

## Circuit Service November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### **Call to worship:**

Come, let us worship the living God,  
the God of yesterday and tomorrow,  
the God who makes the present moment holy  
and sets us, his people, free.

### **StF 6 Father, we love you,**

- 1 Father, we love you,  
we worship and adore you:  
glorify your name  
in all the earth.  
Glorify your name,  
glorify your name,  
glorify your name,  
in all the earth.
- 2 Jesus, we love you,  
we worship and adore you:  
glorify your name  
in all the earth.  
Glorify your name,  
glorify your name,  
glorify your name,  
in all the earth.
- 3 Spirit, we love you,  
we worship and adore you:  
glorify your name  
in all the earth.  
Glorify your name,  
glorify your name,  
glorify your name,  
in all the earth.

Donna Adkins (b. 1940)

### **Prayers**

In the midst of confusion and anxiety we pause, take breath, and worship our Creating God. Loving and creating God, we gather together to proclaim that in the midst of all that is happening, you are with us. You are present in the power of your Spirit, to assure us of your love, to offer us new forgiven life, and to comfort in our distress. We gather together joyfully, bringing our praise and worship to you with confidence and hope. Accept the worship that we offer today, may it be acceptable to you and through it empower us in our discipleship and witness. Lift us above our worries and concerns, bind us together in love and strengthen our faith and resolve to be salt and light in our communities during these difficult times.

In the name of Jesus, we pray.

**AMEN**

We say together the prayer that Jesus taught his friends.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass  
against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen**

**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**

## **Scripture reading: Matthew 25:14-30**

### **The Parable of the Talents**

<sup>14</sup> "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup> to one he gave five talents,<sup>[a]</sup> to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup> The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup> In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup> But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup> After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' <sup>21</sup> His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>22</sup> And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' <sup>23</sup> His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>24</sup> Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup> so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' <sup>26</sup> But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup> Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup> So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup> For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup> As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

### **Reflection**

This parable is one of a series of stories that deal with judgement. The common theme is 'be prepared'. The servants do not know when the master will return and settle his accounts so they have no time to correct mistakes that they might have made. I am sure if the servant who buried his one talent had known what lay in store for him, he would have done something different! The whole question of judgement is one which makes us feel uncomfortable. We prefer the image of Jesus as being one who is forgiving and kind. All the talk about 'Weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth' does not sit well with our understanding of the nature of God or Jesus. It is perhaps worth noting that in the parables of judgement it is actions rather than declarations of faith that are judged. So, what are we to make of this? Next week we move on to the even more extreme parable of the sheep and goats with its images of eternal fire for the unfortunate goats.

So, as Christians, how do we view judgement?

**Consider these questions.**

Is judgement a future event or a present reality?

Do we take judgement seriously and if so, who does the judging?

All the judgement parables are set within the context of what the Church calls, 'the second coming of Jesus.' What do we think that this might mean?

**StF 251 Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets.**

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Jesus Christ is waiting,<br>waiting in the streets;<br>no one is his neighbour,<br>all alone he eats.<br>Listen, Lord Jesus,<br>I am lonely too:<br>make me, friend or stranger,<br>fit to wait on you.      | 4 Jesus Christ is dancing,<br>dancing in the streets,<br>where each sign of hatred<br>he, with love, defeats.<br>Listen, Lord Jesus,<br>I should triumph too:<br>where good conquers evil<br>let me dance with you. |
| 2 Jesus Christ is raging,<br>raging in the streets,<br>where injustice spirals<br>and real hope retreats.<br>Listen, Lord Jesus,<br>I am angry too:<br>in the Kingdom's causes<br>let me rage with you.        | 5 Jesus Christ is calling,<br>calling in the streets,<br>'Who will join my journey?<br>I will guide their feet.'<br>Listen, Lord Jesus,<br>let my fears be few:<br>walk one step before me;<br>I will follow you.   |
| 3 Jesus Christ is healing,<br>healing in the streets,<br>curing those who suffer,<br>touching those he greets.<br>Listen, Lord Jesus,<br>I have pity too:<br>let my care be active,<br>healing, just like you. | John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (b. 1958)                                                                                                                                                                   |

**Prayers of intercession.**

Gracious God give us courage and understanding to enable us to become involved with those for whom we pray.

We pray for all those living under the shadow of Corona-virus, the sick and the dying, the overworked doctors and nurses, front line workers and carers. Surround them with your love and enable us to keep the light of hope burning.

Lord, hear us,

**Lord graciously hear us.**

We pray for those whose livelihood has been upset, for those made redundant, for those who struggle to feed their families. For those imprisoned with children in tiny accommodation and with little access to green space and fresh air.

Lord hear us,  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray for all who are caught up in conflict. For refugees and those afflicted by persecution and fear.

Lord hear us,  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray for our circuit, our ministers, and leaders, we remember our congregation at Raunds as they seek ways forward to a new future.

Lord hear us,  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Finally, we pray for ourselves, help us to become what you alone know we can become. Grant us joy in our discipleship, wisdom in discernment and compassion in all our dealings.

Lord hear us,  
**Lord, Graciously here us.**

**AMEN.**

**StF 18 Be still and know that I am God.**

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|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Be still and know that I am God.<br>Be still and know that I am God.<br>Be still and know that I am God.       | 3 | In you, O Lord, I put my trust.<br>In you, O Lord, I put my trust.<br>In you, O Lord, I put my trust. |
| 2 | I am the Lord who saves and heals.<br>I am the Lord who saves and heals.<br>I am the Lord who saves and heals. |   | Anonymous<br>Based on Psalm 46:10-11                                                                  |

We bless one another as we say together:

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us now and always. Amen.**

Please be assured that Rev'd Lesley and Rev'd Kim are available should you need them.

They can be contacted by calling 01933 312778 for Rev'd Lesley and 01933 622137 for Rev'd Kim

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