

Sunday 11th October 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 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, we thank you that you reveal yourself to us as the Almighty God and Saviour. Thank you for your investment in us. Help us to invest in you with all that we are. We ask your forgiveness for our failure, for things done or left undone. We receive your grace and thank you for your mercy. Help us to walk forwards full of your Spirit and declaring your Kingdom in words and deeds to the glory of your name. **Amen**

Song:

May the words of my mouth
and the thoughts of my heart
Bless Your name,
Bless Your name, Jesus
And the deeds of the day
and the truth in my ways
Speak of You, speak of You, Jesus

Lord, will You be my vision,
Lord, will You be my guide
Be my hope,
Be my light and the way
And I'll look not for riches,
nor praises on earth
Only You'll be the first of my heart

For this is what I'm glad to do

It's time to live a life of love that pleases You

And I will give my all to You

Surrender everything I have and follow

You

I'll follow You

I will follow, I will follow

I will follow You

Read: Luke 10:1-20

Can we have a go? (A summary of the talk given by Howard Wright).

As disciples we are apprentices of Jesus. We are to learn from him how to be a disciples and disciple makers.

Today, Jesus (verse 1) gives his apprentices licence to act. They are sent out as representatives of the person of Jesus and His Kingdom to get people ready for his arrival.

This sending out on work experience has a context. So far, the disciples have learnt: That we are joining in with building a Kingdom for *the King* – the most glorious God and Saviour. We do this by being Jesus' disciples, living by his values, sharing news of his Kingdom in our words and deeds, proclaiming *the kingdom of peace and justice*; healing and hope, for all.

Jesus has some instructions for his disciples before they go, and he begins with prayer (:2)!

Jesus' model to us is that of prayer first, prayer always. He made time to be with his Father, it is how he stayed focussed and sane despite the pressures he faced.

This is God's harvest. He is the Lord, and we are powerless without him. Paul, seemingly one of the most influential and gifted men of any age, wrote that he prayed for his readers and pleading with them to pray for him that he might have God's power to enable him to share Jesus. In 1

Corinthians 2:4, he states that it is not clever words but the power of God that is needed.

Pray for God to send more workers. Pray for our community, '*The harvest is plentiful, ...*' Pray for those we meet in all contexts. And pray for God to speak with power through yourselves, through me and all others – we will not Harvest without God's power.

Having prayed, Jesus says, 'Go!' It is the shortest and one of the most powerful sentences in the Bible. We are to be the answer to our prayers, we are part of the workforce.

There is the story of four people: *Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was a job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did. Somebody got angry because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have.*

When we pray for our family and friends, be ready to be the answer. We have our APCM this Tuesday (13th), be praying for those God is calling to be Church Warden, PCC members and Deanery Synod Representatives. To return to the above story, Anybody could do it, but

Somebody needs to, otherwise we'll have Nobody!

We are all commanded to 'Go!' by Jesus. Sent out to practice living his values and get the world ready for his arrival. Read Isaiah 40:3-5.

We are all included. Jesus commissions us all. Read Matthew 28:19-20.

Jesus warns us it will not be easy. We are to go like a lamb among wolves. It will not be easy. Jesus faced opposition and so will we (see John 13:16 and 15:20)

He said we should go together. He sends us out in twos. Disciples of Jesus are not lone rangers, Jesus had his own small group. We need to remain connected with others, sharing our experiences of Jesus and praying for each other.

Jesus says we should travel light. We take no status symbols, no fashion accessories. We are dependent upon God and his power. We are to be focussed – this is the meaning of not being diverted by long greetings on the road to the place we were supposed to be.

We are to travel with peace and love, building relationships by sharing meals with those we meet.

Like the earlier disciples, we have authority to bring God's kingdom to the darkest of places. We do this when we refuse to return a harsh word with

bitterness and revenge but act with love and kindness. We do it when we pray with a friend or colleague who has got pain or struggles, asking God for a miracle to heal the sick. When we do it we share generously what we have with those who can't ever repay. When we step out of our comfort zone and listen to someone's story, when we bravely and gently share that Jesus is our hope, even in a pandemic – that he has stood by us and enable us to keep going.

Poet Edgar Guest said: *"I'd rather SEE a sermon than HEAR one any day. I'd rather someone WALK with me than simply POINT the way."* Walk with others and prepare the way for Jesus to come.



Our passage finishes with great joy: The disciples return with joy – because of the miracles God had done through them. Jesus encourages them to rejoice even more so because their names are recorded in Heaven – in other words, 'you thought this was good, wait 'til you get to Heaven!'

And, even more wonderfully, God shares in our joy, read verse 21.

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 18th after Trinity: Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; 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 13th October, we are hoping to meet in the building with online access. We will be electing new churchwardens, Deanery Synod Reps and PCC members. Please be praying for those God is calling – perhaps yourself!

To check your **Electoral Roll** entry, please contact Matt.



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers