

## Morning Praise @ Home 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024

### Opening prayer

Blessed are you, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have blessed us with every spiritual blessing; enable us by your power to be true to our calling and live holy and blameless lives before you all our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen**

**Confession** Let us admit to God the sin which always confronts us.

**Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen** *cf Psalm 51*

**Absolution** May the Father of all mercies cleanse *us* from *our* sins, and restore *us* in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### Bible Reading

**Luke 4: 14 – 21**

### Reflection from John

Do you ever watch the TV Programme called Repair Shop?

It's a programme where people take their old worn-down family heirlooms to be fixed by a team of tender, loving and expert craftspeople.

In this hectic world of fast fashion and disposable bargains, The Repair Shop celebrates resilience and hand-crafted brilliance, as the experts repair wonky typewriters and 19th century firefighter helmets and radios that survived Dunkirk. The restorers work slowly and patiently, quietly fixing the world, one meaningful thing at a time.

### It's the stories that count

But beyond the items themselves, it is the human stories that show that every item has a backstory which makes it come alive, taking us back into the history of families and events that give the show its soul. They might not look pretty or be worth a lot of cash, but there is an emotional connection in The Repair Shop that money cannot buy.

### The patience of restoration

What is heart-warming in The Repair Shop is the craftspeople themselves. They hold every one of the treasures they encounter in their heart; there is no judgement, nothing is too difficult, no story is rendered too demanding to embrace and no problem is too big to solve. Their quiet resolve to bring new life to the old and broken is unwavering.

May there be more shows on television like The Repair Shop.

### The connection to God

Of course, the undertones and link to the Christian narrative is perhaps what I find the most powerful about The Repair Shop; this programme that is designed to entertain could be a heart-warmingly graphic picture of what the Gospel story portrays to us. Of God's power to transform.

We know that all humanity is a broken story, damaged long ago when our ancestors thought they could do life without their Creator, and since that point we've struggled to enjoy the new life that was so freely offered to us in God's plan for humanity.

That's where our Gospel reading in Luke 4 comes into focus. It's where Isaiah's vision of the role of the Christ comes into its own. It's why Jesus, on reading these verses in his local synagogue, applies the verses to himself – to his vocation as the world's Restorer.

## **The master craftsman**

God the Father knew that we would be broken, so He made a plan to send us to The Repair Shop, and he sent a skilled craftsman to be our healer, our restorer, to bring new life to that which was broken, tainted, despairing. The Gospel stories recount the narrative of Jesus, fully human and yet fully divine, an eternal mystery going to the cross and rising again so that we may be not only forgiven of our selfishness, but so we may enjoy the life we were designed to live, life to the full as Jesus says in John Chapter 10 Verse 10.

The master craftsman, God the Father, bears all the hallmarks, and more, of the craftsmen we see in The Repair Shop. Perennially patient, skilled in every way, slow and delicate in the transformation of our lives, allowing His Spirit to chip away at our faded and chipped character so that we can become who we were created to be.

## **Journey to The Repair Shop**

I can't help but thinking that The Repair Shop is an excellent way to portray the church in a time when we need to be creative and contemporary about how we portray the work of God in our world.

Knowing that restoration is totally possible with God the craftsman, let's think holistically about how we might encourage people to bring their lives to the eternal Repair Shop, to be restored in a way that will last for eternity, where rust and moth will not destroy.

Perhaps if we sensitively love God and love our neighbours as ourselves, others might see The Repair Shop (aka the local church) as being a transforming place worth embracing where God is at work. Amen

## **Affirmation of faith**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

**We believe and trust in him. This is the faith of the Church.**

**This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

## **Prayers of intercession led by Sue**

Lord of our lives, thank you for your constant care of your children, for the many benefits we received daily from you over the past week. Now place on our hearts the concerns that you have for your world as we come before you in prayer.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

## **Creator Father,**

- We lift again the situation in Israel and Gaza to you – that the withholding of heavy armaments may deter further attack, that both sides may be able to negotiate and that the work of bridge-building may begin. We pray too that better military provision for Ukraine may be effective in concluding the invasion.
- In both situations we pray that 'Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight; The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.'
- Please give courage and strength to those who continue to administer humanitarian aid, and to the medics who are addressing a constant stream of physically and mentally wounded people.
- We also lift up to you those whose lives have been devastated by flooding in Brazil and Kenya. May clean drinking water get to them safely. Please help the traumatised to re-establish their homes, while discovering that true security is to be found in you rather than in their surroundings. We thank you for the kindness with which others have accommodated displaced flood victims.
- Lord, please strengthen our collective resolve to change how we live so that we bring down the emissions which are distorting our climate.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

**Ascended Jesus**, we thank you that you have taken our shared humanity into heaven and reign as our compassionate King.

- Help your children in every nation to speak out your truth and wisdom with love and gentleness, understanding the frailties of those around them whilst commending the holiness to which you call us
- We especially pray for the Anglican Church as it holds up your Word to a culture that has made its own morality. We pray for bishops and church leaders who are looking after those hurt by the accusations from opposing sides of the debate on human sexuality, that you will guide them with wisdom and that the loving unity you expect of all Christians may prevail.
- Give courage to your people, to us, both collectively and individually, to share the great news that your ascension demonstrates – that you are Lord of life and have paved the way for everyone to experience that in all its fulness. Help us know where to start and how best to connect in each different situation we encounter.
- We pray that you may soften hearts and illuminate minds as we prepare to celebrate next week the advent of our church community – the gift of your spirit given at Pentecost.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

**Sanctifying Spirit**, may we be grown together as a worshipping community which is alert to Your leading and guidance.

- We lift up to you this congregation's interactions with local children, and pray that the seeds sown through the visit of Bishop Wilson pupils to St Nicholas last week, and the coming Open The Book presentations this week, will be nurtured, leading to pupils understanding that they can entrust their lives to you.
- We thank you that there has been interest in the Children and Families post which we long to fill – please give wisdom, courage and discernment to all involved.
- In this week highlighting the work of Christian Aid, may local residents see the good that stems from faith in you, and that each of us is here to minister with the love, energy and compassion of Jesus. Please guide us to meet the needs of those you know who especially need our care.
- We pray that you comfort those who are struggling with caring responsibilities, and those we know facing repeated challenges to their physical and mental health, mentioning in our hearts those known personally to us.
- As they gather together this week, we especially remember the members of the Mothers' Union who are seeking wisdom for their future.
- We lift up to you those facing the ending of earthly life and families coping with sadness for this and other reasons. Help us to draw alongside them in practical care, and hold out to them the hope that the ascension of Christ proclaims.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Father, Son and Spirit, you call us to live wholeheartedly for you. May our lives this week reflect the glory that we will one day know fully as we join you in the courts of heaven.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

**The Lord's Prayer** As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

***Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen***

**Closing prayer**

God give you grace to become the people He has called you to be, that you may live and work to his praise and glory, and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us and remain with us always. **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen**