

# Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020

## The paper-version Service

*The church is meeting on paper, online  
and on Sunday at 9.30am in the Building*



All of our services are online [www.goodshepherdfourmarks.org.uk](http://www.goodshepherdfourmarks.org.uk) but this weekly sheet captures our Sunday service for those without internet.

**To Begin:** Find a Bible. If safe, perhaps light a candle. Find a comfortable place and read prayerfully through the service. If you have access to worship music, choose a song and listen to it as you begin or read; or even sing, the modern song from this Sunday's Service set out below.



**Opening Prayer:** Father God, thank you that you are all sufficient. Help us to come openly to you, the source of love, life, and hope, ready to receive all that you want to pour into us this day. Father we receive your forgiveness, your grace, and your power to be able to move forwards in praise, worship, and loving service to you today. Equip us and your whole church to be your disciples, who ourselves make disciples of others. **Amen**

### **Song:**

Christ is my reward  
And all of my devotion  
Now there's nothing in this world  
That could ever satisfy  
Through every trial, my soul will sing  
No turning back, I've been set free

*Christ is enough for me  
Christ is enough for me  
Everything I need is in You  
Everything I need*

Christ my all in all  
The joy of my salvation  
And this hope will never fail  
Heaven is our home

Through every storm, my soul will sing  
Jesus is here, To God be the glory

*Christ is enough for me...*

I have decided to follow Jesus  
No turning back, no turning back  
I have decided to follow Jesus  
No turning back, no turning back

The cross before me,  
The world behind me  
No turning back, No turning back  
The cross before me,  
The world behind me  
No turning back, No turning back

**Read:** Luke 4:14-30.

***What are we making?*** (A summary of the talk given by Howard Wright).

We are beginning a new series and hopefully, the series card comes with this service.

Being a disciple, a follower of Jesus, is an apprenticeship. Apprentices do not so much sit and listen. They watch, but they also get involved, they copy the master craftsman and practice their own skills. The apprentices of Jesus, the first disciples followed Jesus around, learning from his every word and move and practiced these words and moves, joining in the business.

Apprentice carpenters would learn the skills of making and building with wood. How to handle wood of different types, for different purposes, using the appropriate tools.

As apprentices to Jesus we learn how to connect with the Father and share this connection with others. There are lessons in communication, relationships, life-transformation, and handling power encounters with the earthly and spiritual realms – the healing and casting out demons.

In this story of Jesus, there is much for us to learn and practice.

### **1. Start from a secure place, a secure footing.**

Jesus returns from the wilderness and its temptations; a place of sorting

priorities. Jesus' priorities are obedient, humble, and loving service to his Father – what are ours?

And Jesus is full of the Holy Spirit (:14). He quotes Isaiah's words and declares '*The Spirit of the Lord is on me...*'. Jesus' identity is as a child of God, and so is ours (See Romans 8:15-16). We must claim for ourselves what is true, neither false humility, nor arrogance, but a confidence in God's call.

And we operate in the power of God – we are power tools in the hand of God! To be proclaimers of the Kingdom of God in word and deed. To be peacemakers, joy-bringers and grace-givers.

### **2. Work begins at home and expands horizons.**

Jesus begins in Nazareth. Home is the first place to be a disciple and practice making disciples, expanding to work, or wider family, neighbours, and friends – then wider still.

The disciples were instructed so that they would be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and rest of world, and that pattern is the same for us (Acts 1:8).

We begin by practicing loving service at home, but Jesus warns us home might not be welcoming and he himself expands his horizons.

### **3. Start where the work is and use the raw materials available.**

Jesus starts in the Synagogue, that is where people have gathered, and he uses the scroll he is given.

We, also, must start where people are. This means being with people, then listening and responding in love.

We are to work with the people God has given us, looking for opportunities to copy Jesus' approach and practice demonstrating the Kingdom, with kindness, love, and power.

### **4. Remember what we are making!**

We are building a Kingdom for the King. It is not about us, though we are beneficiaries, it is not for self-advancement, but in loving service for the glory of God and blessing of all people.

We are to 'proclaim', reads Jesus. We are to make Jesus plain in our words and actions. We will need to practice how we do this. The Talking Jesus course has given us this opportunity. Similarly, my experience with Alton Town Pastors has been a skill development programme as I have honed my ability to share Jesus graciously with those who have no knowledge of him and a warped view of his church.

We are to proclaim Good news to poor. As has often been said, if it is not

good news to the poor, then it is not good news at all. Are our lives good news, are we benefitting the poor, the captives, the blind, the oppressed and helping them know Jesus?

Jesus was good news. He released Zacchaeus from his prison of wealth and deceit, he healed, lepers, the blind, and raised the dead, he forgave sins, gave dignity to women and men, to all ages, and to all races.

We need to learn from Jesus, that we too might be good news, lights in the dark and salt in places without flavour.

### **5. Our work may not be popular.**

What Jesus' hearers 'wanted', was not what Jesus offered. They were captive to pride, possessions, money, and status; they were poor in spirit – lacking in inner wholeness (peace, joy, love), and blind to their real need and hungers.

Not all responded positively to Jesus, nor will they to us.

### **6. Practicing Gentle Persistence**

Jesus persevered and we copy him as his apprentices. We are to continue to share this Good News message – speaking the truth in love. Not weirdly, but graciously and with power, confident of our status in God and practicing our essential skills of loving, proclaiming and demonstrating the Kingdom of the King.

**Prayers:** Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. (Philippians 4:6)

- Pray for this day, and the coming week
- Pray for the nations, their leaders, and peoples pray for justice, mercy, peace, and hope.
- Pray for individuals, for neighbours, for family and friends
- Pray for the Church



**Collect for 13th after Trinity:** Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity: keep us steadfast in this faith, that we may evermore be defended from all adversities; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

**The Lord's Prayer:** 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.

**Blessing to be declared over yourselves, COGS, the communities around us and our whole nation.** The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26 NIV)

**The Notices:** If you know of others who'd like to receive this, or you'd rather not receive it; or if you find yourself isolated and not able to get neighbours, friends or family to help, then ring Howard, 01420 563344.

**Church Services:** Sunday 9.30am with safety measures in place.

**APCM:** Our annual meeting will be held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October, we are hoping to meet in the building with online access. We will be electing new churchwardens, Deanery Synod and PCC members. Please be praying for those God is calling – perhaps yourself!

If you're not sure whether you're on our **Electoral Roll**, please contact Matt.



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers