

Christ Church URC, Rayleigh

All Age Worship

Sunday 10 July 2022

Welcome to everyone in church this morning, watching online or listening to a CD of the service.

Call to Worship: Jesus gave us a new commandment: " Love one another. If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples"

Hymn WF 14

Bless the Lord, o my soul

O my soul, worship his holy name

Sing like never before, O my soul,

I'll worship your holy name.

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,

It's time to sing Your song again.

Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me,

Let me be singing when the evening comes.

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger,

Your name is great and Your heart is kind.

For all your goodness, I will keep on singing;

Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

And on that day when my strength is failing,

The end draws near and my time has come,

Still my soul will sing Your praise unending;

Ten thousand years and then forever more.

*Bless the Lord O my soul,
O my soul, worship His holy name,
Sing like never before, O my soul.
I'll worship Your holy name.
I'll worship Your holy name.
Yes, I'll worship your holy name.*

Prayer

Heavenly Father we come before you on this Sunday morning to humbly kneel before Your throne of grace. We acknowledge the gift that you gave us all, your son Jesus Christ, and give thanks that through him we can pray to you. We acknowledge our sins, for they are a lot. We have lacked humility and have failed to acknowledge your help in our lives day by day. We have said things that were unkind or unjust, we have hurt people by our opinions and our attitudes and for these we ask your forgiveness. We have also committed sins of omission, things that we have not said or done, which we should have. Heavenly Father, forgive us our weakness and help us to try and better follow the example set by Your Son, our Lord and Saviour and we now say the prayer that he taught his disciples in the modern version:

*Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
And deliver us from evil.*

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.

AMEN

Notices

Collection and blessing

Hymn WF 7

Beautiful Lord, Wonderful Saviour,
I know for sure, all of my days are held in Your hand,
Crafted into Your perfect plan.
You gently call me into Your presence,
Guiding me by Your Holy Spirit.
Teach me, dear Lord to live all of my life
Through Your eyes.

I am captured by your holy calling,
Set me apart.
I know your drawing me to Yourself;
Lead me Lord I pray.
Take me, mould me, use me, fill me;
I give my life to the Potter's hand.
Call me, guide me, lead me, walk beside me,
I give my life to the Potter's hand.

The Good Samaritan (slides) notes sent out with this service.

Hymn WF 3

All over this world the spirit is moving
All over this world as the prophet has said it would be;
All over the world, there's a mighty revelation
Of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

All over His church, God's spirit is moving,
All over His church as the prophet said it would be;
All over His church there's a mighty revelation
Of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Right here in this place the Spirit is moving,
Right here in this place as the prophet said it would be;
Right here in this place there's a mighty revelation
Of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Acts 435 – Talk about this organization.

Reading: Luke 10 25-37

Who is our neighbour?

As they used to say on Listen with Mother, [for the benefit of the younger ones among us this was a programme which was the equivalent to CBBies but on the radio - help does that show my age] "Are you sitting comfortably then we'll begin".

Let me tell you about a story about a lady I saw almost 65 years ago when she gave a talk in the church where I grew up. I was quite young then, but the image of this tiny lady who had to stand on a stool to be seen by the congregation has remained with me ever since, partly because it was the first time that I had been to an evening service. Her

name was Gladys Aylward, whose story was told in the film "Inn of the Sixth Happiness".

For a number of years she worked as a parlour maid, but after she attended a special church service she decided that she wanted to go as a missionary to China. After having been rejected by the China Inland Mission, after failing their exams, she contacted a lady already working there, and she was accepted, provided she could get to China. Her finances would only stretch to a train fare and so she set off from London in October 1930, aged around 28.

The work she did was legendary, including her famous walk with 100 children, fleeing the invading Japanese Army. Although she did return to the UK in 1947 on health grounds, preaching on a regular basis, she returned to Hong Kong and then Formosa now Taiwan, and died there in 1970, and is buried there. Yet another example of a Good Samaritan.

So, we are asking the question "who is our neighbour" It is a valid question, because in the story of the Good Samaritan Jesus turned old ideas fixed in the minds of the Jews on their head. Here is a photograph of the Queen's Jubilee Party, held on the park home site where my partner and I live in Hullbridge. Are they Derek's and my neighbours? Yes, of course they are! - but mostly in the very narrowest definition of "neighbour" i.e people who live near us.

In our world today there are millions of people who need our help, some close at hand, others spread all over the world. Gladys Aylward's work in China is just one example of helping others abroad, but there are plenty of examples here in the UK, with thousand's of foodbanks helping to feed families who are struggling to feed themselves and closer to home Christ Church and Rayleigh Methodist Church are starting a service for those with dementia and their carers.

What Jesus is telling us all, both young and old is "ignore your old notions about those in need of help"; they are all around us and as followers of Jesus, we should be ready to step in and help, just as The Good Samaritan stepped in. In some cases we may need to give of ourselves, but in others a kind word or action may be good enough or donations to charity. So we all can be Good Samaritans, no matter how young or old we are or what our circumstances are. There is a song that to me says all that is necessary and we are about to sing that now.

Hymn WF 107

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?
, 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.*

Prayers of Intercession

Hymn WF 69

May God's blessing be upon you now
May you know of His great love for you,
May God's blessing be upon you now,
Right where you are.

(Repeat another twice)

Blessing.