. ³⁶ Simon and his companions went to look for him, ³⁷ and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" ³⁸ Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." ³⁹ So he travelled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

Bible 3

Mark 6:30-32 [NIV]

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

³⁰ The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. ³¹ Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." ³² So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place.

Prayer for others

Liberating God,
in love You have set us free:
free from slavery to sin and self,
free to know and love You,
free to follow and serve You.

We praise You for Your faithful love toward us,
and for the many ways You have demonstrated that love to us.
We see Your love in the natural world around us—
in the sky and trees and rivers.
We see Your love in the gift of Your commandments—
the rules for living that guide us into right relationship with You,
and with the people around us.
And we see Your love in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died to bring us life.

Because we have experienced Your love,
we come before You with confidence,
bringing our needs and the needs of our world.

God, in your unfailing love, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who live surrounded by violence—
whether from war or political unrest, crime or domestic abuse.
We pray for those who have been victims of violent crime,
and for those whose loved ones have been injured or murdered.
God, in your unfailing love, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who find themselves involved in crime,
whether by choice or through coercion;
those caught up in groups whose behaviour rails against authority,
those who have turned to crime to pay for their addictions,
those who are imprisoned.
God, in your unfailing love, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our homes and families:
for parents juggling the responsibilities of work and family,
for husbands and wives whose marriages are breaking down,
for children chafing under parental authority or expectations,
for men and women caught up in adultery or unfaithful thoughts.
God, in your unfailing love, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the many people in our world who do not yet know You
and have not experienced the new life that comes from knowing Christ Jesus;
who continue to search for purpose and meaning.
God, in your unfailing love, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God,
give us strength and courage to keep Your commandments,
to live in faithful obedience to Your will.
Guard our hearts and minds from all that might distract us
from living out our commitment to You.
Help us to find our true worth in knowing You more fully,
and serving You more faithfully.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Cornerstone. **Amen.**