

Informal Morning Service

Tuesday 9th June 2020

Great is the Lord and worthy of all praise.

Praise and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honour, power and might, be to our God for ever and ever Amen.

Together we pray:

Lord, direct our thoughts, teach us to pray, lift up our hearts to worship you in Spirit and in truth, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Confession

Jesus says, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. So let us turn away from sin and turn to him, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Almighty God, long-suffering and of great goodness: we confess to you our neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments, our wrong doing, thinking, and speaking; the hurts we have done to others, and the good we have left undone. O God, forgive us, for we have sinned against you; and raise us to newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution

May the Lord enrich us with his grace, and nourish us with his blessing; may the Lord defend us in trouble and keep us from all evil; may the Lord accept our prayers and forgive us all our sins, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Collect

Holy God, faithful and unchanging: enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth, and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love, that we may truly worship you, Father; Son and Holy spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



Reading

Matthew 5 v13-16

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Pause for Thought

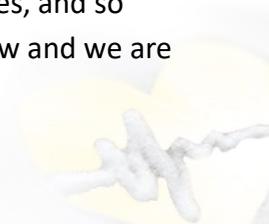
I like to cook, I like to take ingredients and turn them into a meal, I like to let the flavours of the ingredients merge into each other and I like to add herbs and other spices to build and enhance the food I am making.

One of the ingredients I think we will all use when we cook, is salt, although nowadays with Health guidelines we are a bit more cautious about how much we use.

Salt is an ingredient that has been around for years and years and has many uses. Flavouring food is only one of them. It is only in the last 60 or so years that refrigeration has taken over from salt as a preservative. I'm sure some of you might remember using wooden iceboxes!.

The people in Jesus time would know exactly what Jesus was talking about when he mentioned salt. It provided flavour and it preserved their food. Salt has the ability to make sweet things sweeter and make bitter things less bitter.

Jesus is encouraging us to be like salt, to make the world a Good place, and enjoyable place by sharing Gods goodness with others. He is encouraging us to be part of the process sharing Gods ways with the world, and if we don't follow God in these ways then we are not doing as God desires, and so should be removed. The kingdom of God is lived here and now and we are



called influence it just as salt influences and changes food. If we follow Jesus's ways then we are the salt of the earth.

In the same way we are called to be the light of the world. Have you ever gone into a room switched on a light and then shut your eyes as you enter? No because that would be silly. In the same way Jesus tells us you don't light a lamp and put it under something to block its light. Jesus wants us to be like a city on top of a hill that cannot be hidden. He wants our God changed ways to be evident to all. He wants us to display the fruits of His spirit to draw people in to think differently about God and ultimately for them to be transformed into people that live for God and shine out and influence others as God intends for us.

We are in interesting times with Covid 19 – how we respond to the worry and issues that this brings is important – have we responded with kindness, joyfulness, and love. Have our actions at this time given glory to God our Father.

Also, with the horrific death of George Floyd, have we been outraged that today certain groups are living in a world of prejudice and are treated differently just because they were born with a different skin colour. If we all shared Gods love for all people, then this prejudice would not exist. As Christians we have a role to play in changing the way the world responds - to the way that God responds. God accepts all regardless of gender and colour. We are all loved by God and given the opportunity to be part of His family. We cannot influence the ethnic make-up of the areas of the world we live in. But Jesus tells us influence those around us just like salt changes the flavour of the food it touches. And become known as a follower of Jesus who reflects the goodness of our God to those around us.

Like both salt and light, our relationship with God should have an obvious impact on everyone who comes in contact with it. Jesus isn't just calling us to be committed to Him, He's encouraging us to have an influence everywhere we go. We are the salt of the earth; we are the light of the



world. Live so that people may taste Gods presence through us and live in a way that shines Gods Good light into the shadows.

We declare our faith our Lord Jesus Christ:

Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures; he was buried; he was raised to life on the third day in accordance with the scriptures; afterwards he appeared to his followers, and to all the apostles: this we have received, and this we believe. Amen.

Please sit or kneel to pray

Lord God, make your ways known upon the earth: **your saving power among the peoples.**

Renew your church in holiness: **and help us to serve you with joy.**

Guide the leaders of this and every nation: **that justice may prevail throughout the world.**

Let not the needy be forgotten: **nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

Make us instruments of your peace: **and let your glory be over all the earth.**

A moment of silent prayer

Lord, we ask you to accept all our prayers and answer them for your glory.
Amen.

Eternal God, our beginning and our end, be our starting point and accompany us in this day's journey. Scatter our darkness and open our eyes to praise you for your creation and to see the work you set before us today. Take us and use us to bring to others the new life you give in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

And now may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, be amongst us and remain with us always Amen

Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord In the name of Christ. Amen.

