

Church at Home

September 25th 2020

ONE WORLD WEEK

Normally we would be joining with the other churches in the village to celebrate One World Week. So let us take this opportunity to remember all our fellow Christians in the village and think of those particularly who are unable to worship here in our own church but are with us through our email and printed services. It is important to remember at this time that the church is not the building but the people.

We have managed to keep our church going through this time with our weekly email services, our phone calls, our occasional meetings on zoom etc as well as brief encounters in gardens and on the park and in the street.

We also take this opportunity to remember the whole community of East Leake and the surrounding villages, especially thinking of those who have been unwell, those who have been isolated and those who have suffered during this pandemic. Today is also Bible Sunday and we will also look at Pauls first letter to the Thessalonians

Call to worship

Let us thank God for each other, as we share in worship,
as we come to pray and praise.

Let us thank God for the witness of Jesus and the gift of the Holy Spirit to inspire and move us.

Come. Love the Lord your God, with all your heart,
with all your soul and with all your mind. Amen.

Hymn StF 25 God is here as we his people

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKh3frfWGnw>

Prayers

We bring ourselves to a moment of quiet,
to a place of peace, to this place of safety and welcome.
We bring ourselves to cast off the cares of the world
and for a time to reflect on you, Lord God,
that our batteries may be recharged,
our direction be refocused and our energy renewed;
that we may let go of things that hamper us
and be free to care gently for those we share time with.
O God, we pray, renew us that we may renew others.

Amen.

Holy Spirit of God, may our confessions and grief for what we have
done wrong, or what we have left undone, be taken from us.
May our burdens be lifted and our inner souls released to share
afresh the love we have known in you.

Holy Spirit of God,
forgive us and assure us that our sins are forgiven, that our lives are
renewed, that we are loved, cherished and cared for.

Amen.

We give thanks, Lord God,
for the gentle caring people in the world
whose love of you radiates from their lives.
For their gentleness of voice and touch,
for their gentle smile, their listening ear,
their quiet reassurance and understanding,
their patience and perseverance with us.

We thank you, Lord God,
that you have touched the lives of these people
and have enabled them to touch our lives and bring us to our faith
and enrich our knowledge of you.

Amen.

Let us join together in the Lord's Prayer. Our father.....

Reflection

The theme for One World week carries on from last years "*Climate changes everything - Now is the time to act.*" The theme for 2020 theme "*It's Our World, let's make it better*".

[See attached pdf file with words and illustration]

For those of you using printed copies readings are from Genesis 1
Read verses 3-5

Prayer, Praise and glory to the Lord for giving us day to work and night to rest. Guide us to make good use of our time, to know when to work and when to rest. [*Response.*]

One world created, shared by all! Sustain us to work together as good stewards of the earth. Together lets make it better

Read verses 6-10

Prayer, Praise and Glory to the Lord for giving us the sky, the sea and the earth. Guide us to respect the wonders of this place as we journey through this life.

One world created, shared by all! Sustain us to work together as good stewards of the earth. Together lets make it better

Read verses 11-12

Prayer. Praise and glory to the Lord for giving us and amazing number of plants, trees for food, for beauty and to produce oxygen for us all to breathe. Give us a better understanding of how to be better gardeners, farmers, environmentalists and conservationist.

One world created, shared by all! Sustain us to work together as good stewards of the earth. Together lets make it better

Read Verses 14-18

Prayer, Praise and Glory to the Lord for giving us the sun, the moon the stars to light our way and creating an atmosphere where life can thrive. Guide us to be more courageous in speaking out against those things that damage the world

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Read verses 20-25

Prayer, Praise and Glory to the Lord for the marvelous diversity of creatures. Grant us the wisdom to deepen our understanding of the biodiversity and interdependence of all living things.

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Read verses 26-31

Prayer. Praise and Glory to our creator who knows and blesses everyone of us. Guide us as we recognise our responsibilities to each play a part in the flourishing of creation, nature and human kind,.

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Pledges

For our one world will you commit to one Act

To a life style change

To better care for our neighbours

To secure a future for all creation

As we act to make the world a better place individually, as faith communities and in the wider world.

Prayer Lord of all creation . We thank you for all the wonders of the Universe. We praise you for this opportunity to come together this day as part of the family of all human kind. May our prayers and actions help to build a just, more equal, inclusive and peaceful world that safeguards environmental resources now and for the future generations. Mat the Lord bless us all in our endeavours in

committing to these pledges to act now. Amen,

Psalm 1 SftF 800 said responsively.

Reading 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Matthew 22:34-46

Address

Paul and his companions had had an unpleasant time in Philippi where they had founded the first Christian community in Europe, and also came across opposition in Thessalonica but they walked alongside the people. They used their skills and talents, in Paul's case being a tent maker, to support themselves. They became part of the community in which they were living.

An excellent example of what we can do today. Being part of our church family and community, especially in the present pandemic. Their strength was in persevering, trusting in the guidance of the Lord Jesus Christ and carrying on. Living their faith and showing others by their attitudes and determination and sharing the Good news of Jesus Christ.

In our gospel reading Jesus also shows us how to deal with situations. He must have known the intention of the Pharisee but he did not become angry and ignite the situation, he answered their questions, reminding them and us of the need to follow God, as the only God and then to look to serving our community- looking after our neighbours. Treating them as we ourselves like to be treated, with care, understanding, offering support and kindness to all, as we go about our lives.

Paul left Thessalonica when he was released from prison following the earthquake and a pardoning by the authorities and went to Berea with Silas and Timothy and then on to Athens.

Our reading from Thessalonians is an early letter written by Paul a short while after his visit to encourage the new believers and to

assure them of his love and support for them. Sending reassurance and reminding them of their new found faith. His concern for this community was shown because he sent Timothy his devoted disciple to encourage the believers in Thessalonica.

So we are encourage to support each other and our community through these hard times and to do this in the strength of our faith, with love for others and understanding for all we meet. Calling upon our strength of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, to follow his guidance and to go about our daily lives trusting in our Lord. Amen.

Let us pray

Caring, loving God, you would never hurt us, but other people do.

You would never abandon us, but other people do.

You would never neglect us, but other people do.

BUT...and it is a big BUT, God, there are so many people who would never hurt us, they love us and care for us.

There are so many people who stand by us, hold our hands and cry with us: they love us and care for us.

There are so many people who would never neglect us, but are gentle, strong and caring: they love us and care for us.

Lord God, we thank you for these people.

Help us to be like them.

Amen.

Hymn StF 11 Holy Holy Holy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JwuDSw-9cUQ>

Prayers of Intercession.

response Lord in your mercy- *Hear our prayer*

We give thanks, Lord God, for the gentle caring people in the world whose love of you radiates from their lives.

For their gentleness of voice and touch, for their gentle smile, their listening ear, their quiet reassurance and understanding, their patience and perseverance with us.

Lord in your mercy- *Hear our prayer*

We thank you, Lord God, that you have touched the lives of these people and have enabled them to touch our lives and bring us to our faith and enrich our knowledge of you.

Lord in your mercy- *Hear our prayer*

Lord God, we pray for those who have brought us to faith, who have shown us your love, who have tended to our needs, physical, emotional and spiritual.

Lord in your mercy- *Hear our prayer*

We pray for those who have put themselves in harm's way for us and others.

We pray for those whose lives have been made harder because they have sought to serve you and help their fellow human beings.

Lord in your mercy- *Hear our prayer*

We pray for those whose selfless acts have caused them distress.

We pray for those who have at any cost shared the gospel of Christ.

We pray for those imprisoned and tortured for their faith and witness. May they be blessed in abundance with your love and care.

Lord in your mercy- *Hear our prayer*

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

Lord in your mercy- *Hear our prayer*

Amen.

Hymn StF 1 All People that one earth do dwell.

Blessing.

From the security of this place, with friends and family and our faith community, be with us, eternal God, as we step into the world of 'mixed-up all-sorts'. May we be kind and caring to all people, no matter how they treat us. May we be true to ourselves and hold our heads high, sharing your love and your care with all those we encounter.

Amen.

Let us join together in saying the Grace.

Music