

27th June 2021

The paper-version Service



To Begin: Find a Bible and a comfortable place. If safe, light a candle 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 song from this Sunday's Service set out below.



Opening Prayer: Creator God, you sustain all things by your Word, and you reveal your power among us through Jesus and your Holy Spirit. Help us see your power at work and submit to your authority, recognise your love, receive your mercy, know your forgiveness, and live in your life to the glory and honour of your name. **Amen.**

Song:

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

*My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love
Amazing grace*

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures

He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

My chains are gone, ...

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine.

My chains are gone, ...

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.

Read: John 6:1-24.

God over creation: *A summary of the talk given by Howard Wright.*

Aside from the resurrection, the feeding of the 5,000, is the only miracle that John chooses to include that is in the three earlier Gospels. And Jesus' walking on the water is found in Matthew and Mark.

John is a master storyteller and as we keep reminding ourselves, John himself tells us why he is writing his Gospel: 20:31 *'But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.'*

So, why does John consider these stories important?

There's a little detail included, in verse 4 we're told the Jewish Passover Feast was near. The very first Passover, over 1,000 years before, was the dramatic moment that God rescued his people from slavery in Egypt and led them to freedom.

There were three Passover festivals during Jesus' public ministry. John records Jesus clearing the temple at the first of these and tells us his death happened at the third. So, for John, and therefore us, these are significant events and here we have the second of these Passovers.

Following the very first Passover, God had supplied his people with all they needed – he'd fed them bread, manna, in the wilderness.

In this miracle, from such a little, a huge number of people are fed, with such a feast, that plenty is left over – this echoes the superabundance of God as with the water into wine.



And if this isn't enough to get who Jesus is, then, he walks on water! This is another echo from the Exodus rescue of God from slavery, when the people were led through the Red Sea and later the river Jordan.

Water is required for life – without it we die, but for the ancient Jews, the sea was symbolic of their deepest fears. The sea was an uncontrollable and unpredictable dark and evil power. But Jesus just strolls over it.

The other Gospels record the disciples caught at sea in a terrifying storm which Jesus sleeps through. In fear of their lives, they wake him, and he commands the storm to be still. Mark

records that the disciples are now truly terrified asking, who is this man?



Jesus is deliberately showing the people who he is – and they get it, in as much as they want to seize him and make him king, but they don't completely get it.

They want Jesus as king, but only in that Jesus will provide their immediate and physical needs. God is interested in our physical needs – he becomes physical himself, affirming our humanness – but he cares also for our mental and our spiritual well-being. If our soul is disconnected from Him, who is the light by which we must live, that is, the source of life, then our bodies and minds, can never be truly well and we will die.

John records these stories and this Gospel, that we might receive and believe, as, those who feed on Jesus will have life eternally!

How are we to cope, when facing challenges, to living in love? Feed on Jesus, he can take the little we offer and multiply it wonderfully.

Andrew and Phillip have no idea what to do, but they bring a young lad, who has 'something'. It's not much, but the boy offers it, and the two disciples tell Jesus. We might not have much but bring it to Jesus.

The boy could have clung to it. Through the pandemic we've seen a lot of hoarding and hanging on to our stuff. Whether toilet paper or our savings – cushioning us against trouble. This is not living in love – perfect love casts out all fear. Will we cling to what we have, refusing to share it with Jesus and the needs of those around us?

Jesus walks with us, over and through our deepest fears and difficult moments. He can provide all we need and lead us to eternal life, now, today, and forever.

Recognise Jesus, and keep inviting him in. My life is a little chaotic, my elderly parents are very poorly, and I had to travel down earlier this week to be my mum's carer for 24 hours, with my dad being taken into hospital. My experience of Jesus is that he supplies my needs and walks with me through my fears.

Will we seek to make him the king we want, or will we give him what we have, and trust him to be our Saviour, Lord and King.

Prayers: Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. (Philippians 4:4-6)

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



Collect: 4th after Trinity: O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal; grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, 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: We are now holding ticketed and socially distanced services in the building on Sundays at 9.30am. Further information on our website or by ringing our vicar, Howard.

If you know of others who would like to receive this, or you would 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.

