

# ~AT HOME WORSHIP~

11<sup>th</sup> October 2020

## Service Theme: HARVEST

### Preparation

**As we still ourselves we recognise that where ever we are, we are in God's presence and the God we know in Jesus waits patiently for us'**

**Lord our God, help us to know your ways and teach us your paths.**

**Lead us in your truth for you are the God of our salvation.**

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=we%27ll+walk+the+land&&view=detail&mid=4F781E23B17BD7DE59874F781E23B17BD7DE5987&&FORM=VDRVSR>

**Hymn/Song: We'll walk the Land** (The government is encouraging walking)

We'll walk the Land with hearts on fire,  
And every step will be a prayer.  
Hope is rising, new day dawning.  
Sound of singing fills the air.



Two thousand years  
And still the flame is burning bright across  
the land.  
Hearts are waiting, longing, aching,  
For awakening once again

***Let the flame burn brighter in the heart of the darkness,  
Turning night to glorious day.***

***Let the song grow louder as our love grows stronger,  
Let it shine, let it shine.***

We'll walk for truth, speak out for love,  
In Jesus' name we shall be strong  
To lift the fallen, save the children  
To fill the nation with your song

## Opening Prayer

### Call to Worship

#### *Based on Psalm 145.*

**Leader:** We will extol you, O Lord our God and king,

**All:** and bless your name for ever.

**Leader:** Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised,

**All:** God greatness is unsearchable.

**Leader:** We celebrate your mighty deeds,

**All:** and proclaim your abundant goodness.

**Leader:** For you, O Lord, are gracious and merciful,

**All:** slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**Leader:** Let us worship God,

**All:** let us praise God in heart, soul, mind and strength

**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 forever.**



#### Prayer for the Day

God of supermarket and farmer, and tomato pickers, be with us.

God of the factory floor . and those who drive the lorries, sustain us.

God of tea pickers, garment makers, call centre operators guide our path.

God of app designers, fibre cable layers, car manufacturers, give us hope.

Guide us so that our worship is part of the harvest you desire from our lives Amen

#### Saying Sorry

God of the once, the now and the always, you bring us promise and potential, you give us life and living. You are generous in your giving, Lord. Grant us your grace Lord God, bring us your understanding and greet us in our humility as we confess our short comings and seek your forgiveness now. May we begin again assured of your love. We will try to do better next time. Glorious and gracious God open our hearts and minds to your words and your ideas, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

## BIBLE READINGS



### Ruth 2 1-23

Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side. A man of standing, from the clan of Elimelek, whose name was Boaz. And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi 'Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favour.' Naomi said to her 'Go ahead, my daughter.' So she went out, entered a field and began to glean behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she was working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelek.

Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters. 'The Lord be with you.' 'The Lord bless you' they answered. Boaz asked the overseer at his harvesters. 'Who does that young woman belong to?' The overseer replied 'She is the Moabite who came back from Moab with Naomi.' She said 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the harvesters.' She came into the field and has remained here from morning till now, except for a short rest in the shelter. So Boaz said to Ruth 'my daughter listen to me Don't go and glean in another man's field and don't go away from here. Stay here and work with the women who work for me. Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the women. I have told the men not to lay a hand on you. And whenever you are thirsty go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled. At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She asked him 'Why have I found such favour in your eyes that you notice me a foreigner?'

Boaz replied 'I have been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband- how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. May the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel under whose wings you have come to take refuge.

'May I continue to find favour in your eyes, my Lord.' She said 'You have put me at ease by speaking kindly to your servant – though I do not have the standing of one of your servants.' At mealtime Boaz said to her, Come over here. Have some bread and dip it in the wine vinegar.'

When she sat down with the harvesters, he offered her some roasted grain. She ate all she wanted and had some left over. As she got up to glean, Boaz gave orders to his men,, 'Let her gather among the sheaves and don't reprimand her. Even pull out some stalks for her from the bundles and leave for her to pick up and don't rebuke her. So Ruth gleaned in the field until evening. Then she threshed the barley she had gathered, and it amounted to about an ephah. She carried it back to town, and her mother-in-law saw how much she had gathered. Ruth also brought out and gave her what she had over after she had eaten enough.

Her mother-in-law asked her, 'Where did you glean today? Where did you work? Blessed be the man who took notice of you!. Then Ruth told her mother-in-law about the one at whose place she had been working. 'The name of the man I worked with today is Boaz,' she said. 'The Lord bless him! Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead'. She added, 'That man is our close relative; he is one of our guardian-redeemers. Then Ruth the Moabite said, 'He even said to me, 'Stay with my workers until they harvest all of the grain'. Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, 'It will be good for you, my daughter to go with the women who work for him, because in someone else's field you might be harmed. So Ruth stayed close to the women of Boaz to glean until the barley and wheat harvests were finished. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

*I expect you all know what happens in the story, to give you a clue our second reading is from the gospel of John chapter 2 verses 1-10.*

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, 'They have no more wine.' Woman why do you involve me?, Jesus replied 'my hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from between eighty to a hundred and twenty litres.'

Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water'; so they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, 'Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet. They did so and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realise where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, 'Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink, but you have saved the best till now.

## REFLECTION TIME

### Short Reflection by Janet Clarke



Many have Ruth listed as one of their favourite stories in the Bible. There is a sense of belonging and a sense of justice as the story concludes. Ruth

however is perhaps one of the most pertinent books for us at the moment, given the great migration of people across our world because of famine, hunger and conflict. Huge numbers of refugees have travelled long, dangerous journeys to escape their plight. This was apparently one of the main reasons the UK voted to leave the EU. The Old Testament has far more to say about love of stranger than love of neighbour. It was quite a different ethic to live by and it was easy to slip into the xenophobia that kept your neighbours either familiar or as your enemy. God's vision is universal and Ruth is a book that reminds us of this. Here we have a story of an immigrant worker in the fields: a very familiar story for us, which currently creates great debate in the UK as Brexit negotiations continue, about free movement of labour and how British farmers will find such labour in the future to harvest their crops. In the era of Ruth, a sermon for us all, there were rules about what you were allowed to harvest and how much you could harvest, leaving enough for the poor to glean from the edge of the field. Written into the cultural rules was the provision for the poor and refugee. It is thus a story that focuses on the welcome, support and compassion God invites us into as a community (rather than as individuals). This is extended towards strangers. It is a big theme for us across the western world but Ruth is an even bigger story with a bigger theme: what it means to belong. Ruth is still a Moabite. Ruth is a foreigner and she is given a place within the community. There is a sense of belonging long before a sense of believing in Israel's God. The first move towards her is one of offering a place to belong and be cared for long before there is any expectation for her to sign up to becoming a Judean. Perhaps this is a lesson for our community and churches today: to live the story of Ruth and see our first move towards folk beyond our faith tradition to make welcome, and open a space of belonging before we ask anyone to sign up to a particular doctrine or creed. Ruth received unconditional hospitality which led to her becoming part of the community. It begins with what we offer others rather than what others can offer us and whether we can find a space for them in our communities. Again, this provides an insight into the situation of refugees and migrants. This is neither naively nor easily

Ruth m Boaz

Obed Ruth's son

Jesse Ruth's grandson

David Ruth's great grandson

solved. Perhaps the story of Ruth, however, can offer some ethic in how people of faith speak into the reality of our world. Boaz makes sure Ruth is catered for. He is impressed by her and opens his heart towards her. This compassion leads to new areas into which the story can develop. It is often the case: compassion leads to new opportunities and unexpected truths found only when you give of yourself to someone else.

I chose to read the story of Ruth because it has many repeats of the word 'Harvest'. I have fond memories of harvest at church in the late 1950's. My father was a baker and carefully made a sheaf of wheat out of bread. Every year a beautiful display was created, pride of place was the sculptured bread. I was so proud to carry it round to the Alm house, I think that is the name, they ran a soup kitchen on many Sundays and harvest was a key festival. Poor men would arrive with a cloth carrier bag on that day to carry home the goodies, jars of apple and blackberry jam, elderberry preserve, marmalade, lemon curd, chutney. Harvest is very different this year filling station is asking for cheques instead of produce, they are working with threshold and Booth house as they cannot do the filling station in the car park in this time of Covid19.

Send me an email if you would like the address to send cheques, **janetclarke85a@gmail.com**. I am not sure I should put their address on this order of service which goes who knows where.

Let us think about community, it is community that folk want to keep after the pandemic. We all know more of our neighbours now, we would like to keep our new friends.

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=when+i+needed+a+neighbour&view=detail&mid=BBCF5A9D9846E3259945BBCF5A9D9846E3259945&FORM=VIRE&PC=LCTS&cc=GB&setlang=en-US&PC=LCTS&cvid=108b7ab59c4b46b2a155ba1fa1cdf39a&q=AS&nclid=3540A8C02D1A7F15B3B11C0371FFE4FF&ts=1601630060717>

**Hymn: When I needed a neighbour by Sydney Carter (Copyright Stainer and Bell)**

When I needed a neighbour,  
Were you there, were you there?  
When I needed a neighbour were you there?

***And the creed and the colour***

***And the name won't matter,***

***Were you there?***

I was hungry and thirsty,  
Were you there? Were you there?  
I was hungry and thirsty were you there?

I was cold, I was naked,  
Were you there, were you there?  
I was cold, I was naked were you there?

When I needed a shelter.  
Were you there, were you there?  
When I needed a shelter, were you there?

When I needed a healer,  
Were you there, were you there?  
When I needed a healer were you there?.

Wherever you travel  
I'll be there, I'll be there  
Wherever you travel I'll be there.

***And the creed and the colour***  
***And the name won't matter,***  
***I'll be there***



## Children's Story 'Tiago the tomato



This is Broccoli, he has been helping me in the garden. Today we were digging potatoes, we are going to make oven chips. Broccoli really likes tomato sauce with his chips.

Let me introduce you to Tiago. 'I grew up in Portugal on a large farm, I have lots of cousins in Spain too. I'm a special tomato, I am a ketchup tomato. Look how big and strong I



and my friends are. When we are all big and strong the farmer will pick us and pack us in boxes ready to be shipped to a factory. At the factory we



will be squashed and turned into a rich, red

tomato paste. The paste is packed into big containers and off we go to Holland.

We visit a very fine factory in Holland and vinegar and sugar are added to make



the paste into fine ketchup which is poured into plastic bottles. All the bottles line up and travel on a moving platform to get their labels then they are packed in large boxes ready for a journey by lorry. The lorry brings the ketchup to England on a ferry. Once in England the lorry drives to a supermarket warehouse and unloads. Different lorries take us to the shops where cheerful young workers unpack the boxes and stack the ketchup for you to buy. I think I am a very lucky tomato to go on holiday to England.' Many people helped to make the ketchup: farmer, lorry drivers in Portugal, Holland and England, Ship crew, factory workers in Portugal and Holland, Ferry crew and Supermarket shelf packers. I wonder how many wheels turned.





## Time for Prayer

As we recall the story of Ruth,  
we pray for those who feel like strangers among  
us; for the refugee and asylum seeker;

for the immigrant and the in-comer.

May they be made to feel welcomed and not shunned.

May they know justice as they seek to earn a living  
and be spared exploitation and abuse.

We pray too for those who feel like strangers  
even though this land may have always been their home;  
for the lonely and the confused; for the scorned and the  
different. May they be embraced and included. May they  
learn the meaning of community. And may all

your people,

Lord, as they travel through life, glean traces of your grace in gifts from the hands and  
hearts of others and through the harvest of your Spirit.

We pray for all those who travel about using wheels. Our excellent delivery  
drivers who travel miles yet always have a cheerful smile. The ambulance  
drivers who have to turn out at weird hours of the day and night. Go with them  
Lord, ensure a safe journey.

The ATC drivers herding the sheep, come on sheep up to the barn. The car drivers, coach  
drivers and van drivers delivering children and kit to school, help them keep safe Lord. Let us  
pray for people on bikes that they may keep alert. Let us pray for aircraft pilots that they may  
land safely, we pray that they have not forgotten their flying skills with 6 months of idleness.  
We pray for the RAC and AA and Green Flag that they will stay in business in these perilous  
times so that we can be rescued if we need to be.



## 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.**



### Wheels

Wheels on a motorbike delivering blood to  
hospital, drugs to patients homes during  
this pandemic. Bikes because they don't get  
held up so much by traffic jams!

Are there any wheels that are not burning  
fuel? Push bikes. It is too dangerous to ride  
those round Purton these days.

**Change begins with a bike.**

**Over in Africa village teenagers, many girls  
are using bikes to get to school to gain  
qualifications to be Doctors, nurses,  
teachers, engineers.**

**Check out [allwecan.org.uk/bike](http://allwecan.org.uk/bike)**

# Change begins with a bike

## **Hymn      We plough the fields and scatter** (Matthius Claudius 1740-1815)

We plough the fields and scatter  
The good seed on the land,  
But it is fed and watered  
By God's almighty hand.  
He sends the snow in winter,  
The warmth to swell the grain.  
The breezes and the sunshine,  
And soft, refreshing rain.

We thank Thee, then, O Father,  
For all things bright and good.  
The seedtime and the harvest,  
Our life, our health, our food.  
No gifts have we to offer  
For all Thy love imparts.  
But that which Thou desirest  
Our humble, thankful hearts.

***All good gifts around us  
Are sent from heaven above  
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord  
For all His love***

He only is the Maker  
Of all things near and far,  
He paints the wayside flower,  
He lights the evening star;  
The winds and waves obey Him,  
By Him the birds are fed.  
Much more to us his children,  
He gives our daily bread.

## **Closing Prayer**

Lord, in all ways we are connected to people we will never meet, dependent on people we will never know.

Lord you love us all.

Help us to see that the riches of the world are for all to share

Lord you love us all.

We pray that you will help us to be responsible, and fight for a fairer and more just world, where we can all live in peace and harmony.

Lord you love us all

## **Dismissal**

May our welcome be unconditional like the unconditional love of God.

May our sharing be extravagant like the extravagant gifts of God.

May we serve God by giving our all in serving others.

**God bless you now and always**

