

CHRISTCHURCH WOODLEY 25th July 2021 10:30

Call to Worship

Open our eyes to the beauty of the world; open our eyes to the beauty in each other;
open our eyes to the beauty of knowing you Lord

Hymn StF 100 All things bright and beautiful

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zqt0S7ZXd5A>

- All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful:
The Lord God made them all.
1. Each little flow'r that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colours,
He made their tiny wings.
 2. The purple-headed mountains,
The river running by,
The sunset and the morning
That brightens up the sky.
 3. The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
He made them every one.
 4. The tall trees in the greenwood,
The meadows where we play,
The rushes by the water,
To gather every day.
 5. He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.

Prayers

O God, the God of all goodness and of all grace, who is worthy of a greater love than we can give or understand, fill our hearts, we beseech you, with such love towards you, that nothing may seem too hard for us to do or suffer in obedience to your will; and grant that loving you we may become daily more like you.

Lord we know that the best way of showing our love for you is by loving other people.

Some times this is easy - when we are with people we like - please help us when loving is hard, when people are unkind, when they don't understand, when we just don't like them.

Teach us to love as you loved when you were walking in Palestine, teach us to love as you love now, EVERYONE – ALWAYS.

In your name we ask it. Amen

Lord,

help me to face the truth about myself.

Help me to hear my words as others hear them,

to see my face as others see me,

let me be honest and see my faults

(silence)

Give me the grace - at least in your presence- to say , I was wrong - forgive me.

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.

All Age Talk:

These gloves keep my hands warm-- But having JESUS in my heart keeps the rest of me warm!

All Age Hymn StF 536 He's got the whole world

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQgLSZXOa6U>

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | He's got the whole world in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand.
He's got the whole wide world in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand. | 4 | He's got the little tiny baby in his hand.
He's got the little tiny baby in his hand.
He's got the little tiny baby in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand. |
| 2 | He's got you and me, brother, in his hand.
He's got you and me, brother, in his hand.
He's got you and me, brother, in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand. | 5 | He's got everybody here in his hand.
He's got everybody here in his hand.
He's got everybody here in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand. |
| 3 | He's got you and me, sister, in his hand.
He's got you and me, sister, in his hand.
He's got you and me, sister, in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand. | 6 | He's got the whole world in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand.
He's got the whole wide world in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand. |

African-American traditional song

Reading: 2 Kings 4:42-44

Feeding of a Hundred

⁴² A man came from Baal Shalishah, bringing the man of God twenty loaves of barley bread baked from the first ripe grain, along with some heads of new grain. "Give it to the people to eat," Elisha said.

⁴³ "How can I set this before a hundred men?" his servant asked.

But Elisha answered, "Give it to the people to eat. For this is what the LORD says: 'They will eat and have some left over.'"⁴⁴ Then he set it before them, and they ate and had some left over, according to the word of the LORD.

Reading: John 6:1-21

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

¹ Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), ² and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. ³ Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. ⁴ The Jewish Passover Festival was near.

⁵ When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶ He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

⁷ Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

⁸ Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, ⁹ "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

¹⁰ Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). ¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

¹² When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.”¹³ So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

¹⁴ After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, “Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world.”¹⁵ Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

Jesus Walks on the Water

¹⁶ When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, ¹⁷ where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them. ¹⁸ A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough. ¹⁹ When they had rowed about three or four miles they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were frightened. ²⁰ But he said to them, “It is I; don’t be afraid.” ²¹ Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.

Reading: Ephesians 3:14-21

A Prayer for the Ephesians

¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Sermon

HE GAVE US EYES TO SEE THEM,
AND LIPS THAT WE MIGHT TELL
HOW GREAT IS GOD ALMIGHTY,
WHO HAS MADE ALL THINGS WELL.

I am now going to tell you a true story. My husband asked me to pick up some cat food on my way home from work. I’d had a difficult day teaching, had the lesson gone well, need to help one of the girls who seemed to be unhappy, you know how it is. Rushed into ASDA picked up the food, had to get home before my son. Later that evening a voice asked me if I had my glasses on when I bought the food! It was dog food. I took it back to the shop, the lady dealing with returns said to me, “Is there a problem with this food” and I said “Yes I have not got a dog”. She looked at me as if I had two heads and then started to laugh. I changed it to cat food, the lady was pleased that I was honest and did not blame the store.

A lesson here for me: be bothered to get your glasses out and put them on, how often do we not see because we can’t be bothered?

I have learnt something from today’s readings: that God had already told us this miracle that Jesus did, in 2 Kings when Elisha orders a disciple to feed 100 men with 20 loaves of barley, how can he feed so many he wants to know. The Lord says it will be so, some even left over. Jesus fulfils the Law and the Prophets by his miracle. I just had not looked

hard enough. I had heard this miracle passage so many times, yet did I really know its meaning?

First of all the numbers in the miracle mean something, TWELVE - as in baskets refers to the feeding of the Jews and the SEVEN baskets full of broken pieces refers to the feeding of the Gentiles. The primary symbolic meaning of bread is the Word OF God the message of salvation, which was to include all.

I have heard different meanings from different people, one saying that it was a demonstration of Jesus' divine power, the other was a reductionist way of saying that the bread and fish was shared out and seeing this other people in the crowd saw the need and shared their food, so that more than enough was had by all. What a wonderful world that would be, no more poverty, no more pain. Not going to happen BUT we can all do our bit and help others. WE do not have to be hung up on any of this as the real aim of the miracle stories is to strengthen and illuminate Faith - that is the relationship between Christ and the hearer. I've got my glasses on now and I am listening, the meaning that comes closest to Christian experience is the meaning of the Eucharist. Jesus is the Bread OF Life. In the Eucharist we receive Christ the eternal Word of God.

So to Ephesians: Paul's prayer for spiritual empowering - this passage is like a great reassuring love note from God. We are reminded that, as believers, we have received the resources and hidden strength of Christ himself, who lives in our hearts through the Holy Spirit. We are also shown how inexhaustible God's love for us is, as the song says high enough, long enough, wide enough to last into eternity and deep enough to sustain us through all of our troubles. When you feel that inner longing remember that God's overwhelming love takes us beyond our deepest need or greatest hope. We just need to open our eyes to see. Amen

Hymn StF 404 God's Spirit is in my heart <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LtKJBX7oHIY>

- 1 God's spirit is in my heart ;
he has called me and set me apart.
This is what I have to do,
what I have to do :
*He sent me to give the good news to the poor,
tell prisoners that they are prisoners no more,
tell blind people that they can see,
and set the down-trodden free,
and go tell everyone
the news that the kingdom of God has come ;
and go tell everyone
the news that God's kingdom has come.*
- 2 Just as the Father sent me,
so I'm sending you out to be
my witness throughout the world —
the whole of the world :
- 3 Don't carry a load in your pack ;
you don't need two shirts on your back ;
God's workers can earn their own keep —
can earn their own keep :
- 4 Don't worry what you have to say ;
don't worry, because on that day
God's spirit will speak in your heart —
will speak in your heart :

Prayers of Intercession

(Ask congregation if there is anyone to pray for)

Pray for the world
pray for covid sufferers
pray for schools and children
pray for all those who suffer in any way

Hymn StF 481 The Lord's my shepherd (I will trust)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z7eloQjVN54>

- 1 The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want ;
he makes me lie in pastures green,
he leads me by the still, still waters,
his goodness restores my soul.

*And I will trust in you alone,
and I will trust in you alone,
for your endless mercy follows me,
your goodness will lead me home.*
- 2 He guides my ways in righteousness,
and he anoints my head with oil ;
and my cup - it overflows with joy,
I feast on his pure delights.
- 3 And though I walk the darkest path -
I will not fear the evil one,
for you are with me, and your rod and staff
are the comfort I need to know.

Stuart Townend (b.1963)

Prayer to bless our donations of money

HYMN StF 94 To God be the glory

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0lxmZyDmjPU>

- 1 To God be the glory, great things he has done !
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life in atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in :
*Praise the Lord ! Praise the Lord !
Let the earth hear his voice !
Praise the Lord ! Praise the Lord !
Let the people rejoice !
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son ;
and give him the glory — great things he has done !*
- 2 O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God !
And every offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives :
- 3 Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son ;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see :

Frances Jane van Alstyne, (Fanny Crosby) (1820-1915)

Blessing