

Morning Service 11th June 2023

Time

Notices

Call to Worship – Psalm 67 (TLB)

Quiet preparation

- **Hymn, WF 50** – ‘Lord I lift Your name on high’
- **Hymn, R&S 286** – ‘Rejoice in the Lord always’ – sung twice, 2nd time a round x 2

Prayer

Talk 1

- **Hymn, WF 52** – ‘King of the ages’

Prayers of thanks & confession

Offering

Talk 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tkkDbsxctn8> (One day at a time, Lynda Randle first 54 seconds only)

- **Hymn, R&S 377** – ‘This is the day’ – **VERSE 1 AND 3 ONLY**

Prayer time

Talk 3

- **Hymn, ???? – ‘This little light of mine’**

Prayers of Intercession – Keith

- **Hymn, WF 103** – ‘We’ll walk the land’

Benediction

Notices

Call to Worship – Psalm 67 (TLB)

O God, in Your mercy bless us;

Let Your face beam with joy as You look down at us.

Send us around the world

With the news of Your saving power and Your eternal plan for all mankind.

How everyone throughout the earth

Will praise the Lord!

How glad the nations will be, singing for joy

Because You are their King and will give true justice to their people!

Praise God, O world!

May all the peoples of the earth give thanks to You.

For the earth has yielded abundant harvests. God, even our own God, will bless us.

And peoples from remotest lands will worship Him.

Prayer

- **Hymn, WF 50** – ‘Lord I lift Your name on high’
- **Hymn, R&S 286** – ‘Rejoice in the Lord always’ – sung twice, 2nd time a round x 2

Prayer

Dear Lord God,

Thank You for the sleep I had last night, and for this new day.

Thank You for the things I will learn today, thank You for all the things I will enjoy today, and for the people who love and care for me.

Thank You for Your love for me every single day of my life, yesterday, today and forever. Amen.

Talk 1

Time. The bible tells us some great stuff about time. It tells us that God can be trusted with time, our time, all time because He created it! Ps 31: 14-15, ‘But I Trust in You Lord; I say, You are my God. My times are in Your hands’.

God doesn’t need a gadget to be able to tell time, but what do we use to help us tell what time it is? *Reveal watch, clock, stop watch (mobile phone), picture of sundial.*

Who would like to have a go at telling the time without any of these? Need people who are able to stand still for a little while!

Cover table items!

No cheating, looking at watches, phones or anything else from anyone (in case they see and cheat!). Stand facing outside windows, everyone else quiet. Going to play some wafty music, when I say start, want you to see if you can guess

when 1 minute has passed. When you think it has, sit down. Person nearest 1 minute will get a prize! NO CHEATING OR HINTS FROM ANYONE ELSE!!!

Without clocks, watches, phones we find it quite difficult to tell what time it is, but God knows all about time all the time!!

Time. Eccl 3: 1, 11a: 'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens *(God)* has made everything beautiful in its time.'

There's a Psalm that is one of my favourites, that talks about the time we were born, and how God knew all about you and *even before* we were born!! Psalm 139 says this: (TLB, 13-16a) 'You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit them together in my mother's womb.

Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! It is amazing to think about. Your workmanship is marvellous....

You were there while I was being formed in utter seclusion!

You saw me before I was born.'

Wow!! So God knew about us even before we knew anything – God already knew little Margot even when she was growing inside her Mum Wow!!

The Psalm then goes on to say how God knows all about us now too, ever since before we were born, and already knows our future!! God is always working for our good all the time, because that's what you do for people you love right!

We can do some actions to go with this next bit of Psalm too, so maybe you can help me with it and do the actions too

(NLT, 1-4; 16b) 'O LORD, you have examined my heart
and know everything about me.

You know when I sit down or stand up.

You know my thoughts even when I'm far away.

You see me when I *go out*

and when I (*come back to*) rest at home.

You know everything I do.

You know what I am going to say

even before I say it, LORD.

You go before me (*in front of*) and *You're there following* me.

You place your hand of blessing on my head.

Every day of my life was recorded in Your book.

Every moment was laid out

before a single day had passed.'

So God knows every one of our days whatever our age, because He loves us so much at all times forever. Now old do you think God is?

Verse (2) in Psalm 90 tells us this about God's age: 'Before the mountains were created, before the earth was formed, you are God without beginning or end.' The Lord God doesn't have an age like we do, but we know the Lord is King of all time, of all the ages.

- **Hymn, WF 52** – 'King of the ages'

Prayers & modern LP – announce modern version will be on screen

Dear Lord God,

You are indeed King of the ages, of all our ages.

Thank You that You love us whatever age we are. Thank You for this gift of another day, another Sunday for us to come and worship and praise You together. Thank You for the sunshine and the rain, thank You for the times when we are so happy, and thank You for being so very close to us when we have times when we are really sad, or lonely, or anxious.

Lord, You know too that there are times when we need to say I'm sorry. Thank You that when we truly mean those words, You are right there straight away to forgive us and to help us to be better at doing and saying the right things in each day.

Lord God, You are so mighty and powerful and beyond our understanding, yet You are so kind and caring that You know and love every part of us.

Thank You Lord Jesus for teaching us how to pray together as we say:

Our Father

Offering

Lord, for the sunshine and showers, we thank You.

For friends and fun, we thank you.

For wealth and wonderment, we thank You.

Father, accept these small tokens of our thanks and praise.

May they be instruments of Your blessing to those in need in our community.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Talk 2

Eccl 3: 1, 11a, then various from 2-7: 'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens (God) has made everything beautiful in its time.' It goes on to give us some examples:

a time to plant and a time to uproot, - when do we plant things ... uproot things?

a time to tear down and a time to build, tear down fear, build faith

a time to weep and a time to laugh, What happen if laugh when someone really hurt?

a time to keep and a time to throw away, cf throwing away tickets to cinema or holiday before used; keep friendships, throw away upset
a time to be silent and a time to speak.'

So, there's a right time for everything, and God knows what that right time is..
A man called Rick Warren said this about God's timing, '1. God is never in a hurry. 2. God is never late!'

Wendy knows all about that! She had an amazing experience of God's incredibly wonderful timing just a few weeks ago, which she's going to tell us about:

'On the way by car to see my daughter near Leeds, which is a long way from here, my car broke down near to a friend's house at a place called Retford. After phoning the AA and my daughter to report the bad news, my daughter realized her friend Daisy was also on her way to Leeds. On phoning Daisy, we found she was (by chance!!) at a service station only 11 minutes from where I was! So Daisy was able to come and pick me up and take me to my daughter's house. The AA man took my car back here to Rayleigh for repair and after a lovely weekend with my family near Leeds, I came home by train'.

Thanks to Wendy for sharing that story 😊

Verse we had earlier (Ps 31: 14-15) says, , 'But I Trust in You Lord; I say, You are my God. My times are in Your hands.' Wendy trusted the Lord with her day and her time. She had no idea at the start of that day what would happen, but God knew every bit of it, God didn't hurry her up, He certainly wasn't late, but exactly on time!!

We are often very concerned or worried even, about time and timings aren't we? But as Wendy discovered, God knows all about every moment of our days and is always working for our good! Maybe if we all, at the start of each day, asked God to be in charge of our day instead of worrying about it, maybe we'd discover, as Wendy did, that God's pretty good at sorting out the right time for things in our lives too.

.. as it says in bible, (Matt 6: 34 (TLB)), 'So don't be anxious about tomorrow. God will take care of your tomorrow too. Live one day at a time.'

Song about just that!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tkkDbsxctn8> ('One day at a time', Lynda Randle) **first 54 seconds only**

One day at a time. Well let's take today, this time in this day now, and use this next song as our prayer of trust and thanks to God ...

- **Hymn, R&S 377 – ‘This is the day’ – VERSE 1 AND 3 ONLY**

Prayer time

We all have so many things to do – what are some of the things you have to do, or you’re planning to do, today or this week, or later in this year maybe? Are there some things you are looking forward to? Some things you are concerned or anxious about? Let’s bring those all to God now, Let’s pray:

Dear Lord Jesus,

You know the plans we have, the things we have to do, and the things we are really looking forward to doing. Thank You that we have so many choices, so many opportunities, so many places to go and people to share our days with, and You know all about it all.

Lord Jesus,

You know too, the things that concern us, the things we are anxious about. Your word to us in the Bible tells us to give You all our concerns, all our anxieties, so in a moment of quite, we open our hearts to You and share these things with You in the quietness.

Few moments silence.

Thank You so much Lord Jesus, that You hear the prayers we say out loud, and You know the prayers we think inside us that no-one else hears or knows. Thank You that You love us so much and answer all our prayers. Help us to keep on trusting You to be with us and to guide us each day, at all times. Then we will be better able to know Your answers and experience Your joy within us, whatever happens. Amen.

Talk 3

Time. What to do with our time. Someone has said, ‘You’re never wasting time when you’re doing what God wants you to do.’ The bible tells us lots of ways we can be and do what the Lord asks us to do, but does it say anything about what God would like to be the very top priority for us with our time?

Matt 6: 33-34 (NIV), ‘... seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things (*all that we need to live*) will be given to you as well.’

What does that mean? Well, it simply starts by us putting God first in our every day, by taking a little time at the beginning of each day to thank the Lord God for a new day, to thank the Lord for being with us every moment of our time, and to ask the Lord to help us be a little more like Jesus than we were yesterday, and let Him take care of our time.

Ps 31: 14-15, ‘But I Trust in You Lord; I say, You are my God. My times are in Your hands’.

This song talks about how God helps every day of the week, so that we can serve the Lord and let the light of our Lord Jesus shine in and through us.

- **Hymn, ????** – ‘This little light of mine’

Prayers of Intercession – Keith

Patiently God Teaches Me by Douglas Knighton © 2016 <https://promisesforthebattle.com>

Patiently, patiently God teaches me what I must know.

He shows me how to succeed; leads in the way I should go.

Jesus will teach me His way, like those who sat at his feet;

Goodness and graciousness grow; wisdom makes my life complete.

Jesus, my teacher and Lord, He illustrated (*has shown me*) the way;

Now I am His hands and feet, serving in His name *today*.

There’s a song about walking the land with every step a prayer, with hope rising as each new day brings new opportunities for us to trust the Lord with our time, and tell other people about that too.

- **Hymn, WF 103** – ‘We’ll walk the land’

Benediction

We are a precious treasure to the Lord,

Safe and secure in the most loving and gentle hands always.

So let us go from here, refreshed in God’s love, renewed in our faith,

To walk with the Lord at all times,

And as we see the goodness of God in our own lives,

To share that good news with those we meet.

In Jesus’ Name. Amen.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tkkDbsxctn8>

(One day at a time, Lynda Randle first 0.54 seconds only)



Before the mechanical clock was invented the sundial was an important way of telling the time.

11.06.23 Parables Kingdom Heaven ppt

Parables of growth

The next story is about growth:

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.” (vs. 31-32)

Here Jesus described the kingdom not just as a seed, but as the *smallest* seed. Jesus is not describing a kingdom that arrives in a blaze of glory—he is describing a kingdom that begins very small. This is not what the Jews expected, but this is the kingdom that Jesus said was near. The kingdom is a story about gradual growth.

In the next parable, perhaps the shortest parable of all, Jesus compares the kingdom to a small amount of yeast.

Again he asked, “What shall I compare the kingdom of God to? It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough. (Matthew 13:33)

When yeast is first mixed into bread dough, it is not very noticeable, but a small amount eventually produces a large result. The kingdom begins small and inconspicuous, but it grows large. In the parable of the wheat, it also produces a crop for harvest.

The small beginning of the kingdom would have surprised Jesus’ listeners. They were hoping that a Messiah would lead the Jewish people to a great victory over the Romans. They were hoping to become an independent nation, with the power of David’s kingdom and the wealth of Solomon’s. But Jesus was announcing that the kingdom must begin in a very small way.

These parables do not describe a future golden age. They do not fit well with a kingdom that begins in a blaze of glory at Jesus’ return. Rather, these parables describe the kingdom of God that exists for many years before the return of Christ. These parables describe a long, slow growth process for the kingdom.

The kingdom of God is not just a seed, and it is not just a fully grown plant. It is the entire story—something small that grows into something large.

Hidden treasures

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. (vs. 44-46)

Again, the story begins with the kingdom small and hidden—but it does not remain hidden. The traditional interpretation of these parables is that when we hear the message of the kingdom, we should be so full of joy that we are willing to give up everything else. That is true.

But we can never “buy” the kingdom or earn our salvation. Rather, in these parables (like other parables in this chapter), it may be that *Jesus* is the main character. He is the one who sees

hidden treasure in his people (the field), and gives everything he has to purchase the prize. The value may not be evident right now, but it is there.

The Parable of the Growing Seed Mark 4: 26-29

²⁶ He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷ Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸ All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. ²⁹ As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."