

# Church at home

East Leake Methodist Church 2020

*Sit comfortably in a quiet place and prepare, start with a brief period of silence, turning your mind and spirit towards God. You may want to have a cross or candle in view as a focus.*

## **Call to Worship**

As we enter God's holy presence this morning,  
are we ready to hear again about God's kingdom?  
Come, open our hearts and minds  
to see the kingdom around us and within us.  
Come, and worship the living God.  
Amen.

## **Hymn StF 404 God's spirit is in my heart**

### **Prayers**

Lord God, as we gather in our homes,  
we thank you for your presence, here with us.  
Thank you, Lord, that each one of us is unique,  
yet we share a common bond in you.  
We come together as one body,  
but we all learn and experience things in different ways.  
We thank you for your amazing word  
that gives us so many pictures of your kingdom.  
Something for everyone,  
something to feed our hearts and minds.  
Be with us, Lord, and bless us richly as we call upon your name.  
Marvelous and mighty Lord, we are forever grateful  
for all the good gifts you give us, for eyes to see, for ears to hear, for a  
brain to understand, and a heart to love.  
We praise you, Lord.  
Amen.

## **A Prayer of confession**

Lord God, sometimes I feel so set in my ways.  
I'm not always ready to give something up  
to gain the thing of value that you promise.  
Forgive me, Lord, as I open my heart to you.

I want to keep my treasures locked up  
in a storeroom, safe from prying eyes.  
Forgive me, Lord, as I open my heart to you.

Sometimes I just expect things on a plate.  
I'm not always ready to work for something  
that you call me to do.  
Forgive me, Lord, as I open my heart to you.

I do want to be the yeast in my world;  
but I'm not always ready to be pummelled,  
or to give up my easy life.  
Forgive me, Lord, as I open my heart to you.

Sometimes I take my eyes off you and feel so lost.  
Bring me back, please, Lord.  
Forgive me, Lord, as I open my heart to you.  
Amen.

Let us join together in saying the prayer our Lord taught us. **Our Father.....**

**Reading :Psalm 119.: verses 129-136;** This reading is from the longest psalm, also the longest chapter in the Bible. Thought to be written by Ezra as a repetitive meditation on the beauty of Gods word and how it helps us to grow in faith. It would be learned by heart by the followers. Each section [22] corresponds to a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet and each verse begins with the letter of that section. Making it easier to remember, when learning and reciting and to pass on to others orally. Remember, God's word, the Bible is your guide for life.

Our Old Testament reading from Kings and tells us about Solomon and his relationship with God **Readings 1 Kings 3.5-12;**

Our **Gospel reading** from Matthew 13.31-33,44-52 continues with the parables of Jesus about the Kingdom of heaven

### **Address**

We continue to look at the Parables which Jesus used to teach his disciples and his followers relating to the Kingdom of God. If you watched the Facebook service from Trinity last week you will have heard Andrew talking about the previous story from Jesus about the parable of the weeds This week we have five stories, the first about that tiny little mustard seed which grows large enough for birds to roost in- the Kingdom has small begins but it grows, flourishes, much like our own faith, starting small and developing and growing.

The second story is about the power of yeast to enable the bread mixture to rise, a small quantity which permeates throughout the flour and allows the bread to rise, flourish and multiply

The third story is about the value of the kingdom- so valuable that nothing compares to it. There is a need to give up everything in order to acquire it and yet it was the field that was bought by the man, the treasure came with the field purchase. The kingdom is a gift given by God

Story four is about the merchant who purchases a valuable pearl paying the ultimate price, the ultimate sacrifice of God in sending his son in order to save us

The final story about the fishing net is a similar story to last weeks lectionary reading about the wheat and the weeds. We are to follow Gods ways and invite and encourage others to join us but we are not able to dictate who is part of the Kingdom of Heaven.

The Old Testament lays down the foundation for our faith but it is further developed by the teaching of Jesus. Jesus tells us that the kingdom is here and now, it is the judgement which is to come,

Solomon asks for wisdom, just as we need to ask for wisdom, so that we know what to do, we cannot expect God to do things for us, we need the

wisdom and courage to work through those aspects of our lives. We are all given gifts and talents which we can use to further our belief, follow the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ and develop our faith. So we can encourage others by our example to investigate and join us on our journey of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, as they also walk with the Lord and undertake their personal journeys of faith. . We must be prepared to listen, follow his teachings and we will be given the gifts we need and more besides.

Our New testament reading is from Pauls letter to the Romans and reminds us of the importance of the Holy Spirit and the fact that we are never separated from the love of God.

### **Reading Romans 8.26-39**

Our reading reminds us about the help and support available to all through the Holy Spirit. We are not alone. If we feel unable to speak to the Lord in prayer the Holy Spirit will help and guide us. If we put our trust in God he will be there for us at all times, guiding, encouraging and supporting us through the ups and downs of life.

The letter to the Romans is a letter of comfort and support, to give confidence to its reader. For we can never be separated from the love of God what ever the circumstances. He is with us, here and for always. Amen.

### **Let us pray**

Lord, I pause before you to contemplate  
the things I see as valuable in my life.

Help me to hold them lightly and to be ready to give them up  
at the sound of your call.

Lord, please help me to remember that when I feel as small as a mustard  
seed

you are within me, and I can grow into a mighty tree and share your love  
and protection with others. Amen.

### **Hymn StF 333 Majesty, worship his majesty**

## **Prayers of Intercession.**

*Let us think of the signs around that show how God is alive in creation – in nature, in people, in random acts of kindness, etc.*

Let us Pray

Lord, as I go on my way this week, whether in town or country, inside or outside, among people or own my own, alert me to signs of your kingdom. Even if I can only see a small patch of sky out of a window, remind me of the possibilities of your kingdom.

We think particularly at this time of those who have been ill with the virus, for those who have recovered and for those who have died. We remember their families and the trauma of losing loved ones. Lord be with them and comfort them now and in the coming weeks.

### **Lord in you mercy, hear our prayer**

We remember all those who have been caring for those in hospital, care homes and the wider community. As things recede we ask that you will support those who have given so much for us all. May they find rest and peace.

### **Lord in you mercy, hear our prayer**

We ask that you will guide and support all those who govern our country, making decisions, looking to protect all our health and well being, guiding us as we look to the future, May they seek guidance and benefit for all

### **Lord in you mercy, hear our prayer**

Finally we ask for ourselves

Lord, you took so much care to describe your kingdom in ways everyone could understand, including us.

**Your kingdom come, O Lord.** Your will be done.

We pray today that you will pass on to us that gift of making ourselves accessible.

Keep us from being a stumbling block to those who would seek you; from using language that puzzles; from actions that confuse; from anything that keeps us apart from your people around us.

**Your kingdom come, O Lord.** Your will be done.

**In a time of silence we bring to you our personal prayers**

*Silence*

**We ask these and all our prayers in and though the name of our Lord Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Hymn StF 328, Jesus shall reign where'er the sun**

## **Blessing**

Lord, it's not up to us to sort the bad from the good,  
the wheat from the weeds.

Rather, send us out to love everyone equally,  
and to do everything we can to promote your kingdom.

Amen.

This service was written by Chris Watkins. Local Pastor at East Leake Methodist Church.

## **Prayers and Image**

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