



Lichfield Bishops' Clergy Conference

Anointing and Sending Out

Thursday 26th April 2018

Hymn

I come with joy, a child of God

Brian A. Wren ©1971, 1995 Stainer & Bell Ltd

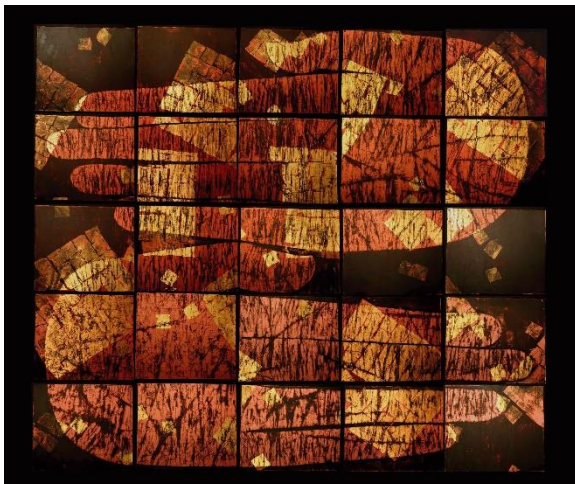
Prayer

God who so loves the world,
that you sent your Son,
give us grace to love like him,
to become channels
of your good news to all people,
in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Reflection on the Image

- Each person to have a postcard – image by Jake Lever and used with permission



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Thanksgiving

God of our earliest memory,
we give you thanks for happy memories
from childhood and times past
blessings of home, family and old friends,
for our sense of place and belonging.

You give us hope

Refresh and inspire us again

We give you thanks for faith's awakening,
ears opening to your Word,
eyes, opening to your presence,
mind, shaping to your call,
heart, warming to your love,
for our sense of meaning and purpose.

You renew our vision and confidence

Shine through our living

We give you thanks for faith's maturing,
struggling with life and experience,
wrestling with certainty and questions,
grappling with love and difference,
for our sense of deepening and broadening.

You awaken hope in us

Awaken hope in all those we serve

Words of Assurance

Do not remember the former things,
Nor consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

Isaiah 43. 18-19

God you are the same, yesterday, today and forever!

**You are the rock, the foundation on which we build with confidence,
you are the constant presence in our living,
you are the energy in our growing.
Give us confidence,
to let go of the old ways that have become stale.
Give us vision,
to see the new thing that you are doing.
Give us energy,
to embrace the possibilities of tomorrow,
in Jesus who fills and fulfils us,
Amen.**

Prayer – Bishop Michael

Lord Jesus,
you call us to be,
not just to preach,
or to pray,
but to be
good news to the poor,
release for the captives,
sight for the blind,
freedom for the oppressed,
and by this,
to proclaim your favour.
We ask you to help us,
to turn our hearts inside out,
to turn our world upside down,
to turn us to proclaim
the eternal jubilee of your love
in all we do and say. **Amen.**

Reading

Luke 24 28-end

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him;

and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Living word of God

Live in our lives today

Address – Bishop Michael

Prayer

God of all blessing,
you call us to live fully,
to love generously,
and to become part of your good news.
May we, and our churches,
turn out from ourselves,
reaching out in your love,
sharing the treasures of your abundance
in Jesus name.

Amen.

Commitment to Pray

We write our own name on the reverse side of the image and we then find someone to swap cards with – as a commitment to go on praying for one another.

Anointing

We come forward to receive anointing with oil to affirm our commitment to become people of good news, a blessing to our community.

A member of the congregation anoints the minister's hands, making the sign of the cross on each open palm, saying:

Live fully, love generously, become blessing!

The minister then anoints the people, in the same way, saying:

Live fully, love generously, become blessing!

A series of shorter songs – including

Take O take me as I am

John L Bell © 1995 WGRG

O God, you search me out and know me.

Bernadette Farrell ©1992. OCP Publications

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your Kingdom.

© 1981 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc

Holy Spirit, come to us

©1998 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc

Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's holy name.

© 1991 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc.

Closing Responses

If then there is any encouragement in Christ,

any consolation from love,

any sharing in the Spirit,

any compassion and sympathy,

make my joy complete:

be of the same mind,

having the same love,

being in full accord and of one mind.

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit,

but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.

Let each of you look not to your own interests,

but to the interests of others.

Philippians 2.1-4

Blessing

Spirit of God,

poured out for all your children,

fill our hearts and minds,
with your encouragement and consolation,
your compassion and sympathy.
Make us one,
to be good news in our community,
to be blessing in your world,
in Jesus who fulfils your promise in us today.
And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with you now and for evermore.
Amen.

Hymn

Go to the world

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